



**CITY OF SOUTH PASADENA
NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 23, 2024, AT 7:00 P.M.**

CALL TO ORDER:

The Meeting of the South Pasadena Natural Resources and Environmental Commission was called to order by Chair Michael Siegel on Tuesday, January 23, 2024, at 7:00 P.M. in the City Council Chambers, 1424 Mission Street, South Pasadena, California.

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT

Chair	Michael Siegel
Commissioner	Liam R. de Villa Bourke
Commissioner	Amy Davis Jones
Commissioner	Casey Law
Commissioner	Emily Ng
Commissioner	Richard Tom

ABSENT

Commissioner	Rona Bortz
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CITY STAFF PRESENT:

Arpy Kasparian, Environmental Services & Sustainability Manager and Melanis Stepanian, Management Assistant were present at Roll Call. Other staff members presented reports or responded to questions as indicated in the minutes.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Flag Salute was led by Chair Siegel.

PUBLIC COMMENT

1. PUBLIC COMMENT – GENERAL (NON-AGENDA ITEMS)

In Person Comments:

Angelo Gladding shared his concerns regarding the tree code in the City’s Housing Element.

No additional public comments were submitted.

PRESENTATION

2. **SOUTH PASADENA SUSTAINABILITY PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES**

Arpy Kasparian, Environmental Services & Sustainability Manager, presented on the sustainability programs and initiatives in place such as the Water Conservation Program, Climate Action Plan, the ban on Gas-Powered Leaf Blowers, and SB 1383.

Ted Gerber, Public Works Director, shared an update on programs in place such as the City Hall Electrification, SCE Charge Ready Program, Mound Parking Lot Solar Project, and Huntington Green Street Stormwater Project.

ACTION

3. **SELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Commission select and nominate a Chair and Vice Chair of the Natural Resources and Environmental Commission for the 2024 year.

COMMISSION ACTION AND MOTION

A motion was made by Commissioner Jones, seconded by Commissioner Tom and approved by roll call vote to appoint Michael Siegel as the Commission Chair. The motion carried 6-0, by the following vote:

AYES: Siegel, de Villa Bourke, Jones, Law, Ng, and Tom.

NOES: None.

ABSENT: Bortz

ABSTAINED: None.

COMMISSION ACTION AND MOTION

A motion was made by Commissioner Jones, seconded by Commissioner Tom and approved by roll call vote to appoint Emily Ng as the Commission Vice Chair. The motion carried 6-0, by the following vote:

AYES: Siegel, de Villa Bourke, Jones, Law, Ng, and Tom.

NOES: None.

ABSENT: Bortz

ABSTAINED: None.

4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 28, 2023, NREC MEETING**

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Commission review and consider approval of the November 28, 2023, Meeting Minutes.

COMMISSION ACTION AND MOTION

A motion was made by Commissioner Tom, seconded by Commissioner Law and approved by roll call vote to approve the November 28, 2023, NREC Meeting Minutes. The motion carried 5-0-1, by the following vote:

AYES: Siegel, de Villa Bourke, Jones, Law, and Tom.

NOES: None.

ABSENT: Bortz

ABSTAINED: Ng

COMMUNICATIONS**5. CITY COUNCIL LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS**

Councilmember Cacciotti discussed the City's accomplishments and ongoing electrification projects within and outside of the City. He touched on the advancements made with the ban on gas-powered leaf blowers, highlighting the collaboration with AGZA. Councilmember Cacciotti also shared updates with the LA Metro Gold Line.

6. COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS

Commissioner Tom had no comments.

Commissioner Law shared his gratitude for the Public Works Staff for joining the Arroyo Vista Elementary School STEM Night.

Commissioner Jones thanked City Staff for their efforts with the ban on gas-powered leaf blowers and shared that the noise has significantly reduced in her neighborhood. She also stressed that she has observed residents utilizing artificial turf and suggested alternatives due to the heat island effect caused by the artificial turf.

Chair Siegel encouraged viewers to visit Transition South Pasadena's upcoming event at the Community Garden on Saturday, January 27, 2024.

Commissioner de Villa Bourke discussed his observations of the increased security and scanning of cards on the Metro.

Commissioner Ng shared that she was previously a youth commissioner. She also promoted an open seat on the Los Angeles County Youth Climate Commission in District 5.

7. STAFF LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS

Environmental Services & Sustainability Manager, Arpy Kasparian, thanked previous Commission members, Ella Hushagen and Michelle Hammond, for their service and welcomed new Commission members, Liam R. de Villa Bourke and Emily Ng.

8. UPCOMING EVENTS

- Mobile Electric Leaf Blower Demonstration – February 9
- Sowing South Pasadena: Learning to Garden with Native Plants – February 13
- LA County Smart Gardening Webinars - Various dates
(<https://www.ladpw.org/epd/sq/webinars.cfm>)
- MWD Turf Removal + CA Native Landscape Webinars - Various dates
(<https://greengardensgroup.com/turf-transformation/>)

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further matters, Chair Siegel adjourned the meeting of the Natural Resources and Environmental Commission at 8:13 P.M. to the next Regular Commission meeting scheduled for February 27, 2024.

Respectfully submitted:

DocuSigned by:

Arpy Kasparian

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Arpy Kasparian

Staff Liaison, Environmental Services &
Sustainability Manager

APPROVED:

DocuSigned by:

Michael Siegel

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Michael Siegel

Chair

Approved at Commission: February 27, 2024