



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

**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 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, February 27, 2024, at 7:01 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
Staff Liaison	Councilmember Michael Cacciotti

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:

Mayor Zneimer welcomed the new Commissioners and shared her appreciation of the current Commission Members.

No additional public comments were submitted.

PRESENTATION

2. STAFF INTRODUCTION

Arpy Kasparian, Environmental Services & Sustainability Manager, introduced the newest addition to the Sustainability Division Team, Daphne Madrigal. Daphne will be serving as the Water Conservation and Sustainability Intern.

3. SOUTH COAST AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

Councilmember Cacciotti was unable to attend this meeting. This agenda item will be postponed to a future meeting.

DISCUSSION

4. CITY EARTH DAY CELEBRATIONS

Arpy Kasparian, Environmental Services & Sustainability Manager, promoted upcoming Earth Month events throughout the City then asked for event recommendations from Commissioners.

Chair Siegel- requesting additional promotion for the Water Conservation Rebate Program

Commissioner Law suggested having an organics recycling physical demonstration for community members.

Commissioner Jones shared that she would like to look into a film screening which focuses on organics recycling. She suggested a screening at the Farmer's Market or a collaboration with the Chamber of Commerce.

Commissioner De Villa Bourke recommended showing the film "Kiss the Ground" and reaching out to Compost Culture.

In- Person Public Comment:

None.

Zoom Public Comment:

None.

ACTION

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JANUARY 23, 2024, NREC MEETING

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Commission review and consider approval of the January 23, 2024, Meeting Minutes.

COMMISSION ACTION AND MOTION

A motion was made by Vice Chair Ng, seconded by Commissioner Tom and approved by roll call vote to approve the January 23, 2024, NREC Meeting Minutes. The motion carried 6-0, by the following vote:

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

NOES: None.

ABSENT: Bortz

ABSTAINED: None.

COMMUNICATIONS**6. CITY COUNCIL LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS**

No Comments.

7. COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS

Commissioner Tom had no comments.

Commissioner de Villa Bourke had no comments.

Commissioner Law shared research and news coverage of El Niño/ La Niña weather conditions. Despite the current wet weather patterns, it is expected that the weather patterns will 'swing' into dry weather before the end of the year. He moved on to support the City for their Water Conservation initiatives.

Commissioner Jones discussed the opportunity for a Commission member to join the Plastics Ad Hoc Committee.

Commissioner Ng requested Commissioner Jones briefly discuss the duties of the Plastics Ad Hoc Committee.

Chair Siegel had no comments.

8. STAFF LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS

Environmental Services & Sustainability Manager, Arpy Kasparian, promoted the upcoming Mobile Electric Leaf Blower Demo which shared incentive programs available for local landscapers and gardeners. She then moved on to share an update on the new agreement with Athens Services. Per City Council direction, residents will be receiving new barrels for waste disposal and continuing backyard service. Lastly, she shared that the City of South Pasadena is continuing edible food recovery efforts through a partnership with San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments (COG).

Public Works Director, Ted Gerber, shared that the City is considering hosting a 626 Golden Streets event with local cities and San Gabriel Valley COG.

9. UPCOMING EVENTS

- Mobile Leaf Blower Demonstration
February 28, 2024 – all around the City
- South Pas Parks Ride and Picnic
March 16, 2024 - 9:00am - Garfield Park
- Friends of the Nature Park Volunteer Day
March 17, 2024 - 9:00am-12:00pm - South Pasadena Nature Park
- Sustainability Fair, Garden Tour, and Plant Swap
April 6, 2024 - 1:00pm-4:00pm - South Pasadena Nature Park
- Free Compost and Mulch Giveaway
April 13, 2024 - 9:00am-12:00pm - Arroyo Golf Course Parking Lot
- LA County Smart Gardening Webinars
(<https://www.ladpw.org/epd/sg/webinars.cfm>)
- MWD Turf Removal + CA Native Landscape Webinars
(<https://greengardensgroup.com/turf-transformation/>)

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further matters, Chair Siegel adjourned the meeting of the Natural Resources and Environmental Commission at 7:32 P.M. to the next Regular Commission meeting scheduled for March 26, 2024.

Respectfully submitted:

DocuSigned by:

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Arpy Kasparian
Staff Liaison, Environmental Services & Sustainability Manager

APPROVED:

DocuSigned by:

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Michael Siegel
Chair

Approved at Commission: March 26, 2024