

**CITY OF SOUTH PASADENA  
NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION – REGULAR MEETING  
MINUTES – September 27, 2022**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 p.m. Present at the time of roll call were: Commissioner Ella Hushagen, Commissioner Rona Bortz, Commissioner Amy Davis Jones, Commissioner Michael Siegel, Commissioner Richard Tom, Chair Casey Law, and City Council Liaison Mayor Michael Cacciotti. Vice Chair Hammond had an excused absence. Staff present: Matt Chang: Planning Manager, Ted Gerber: Public Works Director, and Melanis Stepanian: Water Conservation and Sustainability Intern.

**1) General Public Comment**

There was one written public comment and one in-person public comment.

No other general public comments were received.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

**2) Review Current Parking Lot Codes- Matt Chang, Planning Manager**

Matt Chang, Planning Manager, shared the current Municipal Code regarding parking lots in South Pasadena. ([Chapter 36, Article 3 Section 330.40- Landscape Location Requirements](#))

Commissioner Tom shared his comments regarding landscaping and the heat island effect. Commissioner Bortz discussed water infiltration as well as the need to reference a drought-tolerant tree and plant list. She also mentioned creating a master tree list for parking lots. Commissioner Hushagen recommended for the code to be more explicit, for example, no turf allowed in parking lots. Commissioner Siegel suggested more strict requirements to be used in the City regarding parking lots. He went on to refer to the large parking lots in South Pasadena and suggested a certain percentage of the landscape should be drought-tolerant plants. Chair Law echoed the Commission member comments and discussed the heat island effect as well as increased shade in City parking lots.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

**3) Approval of Minutes – Meeting of August 23, 2022**

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HUSHAGEN, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER SIEGEL, MOTION CARRIED 5-0, 1 ABSTAINING TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE AUGUST 23, 2022 NREC COMMISSION MEETING.

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

**4) City Council Liaison Communications**

Mayor Cacciotti shared updates on the Gold Line Project and the ban on gas-powered leaf blowers. Enforcement has been delayed as staff awaits updates from the state regarding incentives for the community. Mayor Cacciotti thanked Chair Law for speaking during the City Hall electrification discussion.

5) Commissioner Communications

New Commissioner, Richard Tom, introduced himself and shared his background. Commissioner Tom served the Cultural Heritage Commission and 2 terms on the Planning Commission prior to joining NREC.

Commissioner Siegel discussed the October 5<sup>th</sup> Bike to School Day in South Pasadena.

Chair Law attended the electrification of the City Hall discussion and is looking forward to seeing how this project will progress to meet goals in the Climate Action Plan. Chair Law would also like to see 100% of Commissioners walking, biking, or using transit to attend NREC meetings.

6) Staff Liaison Communications

Ted Gerber, Public Works Director, shared the City Hall Open House event on October 2<sup>nd</sup> from 10 am to 2 pm. This is a family-friendly event and there will be an electric lawn equipment raffle. Electric Lawn Equipment was kindly donated by AGZA and LA Galaxy. Several electrification projects have been approved by City Council during the last Council meeting.

Melanis Stepanian, Water Conservation and Sustainability Intern, encouraged residents and commercial businesses to continue applying for water conservation rebates. The Natural Resources and Environmental Commission is planning the Athens MRF (Materials Recovery Facility) Tour for Commissioners to attend.


7) Upcoming Events

- South Pasadena City Hall Open House- October 2, 2022: 10am-2pm (<https://www.southpasadenaca.gov/government/departments/community-services/recreationyouth-services/special-events-and-programs>)
- Free Compost Giveaway- October 15, 2022: 10am-2pm ([www.SouthPasadenaCA.gov/EnvironmentalPrograms](http://www.SouthPasadenaCA.gov/EnvironmentalPrograms))
- WaterFest 2022- October 29, 2022: 9am-12pm (<https://upperdistrict.org/waterfest/>)
- LA County Smart Gardening Webinars- Various dates (<https://www.ladpw.org/epd/sg/webinars.cfm>)
- MWD Turf Removal + CA Native Landscape Webinars- Various dates (<https://greengardensgroup.com/turf-transformation/> )

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Chair Casey Law adjourned the meeting at 8:16 p.m.

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing minutes were adopted by the Natural Resources and Environmental Commission of the City of South Pasadena at a meeting held on August 23, 2022.

  
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Amy Davis Jones, Commissioner