

**CITY OF SOUTH PASADENA
NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION – REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES – July 26, 2022**

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. Present at the time of roll call were: Commissioner Ella Hushagen, Commissioner William J. Kelly, Commissioner Michael Siegel, Chair Casey Law, and City Council Liaison Mayor Michael Cacciotti. Commissioner Rona Bortz, Commissioner Amy Davis Jones, and Vice Chair Michelle Hammond have excused absences. Staff present: Ted Gerber: Public Works Director, Arpy Kasparian: Environmental Services & Sustainability Manager, and Catrina Peguero: Public Works Operations Manager

1) General Public Comment

No public comments.

PRESENTATIONS:

2) Introduction of Catrina Peguero, Public Works Operations Manager

Catrina has been with the City of South Pasadena for over 15 years and is now serving as the Public Works Operations Manager.

3) Introduction of Melanis Stepanian, Water Conservation and Sustainability Intern

Melanis has been with the City since February 2022 is serving as the Water Conservation and Sustainability Intern under Arpy Kasparian: Environmental Services & Sustainability Manager.

4) Climate Action Plan Progress Report

Arpy Kasparian sharing progress on the City's Climate Action Plan in order to meet targets in order to meet short and long-term goals such as achieving carbon neutrality by 2025 and reducing water consumption by 35% by 2045. The plan includes 90 plays (or actions) that can be taken by the city in order to help achieve the goals listed within the plan. The draft Climate Action Plan (CAP) can be found at: www.southpasadenacap.rinconconsultants.com

Commissioners asked about percentage or amount of carbon that will be saved by carrying out the electrification. One commissioner also asked what the role of the Transportation Engineer would be in achieving the goals set forth in the CAP. Clarification was requested regarding the reason for a battery backup project at Garfield Reservoir. One commissioner requested further information about tree planting in the nearby cities. Commissioner asked how compliance and awareness at the consumer level is being measured (for example: tracking the number of residential water waste reports).

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments.

DISCUSSION:

5) Single-use Plastics Regulations Discussion

Arpy Kasparian sharing the background of South Pasadena's steps taken to reduce single-use plastic distribution within the city.

Commissioners asked what the food industry is doing to replace single-use plastics and how are other cities enforcing the ban. Commissioner suggested to expand the polystyrene ban to include a variety of plastics and requesting for research into a ban on single-use plastic water bottles on city facilities. The suggestion of including a fee for city facility rentals using plastic water bottles or products.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Tucker Nelson is recommending to look into sectors other than the food industry regarding single-use plastics. Bringing attention to the issue of plastic bags at Farmer's Market. Suggesting for city staff to lead by example by using reusable bottles rather than single-use plastic bottles.

Mark has also commented on the issue of plastic bags at the Farmer's Market. This resident also brought the issue of plastic-coated paper products to the attention of the Commission.

ACTION ITEMS:

6) Approval of Minutes – Meeting of June 28, 2022

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HUSHAGEN, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER SIEGEL, MOTION CARRIED 4-0, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE JUNE 28 NREC COMMISSION MEETING.

COMMUNICATIONS:

7) City Council Liaison Communications

Electric Passenger Van is being considered as the City's Alternate Crisis Response Van.

The enforcement date of the ban on gas powered leaf blowers will be extended to a later date than the original October 1,2022 enforcement date. CARB and AQMD are looking into a rebate for electric leaf blowers.

8) Commissioner Communications

Suggestion of the NREC and members of the community to tour the Athens MURF facility (where trash is organized, sorted, and salvaged)

A \$1000 micro-grant is being awarded for events the week before October 5 for "Clean Air Day". Applications are due August 10.

9) Staff Liaison Communications

The Farmer's Market has brought back the 'Give 1 Take 1' reusable bag program.

Reviewing the Huntington Drive and Green Street project's feasibility report is being completed.

South Pasadena will not be changing trash haulers but there may be some amendments made to the existing contract with Athens.

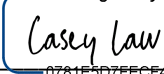
10) Upcoming Events

- 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 8:42 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 May 24, 2022.

DocuSigned By:

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Casey Law, Chair