

**CITY OF SOUTH PASADENA**  
**NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION – REGULAR MEETING**  
**MINUTES – March 23, 2021**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order at 7:01p.m. Present at the time of roll call were: Commissioner Rona Bortz, Commissioner Michelle Hammond, Commissioner Casey Law, Commissioner Michael Siegel, Vice Chair Madeline Di Giorgi, Chair Amy Jones, and Mayor Pro Tem Michael Cacciotti. Commissioner William Kelly was absent. Staff present: Anteneh Tesfaye, Acting Deputy Public Works Director; Garret Crawford, Acting Deputy Public Work Director; Arpy Kasparian, Water Conservation and Sustainability Analyst, and Reyna Salazar-Martin, Public Works Management Assistant.

**1) GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comments.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS:**

**2) Tree Removal Hearing: 822 Orange Grove Place**

Staff G. Crawford presented Tree Hearing Item. The applicant was not present to make a statement. Crawford noted the number of replacement trees exceeded the requirement and possible removal of parkway tree in the future due to curb and gutter repairs. Commission suggested moving the driveway to save the parkway tree. Commission moves to make a recommendation to approve removal of only the Schefflera and Black Pine trees, property owner to re-design driveway to preserve the Camphor tree on the parkway.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comments

MOTION BY CHAIR JONES, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER LAW, MOTION CARRIED 5-0 TO APPROVE, VICE CHAIR DI GIORGI ABSTAINED.

**PRESENTATION:**

**3) Gas-Powered Lawn Equipment – Dan Mabe, American Green Zone Alliance (AGZA)**

Dan Mabe from the American Green Zone Alliance (AGZA) gave a presentation on the positive impacts resulting from banning gas-powered leaf blowers and provided information on the types of resources the AGZA can offer the City including workshops and materials for homeowners and gardeners. Mabe provided information on the Air Quality Management District (AQMD) exchange program and answered questions from the commission. The commission discussed next steps. Staff repeated that establishing an ordinance to ban gas-powered leaf blowers had already been recommended and approved by the commission per the Climate Action Plan.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comments

**DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

**4) Virtual Earth Day**

Staff and commissioners discussed activities for a virtual Earth Day celebration including a social media campaign, sustainability newsletter, the launch of the New Tree Guide, and messages from the commissioners. Staff will also promote other community Earth Day activities such as the South Pasadena Beautiful webinar and the Library book list.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comments

**ACTION ITEMS:**

5) Approval of Minutes- Meeting of February 23, 2021

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comments

MOTION BY VICE CHAIR DI GIORGI, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HAMMOND, MOTION CARRIED 6-0, TO APPROVE MINUTES

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

6) City Council Liaison Communications

Mayor Pro Tem M. Cacciotti shared a grant solicitation by the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for monarch butterfly recovery. Cacciotti shared updates on the Gold Line, possible beautification projects with South Pasadena Beautiful, and his AQMD meetings regarding restrictions for diesel trucks.

7) Commissioner Communications

Commissioner Law shared the City Library's plans for establishing a tool lending library. Commissioner Hammond gave an update on potential plans to establish organics pick-up locations in the City after meeting with the Parks and Recreation Department and Compost Culture. Vice-Chair Di Giorgi expressed her support for the youth in the community. Commissioner Bortz shared the Transition South Pasadena community plates program that began before the pandemic. Commissioner Siegel suggested the City partner with Los Angeles Cleantech Incubator (LACI) to assist with the implementation of the Climate Action Plan. Chair Jones suggested communicating the monarch butterfly grant opportunity to South Pasadena Beautiful.

8) Staff Liaison Communications

Kasparian investigated the possibility of installing a dry bed and signage at the Nature Park and confirmed that they are receiving mulch.

9) Upcoming Events

- Alhambra Filter Exchange Drive – April 3, 2021
- 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 Amy Jones adjourned the meeting at 9:22 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 April 27, 2021.

DocuSigned by:

*Amy Jones*

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Amy Jones, Chair