

MINUTES
NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
May 24, 2016

Roll Call – The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. Present were Commissioners Chair William Kelly, Vice-Chair Scott Kuhn, Nancy Wilms, Noah Puni, and Kay Findley. Absent were Commissioners Stephen Leider and Al Benzoni, as well as Student Commissioner Emily Ng. Present were Council Liaison Robert Joe and Staff Liaisons Amber Duran and Jennifer Shimmin.

Minutes – Minutes from April 26, 2016 were approved (Kuhn, Wilms 5-0).

Public Comments and Suggestions – Rene De La Peza, a South Pasadena resident, presented his synthetic lawn installation company to the NREC.

BUSINESS ITEMS

1. **Pasadena’s Polystyrene Ban Presentation (Kelly)** – Morey Wolfson of the Pasadena Environmental Advisory Commission presented on the City of Pasadena’s journey to approve the recently enacted Polystyrene Container Ban. The Polystyrene Ban is the second of 19 steps in Pasadena’s Zero Waste Strategic Plan, and was modeled after Santa Monica’s and Manhattan Beach’s Polystyrene Bans. Pasadena’s Polystyrene Ban prohibits the use of “polystyrene number 6” for takeout or on-premise consumption, as well as the sale of polystyrene items within the City limits. Exemptions are given for raw and uncooked meat and fish, emergency supplies, lids, and straws. Pasadena establishments have one year to phase out the use or sale of the banned items. Wolfson recommended that South Pasadena staff talk to Pasadena staff for assistance in creating a similar ban. He also recommended reaching out to the local Chamber of Commerce, and establishing a relationship with them regarding the ban.
2. **South Pasadena Polystyrene Ban (Puni)** – Commissioner Puni sent out a link to Santa Monica’s ordinance website. Commissioner Kuhn requested to see sample ordinances at the next meeting. The Commissioners voted on Commissioner Chair William Kelly and Commissioner Noah Puni to serve as a Polystyrene Ban Subcommittee (Kelly, Kuhn 5-0). The Polystyrene Ban Subcommittee will prepare an advisory memo for council. Councilmember Joe recommended the NREC continue to receive input from the Chamber of Commerce during the process.
3. **Emergency Tree Ordinance Amendment (Kelly)** – Commissioners recommended an amendment to the City’s Tree Ordinance to add a provision giving an exemption for financial hardship (Puni, Wilms 5-0). Commissioner Wilms requested a status update on the resident, Mary Anne Lower, who had come to the NREC requesting an appeal to the replacement tree requirement of her tree removal permit.
4. **Evaluation of NREC’s Mission Statement and 2016 Goals (Kelly)** – Commissioner Puni discussed looking into a Zero Waste Policy as one of the Commission’s goals. The NREC

approved the document as a living document they review every 3-4 months (Kuhn, Wilms 5-0).

INFORMATION ONLY

5. **Water Conservation Programs and Drought Actions** – City had a total water reduction of 27.4% for March, the cumulative reduction since June 2015 is 26.4%.
6. **Arbor Access** – Public Works Operation Manager, Kristine Courdy, reported that West Coast Arborist would have to completely modify its program in order to provide read only access. At this time they are researching alternatives. In the interim, staff will provide written reports with the information that the NREC has requested. Staff would also like to meet with Commissioners Al Benzoni and Stephen Leider to show what information is available from Arbor Access.
7. **Upcoming Events** – The Compost and Mulch Giveaway will be on June 4, 2016.

Chair Communications- Chair Kelly requests that Commissioners submit recommendations to staff in writing.

Commissioner Communications-

Commissioner Wilms:

Asked staff about the City's requirements to meet AB1826;
Stated that the West Coast Arborist Contract Subcommittee and City staff have not been able to schedule a meeting to discuss the contract.

Commissioner Findley:

Stated that the San Pasqual Stables Subcommittee is on hold to find another member with more knowledge of horse care and stables;
Asked staff for brief monthly updates on tree planting and maintenance along with water restriction violations.

Commissioner Kuhn:

Reported that the Golf Course Subcommittee will be going on a local golf course tour.

Council Liaison Communications-


Valet parking ordinance has been approved, and the first reading occurred.
A hearing will be held for the dog park project in June or July.
Council has prohibited inflatable structures at City parks, and the second reading has occurred.

Staff Liaison Communications-

The new Senior Management Analyst, Jennifer (Jenna) Shimmin, was introduced.
Staff is working on providing residential water audits.
Landscaping of City medians at Huntington and Fair Oaks will be put on the agenda for next month.

Adjournment - The meeting adjourned at 8:59 p.m. (Puni, Wilms).

NEXT MEETING – The next regular meeting of the Natural Resources and Environmental Commission will be held on June 28, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.



William Kelly, Chair
6-28-16