

**CITY OF SOUTH PASADENA
NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION – REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES – May 26, 2020**

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 7:00p.m. Present were: Amy Jones, Bill Kelly, Stephen Leider, Lauren Myles, Madeline Di Giorgi and Councilmember Dr. Marina Khubesrian. Rona Bortz arrived to the meeting at 7:21pm. Cynthia Liu was absent. Staff present: Julian Lee, Deputy Public Works Director; Arpy Kasparian, Water Conservation & Sustainability Analyst; and Garrett Crawford, City Operations Manager.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Amber Chen & Max Jimenez – Residents – Encouraged the installation of more bike lanes in the City and asked for signatures for a petition.

PRESENTATIONS:

1) Climate Action Plan (Strategies and Actions) Presentation by Rincon Consultants

Hannah Mize and Lexi Journey presented the proposed strategies and actions to be included in the City's first Climate Action Plan. The commission asked questions regarding how this plan will affect historical homes, how the energy plays relate to the current Title 24 code, and the status of Athens' transfer trailers. Commissioner Kelly suggested updating the Move regarding an alternative transportation plan for schools from mid-term to short-term, considering adapting the plan to changes in work practices (telecommuting leading to reduction in VMT) that have resulted from the stay-at-home orders, and including emissions reduction amounts in the survey.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

2) Heat-Tolerant Trees List

Kasparian presented the current Native and Drought Tolerant Tree List which lists drought tolerant trees approved for planting in South Pasadena. Kasparian and Crawford, City Operations Manager, discussed how creating the Heat-Tolerant Trees List, which is a move in the adopted Green Action Plan, can start from this list. Commissioner Jones warned that drought tolerant trees are not necessarily heat resistant and appropriate for streets and parking lots. The commission discussed and agreed that adding a column to the existing Native and Drought Tolerant Tree List specifying the heat tolerance levels would be the best way to complete this task.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments

3) South Pasadena Green Action Plan Progress Report

Kasparian presented a progress report on the first quarter of the City's Green Action Plan.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments

ACTION ITEMS:

- 4) Approval of Minutes – Meeting of May 14, 2020

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments

MOTION BY VICE CHAIR BORTZ, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER LEIDER, CARRIED 6-0 to approve minutes.

COMMUNICATIONS:

- 5) City Council Liaison Communications

Councilmember Khubesrian expressed her concerns regarding the disregard of the City's Plastic Bag Ban during the pandemic and her work to push for more outdoor seating options for local restaurants by expanding permitting.

- 6) Commissioner Communications

Commissioner Jones suggested partnering with the Chamber of Commerce to re-promote the plastic bag ban. Commissioner Kelly had no comments. Commissioner Leider had no comments. Commissioner Myles had no comments. Vice Chair Bortz had no comments. Chair Di Giorgi asked for suggestions for alternatives for balloons and updated the commission on sustainability initiatives led by City youth.

- 7) Staff Liaison Communications

Kasparian reviewed the upcoming events.

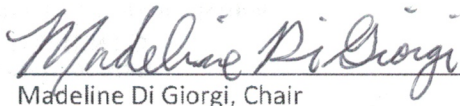
- 8) Upcoming Events

- Turf Removal/Garden Transformation Webinar – 5/28/20, 5:00pm
- Climate Action Plan Virtual Community Meeting – 5/28/20, 6:00pm
- CA Friendly/Native Plant Landscape Webinar – 6/9/20, 5:00pm
- Turf Removal/Garden Transformation Webinar – 6/11/20, 5:00pm
- Dumpster Day – 6/20/20, 8:00am – 2:00pm

ADJOURNMENT:

Chair Di Giorgi adjourned the meeting at 8:52p.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 June 23, 2020.


Madeline Di Giorgi, Chair