

**CITY OF SOUTH PASADENA
- NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
MINUTES – August 27, 2019**

1) **Call to Order/Roll Call:** The meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm. Present were: William Kelly, Amy Jones, Cynthia Liu, Lauren Myles, Rona Bortz, Stephen Leider, and Madeline Di Giorgi. Council Liaison Dr. Marina Khubesrian was present. Staff present: Julian Lee, Deputy Public Works Director; Shahid Abbas, Public Works Director; and Arpy Kasparian, Water Conservation & Sustainability Analyst.

2) **Approval of Minutes – Meeting of July 23, 2019**
Minutes approved. (Myles, Di Giorgi; unanimous)

Correction to Agenda: remove “Recommendation” from the discussion item, “Discussion on Plastic Waste Recommendation” to emphasize it is a discussion item and not an agenda item.

3) **Public Comment:**

Michelle Hammond – 1421 Rollin St. – Spoke in support of reducing plastics and implementing actions in the bike plan.

Aerin Kim – Resident - Spoke in support of banning single-use plastics.

Nikita Mankad – Resident - Spoke in support of single-use banning plastics.

Liam de Villa – Resident - Spoke in support of banning single-use plastics.

Cheryl Auger – Ban SUP (organization) – Suggested that the NREC respond to the amendments that were made to SB54. Also spoke in support of AB729.

Juliana Fong – Youth Commissioner – Spoke in support of banning single-use plastics.

Ben Tansy – Resident - Discussed the impacts of the closing of the rePlanet recycling centers and asked that City work with grocery stores to establish a beverage recycling center in the City.

Kathy Eastwood – Resident – Spoke in support of a circular economy and banning single-use plastics.

Reordering of Agenda to move Discussion Item 8B: Discussion on Plastic Waste after Public Comment.

8) **Discussion Items:**

B. Discussion on Plastic Waste

Stephanie Payne Campbell – Resident, South Pasadena Beautiful – Expressed that education and outreach is important when it comes to environmental issues. There should be a public awareness program that utilizes the Farmers Market, Chamber of Commerce, etc. as a means of communication and outreach.

Barbra McLendon – Resident - Spoke in support of the actions suggested by NREC to reduce plastic waste.

Ethan Martinez – Resident – Spoke in support of banning single-use water bottles and suggested installing water bottle refill stations throughout the city.

Amber Chen – Resident – Spoke in support of the actions suggested by NREC to reduce plastic waste. Mentioned that overuse of air conditioning is a problem and the City should provide education on this.

Max Jimenez – Resident – Spoke in support of the actions suggested by NREC to reduce plastic waste. Mentioned that, although it was a big feat, it was possible since our city is small.

Morey Wolfson – Resident – Spoke in support of the actions suggested by NREC. As a member of the Pasadena Environmental Advisory Commission, he mentioned that the City of Pasadena is paying attention to South Pasadena's actions as they are discussing similar issues.

Laurie Wheeler – Chamber of Commerce – Was not able to speak on behalf of all businesses since she hadn't done outreach to all of them yet, but had suggestions for implementing plastic waste reduction actions in the City. Those suggestions are: consider creating a task force for businesses to determine alternatives, have a showcase event for plastic alternatives, work with regional organizations to discover best practices. She expressed that the Chamber wanted to work with these changes, but asked that the challenges of doing business in South Pasadena be considered.

Barbara Eisenstein – Resident - Spoke in support of the actions suggested by NREC to reduce plastic waste. Suggested working with schools to install refill stations and large scale composting facilities.

Ellen Finkelparl – Ban SUP (organization), Pasadena Resident – Spoke in support of banning single-use plastics.

Bee Simpson – Resident – Spoke in support of banning single-use plastics.

Liam de Villa – Resident – Suggested that the focus should be on reducing and reusing plastics rather than recycling.

Commissioner Liu commented on the lack of community education on topics such as recycling awareness. She is a big public school advocate and suggested that sustainability initiatives be integrated into the curriculum. Commissioner Bortz gave a summary of coastal cleanup efforts and other programs implemented by the City of Santa Monica. Suggested the City use them as examples. Commissioner Jones expressed that the City should collaborate more with other cities. Holding a workshop on how to live without plastic would be a great way to provide education and outreach to residents. She commented that issues of noncompliance should be addressed. Commissioner Di Giorgi provided examples of other cities that have made steps toward banning single-use plastics including San Francisco, Berkeley, Santa Monica, and Manhattan Beach. Commissioner Kelly expressed that it was important for the city to address plastics as the cost of hauling is being passed on to the people. Commissioner Myles expressed support for considering all impacts and moving

forward. Commissioner Leider expressed that it was important to take into consideration how a single-use plastics ban would impact businesses and to ensure that the City works with businesses throughout the process.

4) Staff Liaison Comments:

Arpy introduced the new Deputy Director of Public Works, Julian Lee, and the new Director of Public Works, Shahid Abbas. They provided a brief background on their experience.

5) Council Liaison Comments:

Mayor Khubesrian announced that South Pasadena would be hosting a zero-waste event for LA County mayors.

6) Commission Comments:

Commissioner Liu explained that big changes are dependent on shifting consumer patterns. Commissioner Bortz gave an update on the success of South Pasadena Beautiful's Repair Café event. Commissioner Jones announced that South Pasadena Beautiful plans on incorporating greywater systems into their Garden Tour in the spring. Commissioner Di Giorgi gave an update on her work with Green Peace passing out scorecards for businesses. Commissioner Kelly stated that he would not be in attendance at the next meeting. Commissioner Myles had no comments. Commissioner Leider had no comments.

7) Action Items:

A. Water Conservation Rebates and Programs FY 19-20

Kasparian presented the Water Conservation Rebate Program for fiscal year 2019-20.

Commissioner Bortz expressed that she would have liked to see greywater incorporated into the program. The Commission voted to approve the program.

B. Overview of Current Weed Control Practices Citywide

Kasparian presented an update on weed control practices outlining the City's current compliance and challenges anticipated by switching to alternatives including increased costs. The Commission voted to table this item and requested more information including the amount of glyphosate used per month and a breakdown of the additional costs to switch to alternatives.

8) Discussion Items:

A. Water Bottle Refill Stations Update

Kasparian gave the Commission an update on the water bottle refill stations being installed in the City's public parks. This is a project led by Community Services.

9) Upcoming Events: Free Household Hazardous & Electronic Recycling Waste Round Up – 8/31/19 (South Pasadena Unified School District Headquarters); LA Compost Free Composting Workshop – 9/14/19 (El Sereno Community Garden)

Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 9:09p.m. (Di Giorgi; unanimous)

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 September 24, 2019.


Madeline Di Giorgi, Chair