

**CITY OF SOUTH PASADENA
NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
MINUTES – February 28, 2017**

Roll Call – The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. Present were Commissioners: Chair William Kelly, Al Benzoni, Kay Findley, Stephen Leider, Noah Puni (arrived at 7:09pm), Daniel Snowden-Ifft, and Nancy Wilms (arrived at 7:11pm). Also present were Student Commissioner Hailey Bugg, Staff Liaison Jenna Shimmin, and Council Liaison Robert D. Schneider, MD (arrived at 7:10pm).

Minutes – Minutes from January 24, 2017, were approved with minor edits (Leider, Findley 7-0).

Public Comments and Suggestions – None.

BUSINESS ITEMS

1. **Administration of Oath of Office for Commissioner Daniel Snowden-Ifft** – Chief City Clerk Anthony Mejia administered the oath of office for the new commissioner, Daniel Snowden-Ifft.
2. **Arroyo Seco Golf Course Subcommittee Nomination (Shimmin)** – A motion was made to nominate Nancy Wilms as the Arroyo Seco Golf Course subcommittee member (Puni, Benzoni 7-0).
3. **Chair and Vice-Chair Nominations (Shimmin)** – A motion was made to nominate Al Benzoni as the Vice-Chair of the Natural Resources and Environmental Commission (Wilms, Leider 7-0).

A motion was made to nominate Bill Kelly as the Chair of the Natural Resources and Environmental Commission for one more term (Benzoni, Puni 7-0).

4. **Gray Water (Shimmin)** –Craig Melicher provided language regarding a gray water ordinance. This language states:

Requirements -

- Gray water systems shall be installed in full accordance with current Health Department requirements. Gray water systems shall be plumbed from all plumbing fixtures permitted to serve a gray water system to at least one discharge location on an exterior wall that is capable of supplying a landscape irrigation system with non-potable water.
- Landscape areas, where provided, shall be capable of accepting, storing and percolating not less than 60 gallons of discharged gray water in any single 24-hour period of time and not less than 30 gallons within any 90-minute period of time, or storage tanks with a capacity of not less than 100 gallons shall be provided. Where storage tanks are provided, pumps or other means shall be provided to discharge the gray water into landscape areas at a rate not greater than the actual capacity of the landscape area.
- At no time shall gray water be permitted to flow beyond the defined boundary of the landscape area or across a property line.

Exceptions -

- Gray water systems shall not be required for individual lots that have a net irrigable landscape area of less than 200 square feet.
- Gray water piping shall not be required from interior residential fixtures where the invert elevation of the gray water piping cannot terminate at least 6 inches above adjacent grade at an exterior wall without the use of a pump.
- Use of gray water for irrigation of parkways in the public right of way shall be at the sole discretion of the Director of Public Works.

The commission was fine with most of these provisions, except for allowing bathroom sinks in the system. They asked staff to get some input from the Planning Commission whether to require builders to install the gray water system as “ready to use”, or to simply install it and leave it open to the owner/tenant/etc. to hook up if they’d like to (stub out).

The commissioners discussed the cost associated with installing a pump system on the gray water system after the building has been completed and sold. They acknowledged that it may be more beneficial to install the pump when installing the system itself. They noted that there is no electrical requirement for a stub-out, which will be needed for a pump.

5. **Cool Roofs (Benzoni)** – The commission discussed whether this was already approved in the new green building standards/Title 24 updates. It was mentioned that chapter 6 possibly covers this. The commission asked staff to find out if it already was approved, and if planning staff are reviewing this for building permits. They’d also like to know if there is an inspection process, or is this reviewed during the application process. Commissioner Kelly suggested that the city put information with a diagram on the city’s website and in the city newsletter showing the energy- and money-saving benefits of cool roofing material to city residents.
6. **Tree Ordinance (Shimmin)** – Commissioner Benzoni mentioned that he would like to see an ordinance that more directly addresses the aesthetic value trees provide to areas/neighborhoods as well as the cooling benefits, etc. It should also address the lack of procedural follow-up and the appeals process.

Public Comment – Janet Ferguson: Owns two properties on Hanscom Drive (near city’s edge, overlooking El Sereno), and has been having ongoing issues with a tree removal permit that a neighboring property owner applied for. The neighbor to the North of her purchased the properties back in early 2016. Deep soil samples were done at the properties that she feels led to the death of some mature trees on those properties; trees that overlapped on her property, providing shade. The owner applied for a tree removal permit for several other trees on the properties now that they are under development. She was sent notices in late October, 2016, regarding the new development that stated they were for the same date but two different committees/boards. The site plan called for the removal of 27 trees (which she was against), and which the Design Review Board (DRB) approved at their November 3, 2016, meeting. The DRB advised the property owner they would need to mitigate the removals per the City’s tree ordinance. She feels that public works

should have sent her notice of the date and time of the removal, not just allowed for it to be posted on the trees where she could not see them. She filed an appeal with the DRB and the Cultural Heritage Commission, both were denied. She found the process to be much more difficult than expected.

She is asking that the NREC review the tree permit application and appeals process so that it is easier to understand and gives more consideration for what the neighborhood and community want. She has a problem with all the mature trees being removed by new development and hopes that the NREC can help find a way to keep this from happening so often.

- Staff was directed to find out what commission a tree removal objection goes to, as well as the definition of a heritage tree.

The commission discussed that there should be some sort of site mitigation for large tree removal (if a tree is removed on a property there should be some requirement that trees be planted on that property).

A motion was made to form a sub-committee regarding the tree ordinance and tree removal process, which commissioners Benzoni, Findley and Leider will sit on (Kelly, Leider 7-0).

INFORMATION ONLY

7. **Urban Forest Update** – Jenna Shimmin provided an update that trimming is near completion in the following grids: Grid 9 (90% complete) south east side of City, Grid 8B (95% complete) eastern side of the City, and has been completed in the area of Arroyo Park and Arroyo Drive. Grid pruning will resume in the Spring of 2017, as the department’s focus currently is cleaning up after the series of storms the area has seen. Numerous trees are in various needs of care, including trimming and removal, as well as repairing damage caused by trees during the storms. Removals and replacements have been ongoing throughout the City. To date 96 trees have been planted, and it is anticipated that an additional 50 trees will be planted by April. Of these roughly 150 trees, South Pasadena Beautiful was able to donate 60 through a tree planting drive held over the last few months.
8. **Update on Renewable Energy Request for Proposals (Shimmin)** – Jenna Shimmin advised the commissioners that the renewable energy request for proposals (RFP) had gone out on February 23rd, and that the proposals were due April 13th. Commissioner Snowden-Ifft asked what the scope of work covers, which Mrs. Shimmin explained included, but wasn’t limited to:
 - Heating ventilation & air conditioning (HVAC) system optimization
 - Interior and exterior lighting
 - Outside, street, and area lighting
 - Open standards wireless platform and applications to control, dim, monitor, and help maintain street lighting LED retrofit investment
 - Building Automation System (BAS) installation, upgrade, or expansion
 - Building envelope upgrades
 - Infrastructure improvements that reduce energy and/or reduce operating costs

Chair Kelly asked for a timeline of the various phases in the RFP, which Mrs. Shimmin explained as Phase 1: Water and Energy Audit, Phase 2: Design and Financing Solutions, and Phase 3: Project Implementation.

Public Comment – Bill Glauz (Renewable Energy Council): Stated that he is not only an REC member, but also a resident of South Pasadena and a retired engineer for LADWP. He has reviewed the REC's work and report development, and thanked staff for their work in bringing those recommendations forward as an RFP. He asked the commission to support staff and the RFP. He hopes to see a focus on solar come out of this process.

Commissioner Snowden-Ifft asked staff to look into state revolving fund for solar grants.

9. **Upcoming Events** – 626 Golden Streets Event – March 5th; Budget Community Forum – March 11th; E-Waste/Document Shredding at the Rose Bowl – March 18th

Chair Communications- No updates at this time.

Commissioner Communications-

Commissioner Benzoni: No updates at this time.

Commissioner Findley: There was a write up by Sally Kilby in the South Pasadena Review regarding the LLMD, and it would have been nice to have seen more things like this before ballots were due.

Stables Subcommittee Update: Will meet with Ron Hagen to visit some neighboring stables. He has so far been impressed with the City's facility, which is at 80% occupancy. He has provided some input regarding the language of the RFP: stated that the initial term with a new contractor should be 3 years but can be extended 10-20 years, and also noted that the property to the north of the stables is in Pasadena city limits, but is utilized and so language should be included to cover liability

Commissioner Leider: Asked for clarification regarding the plastic bag ban, and why certain stores are still using them. Mrs. Shimmin explained that this is because the law only bans the use of plastic bag in stores that sell a limited line of goods (such as milk, eggs, etc. aka groceries).

Commissioner Puni: Grass Roots is having a workshop on how to cook with Jackfruit on March 7th at 7pm.

Commissioner Snowden-Ifft: Had a discussion with Rick Thomas regarding solar in South Pasadena and they suggest that the City should have signage/advertising about how much of the city's energy comes from renewable resources.

Commissioner Wilms: Discussed a report released recently by the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California regarding the various water sources they utilize and the availability of water from each after this rainy season.

Staff Liaison Communications- Mrs. Shimmin advised the commission that staff had recently applied for a grant from the California Energy Commission regarding Climate Action Plan development and

implementation. This grant includes funds for an electric vehicle charger as well as an electric vehicle. Language from the Renewable Energy RFP and Renewable Energy Council report was used in the grant application.

Council Liaison Communication – Dr. Schneider stated that he was glad to be back assisting the NREC, and was happy that they chose to form a subcommittee focused on the tree ordinance. He discussed how it is the mission of the NREC to protect the trees in South Pasadena. He also stated that the Cultural Heritage Commission is reviewing the demolition process and this may be a future agenda item for the NREC.

Adjournment – Commissioner Benzoni motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:54 p.m., Commissioner Leider seconded. Ayes: All, Nays: None.

NEXT MEETING – The next meeting of the Natural Resources and Environmental Commission will be held on March 28, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.



William Kelly, Chair