



**CITY OF SOUTH PASADENA
NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
MEETING AGENDA**

Tuesday, January 23, 2018 7:00 p.m.

AMEDEE O. "DICK" RICHARDS, JR. COUNCIL CHAMBERS
1424 Mission Street, South Pasadena, CA 91030

Commissioners: Al Benzoni, Kay Findley, William Kelly, Stephen Leider,
Noah Puni, Daniel Snowden-Ifft and Nancy Wilms
City Council Liaison: Council Member Richard D Schneider, MD
Staff Liaison: Rafael Casillas

Roll Call

Approval of Minutes from Regular Meeting: November 28, 2017.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS

Time reserved for those in attendance who wish to address the Commission. All attendees should be aware that the Commission may not discuss details or vote on non-agenda items. Your concerns may be referred to staff or placed on a future agenda. Note: public input will also be taken during all agenda items.

BUSINESS ITEMS

- 1) **Tree Removal Permit Hearing: 1750 Hanscom Dr. (Staff)** - Consider a tree removal permit for 1750 Hanscom Drive.
- 2) **Cool Roofs (Benzoni)** – Discuss potential recommendation regarding ensuring compliance with cool roofs building standards.
- 3) **Volunteer Tree Planting and Resident Education Efforts (Kelly)** - Discussion of the city's potential use of non-profit groups to plant trees in South Pasadena, and to educate residents about watering parkway trees and caring for their own trees.
- 4) **Water Conservation Programs and Drought Update (Shimmin)** - City had a total water use reduction of 12% for November 2017, and 4% for December 2017 versus the same month in 2013.

INFORMATION ONLY (No Discussion Required) (15 minutes)

- 5) **Urban Forest Update (Courdy)**
- 6) **Upcoming Events** – Too Toxic to Trash, HHW Event: February 3, 2018 (Rosemead)

- CHAIR COMMUNICATIONS**
- COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS**
- STAFF LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS**
- COUNCIL LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS**

ADJOURNMENT – Next Regular Meeting – February 27, 2018

STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
CITY OF SOUTH PASADENA)
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES)

I declare under penalty of perjury, that I am an employee of the City of South Pasadena, and that I posted this Agenda on the bulletin board in the courtyard of the City Hall at 1414 Mission Street, South Pasadena on 1-18-18, as required by Law.

Date: January 18, 2018 Signature: [Handwritten Signature]

Any disclosable public records related to this meeting distributed to the Commission fewer than 72 hours prior to the meeting shall be available for public inspection at the Public Works Office, 1414 Mission Street, Room #201, prior to the meeting. Copies of the agenda packet and any supplemental documents will be available at the meeting. Any documents distributed at the meeting will be made available following the meeting at the Public Works Office during normal business hours.

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

Roll Call – The meeting called to order at 7:01 p.m. Present were Commissioners: Chair William Kelly, Vice-Chair Al Benzoni, Kay Findley, Noah Puni and Daniel Snowden-Ifft, as well as Student Commissioner Madeline Wong. Absent were Commissioners: Steven Leider and Nancy Wilms. Also present were Council Liaison Dr. Schneider, and Staff Liaison Jenna Shimmin.

Minutes – Minutes for September 26, 2017, were approved with minor corrections (Benzoni, Snowden-Ifft; Ayes: All, Nays: 0).

Minutes for October 30, 2017, were approved with no corrections (Findley, Puni; Ayes: All, Nays: 0).

NO PUBLIC COMMENTS

BUSINESS ITEMS

1. **Tree Canopy Community Meeting** – Chair Kelly explained that he would like to plan a community meeting hosted by the City, NREC, and South Pasadena Beautiful (SPB). This meeting could possibly be held around Earth Day 2018, in conjunction with a SPB event being held at Eddie Park. He asked for SPB and the NREC’s input on a draft agenda, and mentioned forming a sub-committee to coordinate the event.

In attendance from SPB was Gina Atkinson (current president), Stephanie Payne-Campbell (board member and past president), Amber Duran (treasurer), Jean Scott (local landscape architect and board member), MaryAnn Veach (board member), and Dr. Jerry Turney (resident and LA County Senior Biologist).

Stephanie Payne-Campbell stated that she feels raising awareness on this issue is great and that this community meeting would help provide another means to educate the residents, and address their concerns regarding maintaining their trees.

Dr. Turney explained that one of the biggest challenges is replanting with all the ongoing issues with pests. Some cities offer a rebate for planting trees on a person’s property. LA County Public Works has a policy that they will not plant a tree in front of a residence unless the property owner agree to water the tree(s) for 2 years. He stated that getting folks to water their trees is one of the biggest issues seen by the commission he is on. He suggested giving out water bags, and a door tag with information on tree watering.

Chair Kelly asked how trees were selected for planting. Gina Atkinson responded that she has spoken with Kristine Courdy of Public Works, who advised her that staff contacts a property owner to see if they want a tree, and are willing to take care of it. If the owner states they do not want the tree, staff will move on to the next vacant tree well.

Commission Findley stated that many residents do not know that it is their responsibility to maintain the parkway. This community meeting would be a great way to educate residents.

Amber Duran advised the NREC that SPB and city staff met with the City of Claremont regarding their volunteer task force (organized through the community group Sustainable Claremont), and stated that SPB envisions trying to duplicate a similar program. She feels that having community members talk to residents about how to maintain their trees seems to be better received. She has a study on urban forest management at various cities in Southern California that she would be happy to share; and this study showed that Claremont has the lowest cost per capita per tree.

Chair Kelly asked who plants the trees in Claremont. To which Ms. Duran responded that it is a combination of community members and city staff, with volunteers being utilized as much as possible. He then asked how Sustainable Claremont is funded. Ms. Duran responded that that the City has received grants to help fund the initiatives of Sustainable Claremont. Ms. Payne-Campbell added that because of a change in the city's charter Claremont was able to fund a staff for Sustainable Claremont. If SPB had access to the City's grant writer, they would be able to help obtain more grants that could potentially fund something like that here in South Pasadena.

Chair Kelly then asked if any of the NREC commissioners would be willing to work with SPB, City staff and himself to help coordinate a community meeting. Commissioner Puni volunteered as the primary person, with Commissioner Benzoni as a secondary, and Commissioner Findley as a backup.

Ms. Payne-Campbell advised the NREC that SPB would be doing their tree drive again this year, despite an increase in cost of the trees (now \$325). She asked if the City would be able to help with tree bags, to which Jenna Shimmin responded that the Water Conservation section could purchase tree bags (or whatever is best) for every tree donated through SPB's tree drive.

Dr. Turney advised the commission that while 15 gallon trees are cheaper to plant than 24" box trees, they are more prone to issues like vandalism (which are a problem for street trees).

It was requested of staff to update the City's approved tree list, specifically what trees are planted in parkways.

2. **Tree Removal Hearing: 116 Monterey Road** – Staff advised the commission that on October 16, 2017, Tammy Membreno- Aquino submitted a tree removal request to remove three Eucalyptus trees from 116 Monterey Road. The City's arborist recommended removal of the trees due to failing branches, horizontal cracking with sap seepage, an unbalanced crown, and a high risk of failure. The neighbor located at 100 Monterey Road contested the removal of the trees stating that they are actually on his property, and that the problems with them can be mitigated through trimming. Staff is in support of removal of the trees.

Jose Costas, the property owner at 100 Monterey Road, is requesting a continuance on this hearing to all an inspection to analyze if the trees are jointly owned, and for a plant pathologist to review the trees.

David Niznik state that the trees are definitely in poor health, as the City's arborist report states.

Mr. Costas stated that the trees have been there for awhile and provide not only aesthetics, but privacy and shade.

Commissioner Benzoni asked who would need to pay for the extensive trimming Mr. Costas is proposing. Mr. Costas stated that he would. Commissioner Benzoni then asked if Mr. Costas felt the aesthetics would be maintained with such severe trimming. To which he responded that the trees would grow back.

Tammy Membreno-Aquino, the applicant, stated that in 2011 there was a storm that caused branches to fall, damaging both hers and the neighbor's properties. In 2014, she applied for a tree trimming permit and trimmed the trees back 25%, as allowed in the municipal code. Her current concern is that the branches are now larger and there are problems with the trees that show they are a hazard. In addition, she has been notified that her insurance premiums will go up next year due to the condition of the trees. She has obtained a second opinion, which suggests heavy pruning beyond what the municipal code allows. She also went on to explain that while Mr. Costas is willing to release her from liability from any damage that may occur on his property, this does nothing to protect her property from any potential damages and associated insurance costs.

Commissioner Benzoni asked Ms. Membreno-Aquino if it would be acceptable to her to be allowed to trim the trees beyond the 25%. She responded that because the trees are leaning and have cracks in the trunks, she is still concerned about their integrity.

Commissioner Findley asked for clarification of the location of the trees because on the permit application it states that one is in the back yard, however it appears from the photos that all are along the side of the house. Ms. Membreno-Aquino explained that she miswrote the location; they are all along the side. She only wishes to trim the tree in the backyard.

Commissioner Benzoni asked if the cracks were significant or superficial in the bark. David Niznik responded that the cracks are fairly significant and could be even worse under the bark. He also explained that per Rebecca Mejia, the arborist from West Coast Arborist, the amount of trimming required of these trees would essentially stub them back (also known as "hat rack"-ing them), and any new growth would be weak. Commissioner Benzoni then asked about the concern over ownership of the trees. Mr. Niznik replied that he believes ownership lies with the person who has been pay for the maintenance of the trees for the last roughly 20 years. Commissioner Benzoni responded that it appears the real argument here is whether the trees can be saved by simply allowing more than 25% trimming, or not.

A motion was made to approve the removal of the trees as requested (Snowden-Ifft, Findley; Ayes: 4, Nays: 1).

- 3. Gray Water Ordinance** – Staff reviewed updates the draft language. Ms. Shimmin explained that concern over screening from public view is already addressed in existing SPMC language. Commissioner Benzoni stated that he still feels bathroom sinks should be optional. Also, in regards to the three way valve language, the phrase "at a minimum" should be removed because it's contradictory to the next sentence of the language. He also wants to ensure there is adequate

language that requires compliance with all marking and material requirements of the current plumbing code. Staff will work with Craig Melicher to address all these issues and finalize the language for submission to the Planning Department for review and City Council for adoption.

A motion was made to approve the edits to the Gray Water Ordinance language and recommend that council adopt them as an update to the city's municipal code (Findley, Snowden-Ifft; Ayes: All, Nays: None).

4. **Water Conservation Programs and Drought Update** – Jenna Shimmin updated the commission that there was a 16% reduction in water use for October 2017 versus 2013 usage.

Per council request, it was discussed whether to update the restrictions under the Water Conservation Plan. It was decided to wait until later next year to see what the consumption trend is after the rate increase becomes effective, as the commission felt this would help promote a reduction in water use.

5. **December Meeting Date** – A motion was made to cancel the regular meeting on December 26, 2017, with the next meeting being held on January 23, 2018 (Kelly, Findley; Ayes: All, Nays: None).

INFORMATION ONLY

6. **Urban Forest Update** – Staff explained that Public Works had one response to the Urban Forest Maintenance RFP, which was West Coast Arborist. They are currently negotiating rates for services.
7. **Upcoming Events** – Farmer's Market Tree Lighting- November 30th; Used Oil and Used Oil Filter Recycling Event in Alhambra – December 2nd

Chair Communications – None at this time.

Commission Communications – Commissioner Benzoni – Brought up an issue with Cool Roof material requirements and how they are being enforced or inspected by the Planning Department. Asked that this item be added to the January meeting agenda.

Staff Liaison Communications – Introduced the new Student Commissioner, Madeline Wong, who gave a brief introduction of herself.

Council Liaison Communications – Dr. Schneider advised the commission that the City Manager, Public Works staff, and Planning staff are working on updated the plan review process so that the NREC and Cultural Heritage Committee are not the last to review plans any longer.

Adjournment – Commissioner Findley motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:52 p.m., Commissioner Benzoni seconded. Ayes: All, Nays: None.

NEXT MEETING – The next meeting of the Natural Resources and Environmental Commission will be held on January 23, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.

William Kelly, Chair

Item No. 1

City of South Pasadena

Memo

Date: January 23, 2018
To: Natural Resources and Environmental Commission
From: Leaonna DeWitt, Public Works Assistant
Subject: Tree Removal Application – 1750 Hanscom

On December 6, 2017, Mr. Peter Bakhtiari submitted an application for three dead trees non-native to be removed from his property. The public notice was mailed for the removal of the three Pine trees and the City received one letter in opposition. The arborist has recommended removal of all three trees, which were confirmed to be dead.

If the Commission concurs with the applicant then ten (10) replacement trees will be required per South Pasadena Municipal Code.



City of South Pasadena
Public Works Department
Engineering Division

1414 Mission Street, South Pasadena, CA 91030 (626) 403-7240

Jan 5, 2018
CITY OF SOUTH PASADENA
RECEIVED

DEC 06 2017

PUBLIC WORKS DEPT.

Private Property Tree Removal/Replacement Permit Application

Permit Fee: \$110.00

Inspection Fee: \$140.00

PERMIT # _____

JOB SITE: 1750 Hanscom

PROPERTY OWNER'S NAME Peter Balakhiani

ADDRESS: 1750 Hanscom PHONE: 323 828-4597

CONTRACTOR'S NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____ PHONE: _____

CITY BUSINESS LICENSE NO. _____

**Trees 4" in diameter or greater are Mature Trees - Include all conditions warranting the removal
Please Submit plan if more than three (3) trees are involved**

1. TYPE OF TREE: Pine SIZE OF TREE: 25"

LOCATION: Front

LIST OF REASONS FOR REQUESTING THIS TREE REMOVAL: Dead

2. TYPE OF TREE: Pine SIZE OF TREE: 25"

LOCATION: Front

LIST OF REASONS FOR REQUESTING THIS TREE REMOVAL: Dead

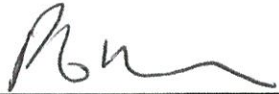
3. TYPE OF TREE: Pine SIZE OF TREE: 25"

LOCATION: Back

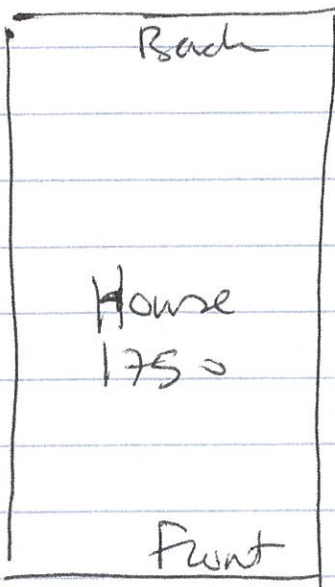
LIST OF REASONS FOR REQUESTING THIS TREE REMOVAL: Dead

Private Property Tree Removal/Replacement Permit Conditions

- 1) Conditions must exist to warrant the removal of any mature tree. Healthy trees, which are not causing a hardship on a property owners. Shall not be approved for removal.
- 2) Tree removals will include complete removal of the stump and backfill of the hole.
- 3) For every tree approved for removal, multiple replacement trees must be planted anywhere on the owner's property or on City's property upon City's approval. For replacement tree(s) plating in the parkway, root will required to control the root system. The size of the replacement tree(s) is (are) based on the diameter of the trunk and the type/variety of the approved tree(s) for removal. The replacement tree(s) must be a minimum of 24" box size as specified by the Engineering Division.
- 4) Replacement trees must be planted within 90 days of the issuance date on the permit.
- 5) Prior to planting the replacement trees, a final inspection must be conducted by the City inspector to verify conformance with tree replacement requirements. Please call to schedule an appointment at (626) 403-7370, Monday through Friday 7:00a.m. – 3:00p.m.
- 6) A 100 foot radius map and mailing labels shall be required to provide public notice of the tree removal. Residents within 100 foot radius of the property shall be given 15 days to comment on the tree removal prior to issuance of the permit.

APPLICANTS SIGNATURE:  DATE: 12/06/17

<u>CITY USE ONLY</u>	
1) APPROVED OR DENIED	TYPE OF TREE <u>ALAMO PLUM</u>
SIZE OF TREE: <u>22"</u> REPLACEMENT TREE SIZE: <u>24"</u> QTY: <u>3</u> DUE DATE: _____	
COMMENTS: <u>DEAD</u> NO SIGN OF INSECT OR DISEASE; NO LIVE FOLIAGE <u>FIRE HAZARD</u>	
INSPECTED BY: <u>R. Mejia ISA WE 2355-A</u> DATE: <u>12-17-17</u>	
2) APPROVED OR DENIED	TYPE OF TREE <u>CANYON ISLAND PLUM</u>
SIZE OF TREE: <u>31"</u> REPLACEMENT TREE SIZE: <u>24"</u> QTY: <u>4</u> DUE DATE: _____	
COMMENTS: <u>DEAD</u> NO SIGN OF INSECT OR DISEASE; NO LIVE FOLIAGE <u>FIRE HAZARD</u>	
INSPECTED BY: <u>R. Mejia ISA WE 2355-A</u> DATE: <u>12-11-17</u>	
3) APPROVED OR DENIED	TYPE OF TREE <u>ALAMO PLUM</u>
SIZE OF TREE: <u>25"</u> REPLACEMENT TREE SIZE: <u>24"</u> QTY: <u>3</u> DUE DATE: _____	
COMMENTS: <u>DEAD, HIGH RISK, CRACKING AT MAIN CRUTCH!</u>	
INSPECTED BY: <u>R. Mejia ISA WE 2355-A</u> DATE: <u>12-11-17</u>	



Hanacom



N

S



12/14/17 spoke w/Peter regarding sending out notices. Waiting for labels.

RECEIVED

January 3, 2018

JAN 03 2018

PLEASE DISTRIBUTE

CITY OF SOUTH PASADENA
PLANNING AND BUILDING DEPT.

To: All Members of the:
South Pasadena City Council
South Pasadena Natural Resources and Environmental Commission
South Pasadena Cultural Heritage Committee
South Pasadena Planning Commission
South Pasadena Design Review Board
City Staff of Planning and Building of South Pasadena, including especially Mr. Dave Watkins, Director;
John Mayer, Sr. Staff; Jose the Forever Intern;
South Pasadena City Inspector
South Pasadena Public Works, including Mr. Paul Toor
South Pasadena City Manager
South Pasadena Police Department

I state the following for the record in response to the Notice of Request to Remove three now-dead Original and Old Growth enormous, healthy, vigorous, green, living Pine Trees:

Since:

It is clearly and generally known and proven that the owner of the properties at 1746 and 1750 did knowingly and premeditatedly poison with gasoline and kill with deeply-drilled auger bits and by other means, all 26 Protected Trees on these properties, especially including the 3 Pine Trees at the front of said properties and facing the street. The 3rd of those three frontmost pines was alive until approximately 5 weeks ago and has since died in rapid manner;

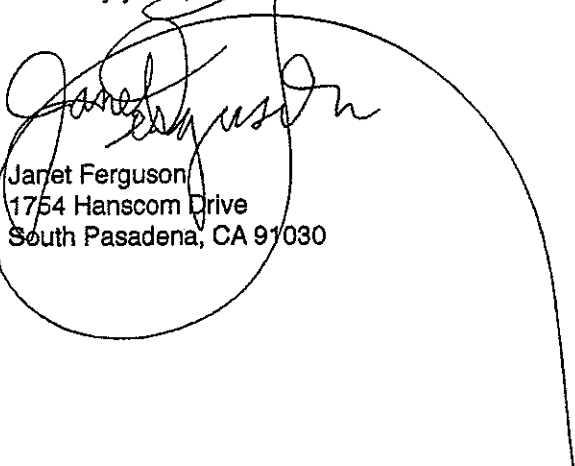
The owner of these 2 properties in question has, during the last 2 weeks of December 2017 poured foundations in the rear of both properties WITHOUT NEW CONSTRUCTION PERMITS POSTED as per City Rules and Regulations;

Then:

The removal of the dead trees carcasses that the Owner of 1746 and 1750 Hanscom Dr did deliberately kill in violation of multiple City Ordinances and Rules **shall not construe** freedom to continue new construction at the the sites of 1746 and 1750 Hanscom Drive WITHOUT NEW CONSTRUCTION PERMITS POSTED for all to see and which were properly paid to the City and not to City Staff or others, with permit fees actually going to the City; **and**

All New Regulations and Fines put into place in 2017 by the Natural Resources and Environmental Commission regarding the deliberate killing of Protected Trees **shall be abided by** and **paid for as necessary** in full as required of Owner before any further construction commences.

Sincerely yours,



Janet Ferguson
1754 Hanscom Drive
South Pasadena, CA 91030