

**CITY OF SOUTH PASADENA
NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
MINUTES – July 23, 2019**

1) **Call to Order/Roll Call:** The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm. Present were: William Kelly, Amy Jones, Cynthia Liu, Lauren Myles, Rona Bortz and Madeline Di Giorgi. Stephen Leider was absent. Council Liaison Dr. Marina Khubesrian was absent. Staff present: Kristine Courdy, P.E., Deputy Public Works Director and Arpy Kasparian, Water Conservation & Sustainability Analyst.

2) **Approval of Minutes – Meeting of July 7, 2019**
Minutes approved. (Myles, Di Giorgi; unanimous)

Reordering of the Agenda to move Public Comment after Commission Comments

4) **Council Liaison Comments:** Mayor Khubesrian was absent.

5) **Staff Liaison Comments:**
Kristine announced that the new Deputy Director of Water and Sustainability was hired and will start on July 29, 2019.

6) **Commission Comments:**
Commissioner Di Giorgi shared photos of local sustainability events including the LADWP board meeting, the Altadena Farmer’s Market, the Plastic-Free event, etc. Commissioner Jones discussed a suite of tree benefit analysis software from the USFS called MyTree. She also met with the South Pasadena Beautiful president and discussed incorporating greywater systems as part of their garden tour next year. Commissioner Bortz suggested that hydration stations be placed throughout the city to help with reduction of plastic. She, along with some other commissioners will be meeting with the Chamber of Commerce on Thursday, July 25th, to talk about possibilities with the Farmers Market. Kristine Courdy informed the Commission that Community Services orders a few water bottle refill stations each year to replace existing ones. These stations are deployed in parks and fields and installed by Public Works. The stations are already ordered through another department. Commissioner Kelly announced that the City of Berkeley is the first City to ban hookups to natural gas in homes. Use of natural gas in homes produces greenhouse gas emissions, etc. in the home. Commissioner Liu shared that it was great to have high school students involved in the July 4th parade. Commissioner Myles none.

3) **Public Comment: This item was moved**
Liam de Villa – Resident- Expressed that there is a lack of enforcement of the Polystyrene ban and a lack of enthusiasm at the NREC meetings.

Amber Chen – 2029 Amherst Dr. – Expressed that residents need to be more involved in environmental discussions. She attended the Pasadena City Council Meeting and mentioned initiatives they discussed. Requested that NREC create a timeline to implement initiatives.

4) **Discussion/Action Items:**

- A. Presentation on Urban Heat Island Effect – Commissioner Kelly
Commissioner Kelly shared a presentation by Dr. Stephen Wheeler, professor from the University of California Davis, on the urban heat island effect. The presentation included information on urban heat islands, its effects on public health, and listed policies and programs that could help reduce excess heating in cities like South Pasadena.

Commissioner Jones discussed parking design guidelines and codes that could help reduce the Urban Heat Island Effect in South Pasadena. She conducted research on South Pasadena parking lots and shared a handout summarizing her findings with fellow commissioners. Implementation is difficult, but results are worth it. The main issue with South Pasadena parking lots is enforcement; there is too much wiggle room in the code. For example, the code allows you to cluster trees which doesn't allow for good distribution. She suggested developing a parking code and presenting material to the Planning Commission. Commissioner Jones encouraged making this issue a priority for the City. Kristine Courdy reminded the Commission that this could be something that we focus on if it is selected as one of the initiatives for the City Green Action Plan. Commissioner Jones and Commissioner Kelly volunteered to create a presentation on the topic to have Commissioner Di Giorgi send to the Planning Commission's Chair. Commissioner Liu added that EV charging stations should be incorporated into parking code updates.

B. Prioritization and Discussion of Sustainability Initiatives

Each commissioner selected their top choices on which sustainability initiatives they would like prioritized and considered for the City Green Action Plan. The following is a list of the initiatives and the number of votes each initiative received:

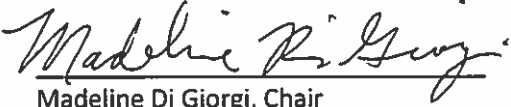
1. Single-Use Plastics and Non-Recyclable Plastics Ban – 6 votes
2. Reduce Heat Island Effect – 5 votes
3. Citywide Composting/Organics Options – 4 votes
4. Glyphosate Ban + Bee-killing Pesticides Ban – 3 votes
5. Greywater Education – 3 votes
6. Water Refill Stations in Public Areas – 2 votes
7. Green/Sustainable Business Certification Program – 2 votes
8. Minimize Food Waste in Restaurants/Food Donation Programs – 1 vote
9. Electric Vehicle Charging Stations – 1 vote
10. Carbon Offsets for City Vehicles with No Electric Options – 1 vote
11. Gas Lawn Equipment Education and Outreach – 1 vote
12. Enforcement of Energy Efficiency Codes – 1 vote
13. Idling Restrictions – 1 vote
14. City Zero Waste Plan – 1 vote
15. School Sponsored Contests – 0 votes
16. LED Street Lights – 0 votes
17. Bike/Scooter Share (micro-transit) – 0 votes

Amber Chen – 2029 Amherst Dr. – Expressed support for prioritizing the creation of a zero waste plan for South Pasadena.

- 5) **Upcoming Events:** Free Turf Removal Class – 7/31/19 (Baldwin Park); National Night Out – 8/6/19 (South Pasadena Orange Grove Park); Free Gardening Workshop – 8/10/19 (Pasadena); Free Household Hazardous & Electronic Recycling Waste Round Up – 8/31/19 (South Pasadena Unified School District Headquarters)
Commissioner Di Giorgi added events: Repair Café – 8/25/19 (South Pasadena), Transition South Pasadena Meeting - first Tuesday of every month, 5pm (Munch Company)

Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 8:26p.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 August 27, 2019.


Madeline Di Giorgi, Chair

