

**CITY OF SOUTH PASADENA
NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION – REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES – June 27, 2023**

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m. Present at the time of roll call were: Chair Michael Siegel, Vice Chair Ella Hushagen, Commissioner Rona Bortz, Commissioner Michelle Hammond, Commissioner Amy Davis Jones, Commissioner Casey Law, and Commissioner Richard Tom. City Council Liaison Councilmember Michael Cacciotti was absent. Staff present: Ted Gerber: Public Works Director, Arpy Kasparian: Environmental Services & Sustainability Manager, and Melanis Stepanian: Management Assistant.

1) General Public Comment

There were no general public comments.

ACTION ITEMS:

2) Approval of Minutes of May 23, 2023 NREC Meeting

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER LAW, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER JONES, MOTION CARRIED 5 FOR AND 2 ABSTAINING, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE MAY 23, 2023 NREC MEETING.

3) Approval of NREC FY 22-23 Annual Report

Arpy Kasparian shared the Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Annual Report for final approval from the Commission.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER LAW, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER TOM, MOTION CARRIED 7-0, TO APPROVE THE NREC FY 22-23 ANNUAL REPORT.

4) Adoption of NREC Work Plan for FY 23-24

Environmental Services & Sustainability Manager, Arpy Kasparian, presented the NREC Work Plan for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 to request adoption on behalf of the Commission. Comments shared during the previous NREC meeting have been implemented into a draft work plan for the 2023-24 fiscal year.

Commissioners discussed adding a budget presentation and connecting with other Commissions on items related to natural resources and sustainability. Commissioners shared their interest in

expanding on single-use plastic efforts and forming a Task Force. Commissioners were also interested in conducting a budget discussion for the 2024-2025 Fiscal Year.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mark G- Resident- Very interested in the Single-use Plastics Task Force and excited. Mark G suggested the City works with the Chamber of Commerce for single-use plastic use reduction. Mark also shared that the City of Los Angeles has a program in place to reduce single-use plastics, such as utensils. Lastly, Mark asks the City be a leader in these efforts of reducing plastic use by using plastic alternatives and promoting at the Farmer's Market.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER TOM, SECOND BY VICE CHAIR HUSHAGEN, MOTION CARRIED 7-0, TO APPROVE THE NREC FY 23-24 WORK PLAN WITH THE FOLLOWING ADDITIONS: ADD ONE ADDITIONAL BUDGET PRESENTATION AT END OF FISCAL YEAR 23-24, CREATE A SINGLE-USE PLASTICS TASK FORCE AND ADD TWO PLASTICS DISCUSSION ITEMS LED BY THE TASK FORCE.

5) Approval of Proposed FY 23-24 Water Conservation Program

Arpy Kasparian reviewed the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Water Conservation Program for final approval.

Commissioners requested clarification on the 2022-2023 Budget Summary. A Commissioner questioned how the water-waste reporting email program has been progressing through the past year. Commissioners also requested an update to the water bill to include additional educational information on the bill. Commissioners questioned the Greywater Rebate program requesting additional information. Commissioners asked for clarification on Metropolitan Water District Rebate amounts.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mark G- Resident- Requested the City conduct further outreach on water runoff education. Mark G also suggested the City connects with the Chamber of Commerce to promote commercial water rebates.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER TOM, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER JONES, MOTION CARRIED 7-0, TO APPROVE THE FY 23-24 WATER CONSERVATION PROGRAM.

COMMUNICATIONS:

6) City Council Liaison Communications

Councilmember Cacciotti was absent.

7) Commissioner Communications

Chair Siegel promoted the October 29 Arroyo Fest event. All other Commissioners had no comments.

8) Staff Liaison Communications

Kasparian shared updates about the Electric Leaf Blower Demonstration at Garfield Park and encouraged listeners to visit [SouthPasadenaCA.gov/LeafBlowers](https://www.southpasadenaca.gov/LeafBlowers) for more information about incentives and the ban. She also shared the upcoming Commissioner Congress meeting and requested Commissioners attend. Kasparian updated the Commission on City-wide celebration for the 4th of July.

Ted Gerber, Public Works Director, shared the upcoming Arroyo Fest to encourage walkability and active transportation.

Melanis Stepanian, Management Assistant, encouraged residents and businesses to apply for Water Conservation Rebates available as funds are limited.

9) Upcoming Events

- Commissioner Congress - June 28, 2023: 6:00 pm -8:00 pm
(<https://www.southpasadenaca.gov/Home/Components/Calendar/Event/10509/716>)
- 4th of July Festival of Balloons – July 4, South Pasadena
- LA County Smart Gardening Webinars- Various dates
(<https://www.ladpw.org/epd/sg/webinars.cfm>)
- MWD Turf Removal + CA Native Landscape Webinars- Various dates
(<https://greengardensgroup.com/turf-transformation/>)

ADJOURNMENT:

Chair Michael Siegel adjourned the meeting at 8:34 p.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 July 25, 2023.

DocuSigned by:


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Michael Siegel, Chair