

**CITY OF SOUTH PASADENA
NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION – REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES – March 28, 2023**

CALL TO ORDER:

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

1) General Public Comment

There were no general public comments.

PRESENTATIONS:

2) Updates from City Manager’s Office – Domenica Megerdichian, Deputy City Manager

Deputy City Manager, Domenica Megerdichian, shared updates within the City with the Commission members including South Pasadena’s 135th birthday celebrations and the upcoming Commission Congress.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments.

3) Efficient San Gabriel Valley – Johanna Read, SGV COG

Johanna Read shared the no-cost home energy assessments (eSGV - Efficient San Gabriel Valley) provided through the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments. Appointments can be made online at <https://www.sgvkog.org/esgv> for online or in-person assessments. Residents will receive a tailored report with long-term and short-term priority recommendations and will include a detailed list of applicable rebates, incentives, and savings programs. South Pasadena residents can receive a free Conservation Kit for participating in this program, while supplies last.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments.

4) Building Electrification Policy Updates - Michael Rochmes, Climate Reality

Michael Rochmes, a climate activist with Climate Reality Project Los Angeles, shared an update regarding building electrification policies in California. He also discussed how buildings contribute to climate change and what other cities are working on in terms of electrification. Michael provided suggestions for the City of South Pasadena.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments.

PUBLIC HEARING:

5) Tree Hearing – 702 Fremont Ave. - Ted Gerber, Public Works Director

This application is requesting the removal of 11 trees on the property located at 702 Fremont Avenue. Of the 11 trees, one mature jacaranda tree and one oak tree are included on this list. The applicant has made efforts to replace the trees with native and drought-tolerant trees.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER JONES, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HAMMOND, MOTION CARRIED 4-0, TO APPROVE THE TREE REMOVAL AT 702 FREMONT AVENUE

ACTION ITEMS:

6) Approval of Minutes of December 5, 2022 NREC Special Meeting

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER TOM, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HAMMOND, MOTION CARRIED 4-0, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE DECEMBER 5, 2022 NREC COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING.

7) Approval of Minutes of January 24, 2023 NREC Meeting

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER JONES, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER TOM, MOTION CARRIED 4-0, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE JANUARY 24, 2023 NREC COMMISSION MEETING.

8) Selection of Officers

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER JONES, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HAMMOND, MOTION CARRIED 4-0, TO APPOINT COMMISSIONER ELLA HUSHAGEN AS THE CHAIR AND COMMISSIONER MICHAEL SIEGEL AS THE VICE CHAIR OF THE NREC.

COMMUNICATIONS:

9) City Council Liaison Communications

Councilmember Cacciotti was not present at this meeting.

10) Commissioner Communications

Commissioner Tom had no communications. Commissioner Hammond shared that she and Chair Law participated in the South Pasadena Beautiful Garden Tour, provided a bike valet and chaperone, and will continue at other City events. Commissioner Jones had no communications. Chair Law shared climate goals and findings and suggested focusing on emissions reduction associated with buildings and transportation.

11) Staff Liaison Communications

Arpy Kasparian, Environmental Services & Sustainability Manager, updated the commission on upcoming events including Earth Day events. Ted Gerber, Public Works Director, provided an update on stormwater projects in the City and encouraged participating in the April 27 community meeting.

12) Upcoming Events

- Electric Leaf Blower Demonstration and Raffle: Thursday, April 6, 9am-1pm, Garfield Park (<https://www.southpasadenaca.gov/Home/Components/Calendar/Event/10223/716?curm=4&cury=2023>)
- Spring Bulky Item Pick-Up: Saturday, April 15, 7am-1pm, Arroyo Drive (<https://www.southpasadenaca.gov/Home/Components/Calendar/Event/10217/716?curm=4&cury=2023>)
- Spring Compost & Mulch Giveaway: Saturday, April 22, 9am-1pm, Arroyo Golf Course Parking Lot
- Arroyo Seco Water Reuse Project – Community Open House: Thursday, April 27, 6pm-8pm, South Pasadena Library Community Room (<https://www.southpasadenaca.gov/Home/Components/Calendar/Event/10219/716?curm=4&cury=2023>)
- 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 Casey Law adjourned the meeting at 8:43 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 March 28, 2023.

Ella Hushagen

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Ella Hushagen, Chair