

**CITY OF SOUTH PASADENA
NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
MINUTES – September 24, 2019**

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm. Present were: Madeline Di Giorgi, Rona Bortz, Amy Jones, and Cynthia Liu. Bill Kelly, Lauren Myles, and Stephen Leider had excused absences. Council Liaison Dr. Marina Khubesrian was present. Staff present: Julian Lee, Deputy Public Works Director; Kristine Courdy, P.E., Deputy Public Works Director; and Arpy Kasparian, Water Conservation & Sustainability Analyst.

1) Approval of Minutes – Meeting of August 27, 2019

Minutes approved. (Bortz, Jones; unanimous)

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Kim Hughes – Resident – Provided information on Measure A.

PRESENTATIONS:

2) Introduction of Youth Non-Voting Members

Amber Chen, the new Youth Non-voting Member, gave a brief introduction. Max Jimenez, who will be the alternate youth member, was not present.

3) Introduction of Youth Commission Liaison

Juliana Fong, the new Youth Commission Liaison, gave a brief introduction.

ACTION ITEMS:

4) Tree Removal Hearing: 1674-82 Amberwood Drive

Kristine Courdy explained the process of tree hearings. The applicant is appealing the decision of the Public Works Department to deny their request to remove three non-native Ash trees. The City Arborist inspected the trees and assessed that all trees were healthy and recommended pruning. The applicant argued that the trees were causing the sidewalk to lift creating a hazard, that his insurance was canceled due to the damage (documentation was not provided), and that they would be planting drought-tolerant and native trees in their place. Courdy explained that the City has an ongoing service request to fix the sidewalk – some patchwork has already been completed. Courdy confirmed that when the sidewalk is fixed, roots of the trees will be shaved to avoid future damage to the sidewalk. NREC suggested that trimming occur more frequently and that the owners follow up with the City if damages reoccur after the sidewalk is fixed.

Erik Altmetz - Property Owner – Restated the issues that the trees were causing including a tripping hazard, high water use, and canceled insurance.

Courdy mentioned that the owner would need to plant 14 trees, according to the tree ordinance, to replace the existing ones. These trees could be planting in the areas as well as donated throughout the City. Commissioner Jones assured that since the trees are established, they do not require much water. A motion was made to deny the tree removal request. (Jones, Bortz; unanimous)

5) Overview of Current Weed Control Practices Citywide

A motion was made to table this action item due to the lack of time and full agenda. (Bortz, Liu; unanimous)

6) Adoption of the Proposed City Green Action Plan

Julian Lee and Arpy Kasparian provided background information and presented the goals, plays (strategies), and moves (actions) of the City's Green Action Plan. Discussion ensued regarding the moves. The following comments were noted and will be reviewed and incorporated into the plan accordingly if feasible.

- Provide businesses with list of vendors for alternatives
- Include educational materials on diapers, personal care products, and medical waste
- Do more work with schools
- Provide information on composting/incinerating toilets as alternatives to traditional toilets
- Provide information on closed-loop showers
- Provide information on biodigestors; consider incorporating into school events
- Include having organics bins at Farmer's Market
- Reassess waste service levels for residents to eliminate oversized bins
- Provide information on where to dispose electronic waste
- Change wording for 4.3.1 to "heat-tolerant" instead of drought-tolerant, also provide sources for obtaining trees
- Create a neighborhood food library/harvest where neighbors can share the foods from their trees/gardens
- Include mapping resident trees in the Urban Forest Management Plan
- Provide workshops on gardening and permaculture
- Provide information on electric kitchens
- Add to the communications section: Transition South Pasadena, Realtors (Welcome Packet)

Staff was directed to look into City gardening ordinances. A motion was made to recommend to the City Council to adopt the proposed City Green Action Plan. (Jones, Liu; unanimous)

COMMUNICATIONS:

7) City Council Liaison Communications: Mayor Khubesrian announced the arrival of goats to clear brush. She expressed that being the barrier between the public's individual requests and City staff has allowed Staff the time to work on projects for the greater good such as the City Green Action Plan. Mayor Khubesrian announced that the City Manager will have a weekly blog that will allow the City to share its accomplishments with the public.

8) Commissioner Communications:

Commissioner Liu announced a video contest for middle and high school students. The contest is held by "Democrats of Pasadena Foothills," and the subject of the video contest is getting the word out about voting. Kasparian will forward the information to the youth members. Commissioner Bortz had no comments. Commissioner Di Giorgi shared that the local high school students participated in the Global Climate Strike. She announced another climate strike taking place in front of the Brazilian consulate on Friday, September 27th. Commissioner Jones had no comments.

9) Staff Liaison Communications: Kasparian announced that the FY19-20 Water Conservation Program was approved at the September 18, 2019 City Council Meeting and that the tentative launch of the new rebate program will be December 2019.

10) Upcoming Events:

- Watershed Restoration Program – 10/5/19 (San Gabriel Canyon Environmental Center)
- Free Smart Gardening Workshop – 10/12/19 (Pasadena)
- Upper District's WaterFest – 10/12/19 (Arcadia)
- Dumpster Day – 10/19/19 (South Pasadena Unified School District Headquarters)

Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 9:18p.m. (DiGiorgi; 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 October 22, 2019.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'RB', written above a horizontal line.

Rona Bortz, Vice Chair