

**CITY OF SOUTH PASADENA
NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
MINUTES – September 25, 2018**

1) Call to Order/Roll Call: The meeting was called to order at 7:01 pm. Present were: Commissioner Findley, Chair Kelly, Commissioner Wilms, Commissioner Benzoni, and Commissioner Davis. Commissioner Leider had an excused absence. Commissioner Puni was absent. Council Liaison Dr. Schneider was present. Staff present: Kristine Courdy, Public Works Operations Manager.

2) Approval of Minutes – Meeting of August 28, 2018

The minutes were amended and will be brought back to the Commission for approval.

3) Public Comment

Larry Abelson commented on the City permit fees pertaining to the removal of dead trees. He noted a concern over the high City fees for the inspection and permitting of dead tree removals. He is concerned that the high cost will deter residents from receiving permits for removing dead trees. He suggested that the Commission revisit the tree inspection and permit removal fees.

The Commission recommended that the tree permit and removal fees be added to a future agenda for discussion.

Kim Hughes commented on the UUT “No on N” initiative. She presented a list of proposed City budget cuts if the UUT goes away and the impacts on the quality of life to the City of South Pasadena. She passed out a brochure to the Commission with more information on the “No on N” Initiative.

4) Discussion/Action Items:

- A. Safe Clean Water Presentation – Councilmember Diana Mahmud – Councilmember Diana Mahmud prepared a presentation on the Safe Clean Water, Measure W that will be on the November 2018 ballot and answered questions of the Commission.
- B. Tree Removal Hearing – 1612 Spruce Street – Staff presented an overview of the 1612 Spruce Street proposed tree removal application and summarized the following tree removal and replacement information:
 - 25 Non-native trees are proposed for removal of which 14 trees require a permit and 36 non-native trees replacements are required.
 - One native oak tree is proposed for removal which requires a permit and 6 native tree replacements are required.
 - The applicant is proposing the following tree replacements under their proposed tree replacement plan: 21 non-native 24”-box trees. In addition, the applicant is proposing the following shrubs to be planted on the site: 86 Carolina Cherry 24”-box shrubs and 8 Italian Cypress 15 gallon shrubs.

Project Designer David Lai attended the meeting and answered the question of the Commission. Staff confirmed that the applicant is not proposing to remove any City street trees. The Commission is concerned over the proposed tree replacement plan and that they would prefer to see use of native and evergreen on the site. The

Commission did not agree with the removal of the eucalyptus trees along Fair Oaks (trees 10, 11, and 12). Concerns over the proposed tree plans and does not feel that the shrubs should be included as tree replacement, consider adding trees on the north side of the hardscape of the property. The Commission recommended that the applicant consider an alternate tree besides a Crape Myrtle as a replacement tree on the south and west side of the property. The applicant to consider adding larger native parkway trees to be planted.

C. Tree Ordinance Status Update – Below is an overview of the some of the goals of the tree ordinance update:

- Codify that trees related to a development are not to be removed until a building permit is issued
- For tree removals associated with development projects, better coordination with the Planning Commission and ensuring that Projects don't get caught between two approval processes
- Develop a process for tree removal related to development
- Define criteria for tree removal
- Define Heritage Trees
- Define the package of materials associated with a development projects (arborist report, removal plan, planting plan, elevations)
- Replacement quantities
- Discussion of the tree removal appeal process
- Add definition of protected tree and shrub
- Discussion of potential impact fees need to be discussed with the City Attorney and maybe better suited to be incorporated into the fee study

The Commission requested that Staff investigate adding replacement trees values for the development/construction projects (use what is in the application). Replacement tree value in development projects difficult to find a case study, but the Chair did send the San Jose Development related fees.

The Commission Noted that the tree permit fees should have an incremental costs. The Commission recommended that this item be added to a future agenda item so that they can discuss potential fees.

- D. Discussion of NREC Initiative Tracking System - The Commission discussed the initiative tracking report and agreed to update it monthly. Staff noted that an updated log would be presented at the next meeting so that the Commission can prioritize NREC initiatives.
- E. Discussion of How to Reduce Urban Heat Island Effect – Commissioner Davis provided some information on parking lot landscape standards. She noted that the Palm Dessert parking lot landscape standards is a good example with simple standards that can be applied very easily. Staff noted that they would research where this item may fit into the existing Municipal Code. The Commission requested that future item be added to the agenda.
- F. Discussion of How to Limit Exposure to Herbicides Sprayed on City Parks and Fields, such as Roundup – Postpone discussion to the next meeting. The Commission requested an

update from Staff on how often it is used, where it is used, what applications, and what precautions are taken during application.

5) Council Liaison Comments

Council Liaison Dr. Schneider thanked Staff for their work on the NREC Initiative tracking log.

6) Staff Liaison Comments

Update on the dates of the upcoming November and December NREC meetings. The Commission noted that the November meeting can remain, but the December meeting will likely be cancelled. A special meeting can be scheduled if there is any urgent business that needs to be addressed.

7) Commission Comments

Commissioner Wilms asked that Staff investigate if a tree removal permit was issued for 517 Alta Vista. Commissioner Wilms asked that a November agenda item be added as "NREC Commissioner Transition". Commissioner Davis agreed that the City Hall courtyard is a good location for the infiltration demonstration project. Chair Kelly asked that Staff investigate if a tree removal permit was issued for 721 Avon. Commissioner Benzoni requested that tree removal permit log can be published online.

Updates – No Discussion Required

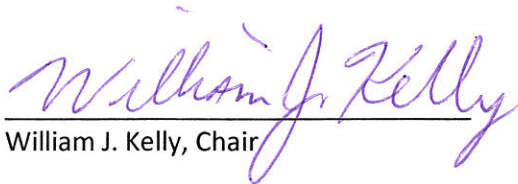
8) Water Conservation Programs – City had a total water use reduction of 13% for August 2018.

9) Urban Forestry Update – Council approved the West Coast Arborist (WCA) contract on August 15. WCA started trimming palm trees on August 31 and approximately 800 are to be trimmed in the FY 2018-19.

10) Upcoming Events – Household Hazardous Waste Event (Burbank, September 8; El Monte, September 15, 2018); Free Workshop "Finding & Fixing Leaks" - 11/7/2018.

11) Adjourned

Meeting adjourned at 9:36 pm (Benzoni, Davis, unanimous)


William J. Kelly, Chair