

**CITY OF SOUTH PASADENA
NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION – SPECIAL MEETING
MINUTES – December 5, 2022**

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Present at the time of roll call were: Chair Law, Vice Chair Hammond, Commissioner Ella Hushagen, Commissioner Rona Bortz Commissioner, Michael Siegel, and Commissioner Richard Tom. Commissioner Amy Davis Jones had an excused absence. Staff present: Ted Gerber: Public Works Director, and Melanis Stepanian: Water Conservation and Sustainability Intern. City Council Liaison Councilmember Michael Cacciotti was absent.

1) General Public Comment

No general public comment.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

2) Continued Tree Hearing- 1865 Hanscom Drive

Ted Gerber, Public Works Director, shared a brief background of the Tree Hearing for 1865 Hanscom Drive from the October 25 NREC Meeting. He also spoke about the site visits that were set up for the Commissioners to attend. During these site visits, Commissioners were required to attend in groups of 3 or fewer in order to be in accordance with the Brown Act. Site visits were also open to the community members to attend.

Commissioners who were able to attend the site visit shared their observations with the Commission Members and the public. Commissioner Hushagen questioned the independent arborist's qualifications and licenses. Commissioner Tom expressed how important having a development plan is for this project. Chair Law asked a few questions regarding the Municipal Code.

After the public comment section, Commissioners asked Ted Gerber, Public Works Director, clarifying questions regarding the Municipal Code before making a motion.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were 6 written public comments, included in the additional documents, and 7 in-person public comments referring to the 1865 Hanscom Drive agenda item. In-person comments are summarized below.

-Wendy Ryan, speaking on behalf of herself and many neighbors, who are in opposition to removing the trees without extensive research on the tree's health.

-Angelo Gladding discussed his concern with the City processes for tree removal on a property without development plans.

-Charles Imbus, the property owner, shared his opinion regarding the trees' health and a recap of the walkthrough with the City arborist accompanying his own arborist.

-Laura Gladding shared her concerns about the "tree replacement" requirements in the City of South Pasadena which does not require trees to be replaced on the property they are removed from.

-A resident living in a nearby community shared her experience with mudslides she believes are caused by tree removal. If a tree has a disease, it is understandable to remove the tree.

-Another resident shared how important tree roots are for hillside communities because they provide structure.

-Adrian Imbus, who will be moving into the proposed development, says that the trees on the property are dead or dying and the stumps will be left behind for structural purposes.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER TOM, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HAMMOND, MOTION CARRIED 6-0, RECOMMENDING STAFF TO WORK WITH THE APPLICANT TO SUBMIT A TREE REPLACEMENT PLAN IDENTIFYING THE APPLICANT'S INTENTION WITH CITY REPLACEMENT REQUIREMENTS FOR THE 4 TREES. THIS PLAN WILL BE REVIEWED AND DISCUSSED AT A FUTURE NREC MEETING BEFORE APPROVING THE TREE REMOVAL APPLICATION FOR 1865 HANSCOM DRIVE.

ACTION ITEMS:

3) Approval of Minutes – Meeting of October 25, 2022

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER TOM, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER SIEGEL, MOTION CARRIED 3-0, WITH 3 ABSTAINING, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE OCTOBER 25, 2022 NREC COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING.

COMMUNICATIONS:

4) City Council Liaison Communications

City Council Liaison, Mayor Michael Cacciotti, was absent from this meeting.

5) Commissioner Communications

Commissioners discussed the open appointment for the Recreation Lease Ad Hoc Committee member due to changes in NREC. An NREC Commission Member is to be appointed for the vacant position.

Commissioner Hushagen shared the Active SGV program which allows interested parties to receive an electric bike at an affordable rate.

6) Staff Liaison Communications

Ted Gerber discussed updates regarding the study of The West Side Reservoir from the Public Works Commission Meeting. Mobility and Transportation Commission hosted a public discussion about a large transportation project.

Melanie Stepanian shared a few updates regarding events in the City. There will be an Electric Leaf Blower event on Wednesday, February 8th. Residents are encouraged to drop in anytime between 8am-1pm. Refreshments will be provided.

7) Upcoming Events

- 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 Law adjourned the meeting at 8:49 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 special meeting held on December 5, 2022.

DocuSigned by:
Casey Law

0781E5D7EECE4BB

Casey Law, Chair