

**CITY OF SOUTH PASADENA  
NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION – REGULAR MEETING  
MINUTES – January 26, 2021**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order at 7:02p.m. Present at the time of roll call were: Commissioner Amy Jones, Vice Chair Rona Bortz, Commissioner Cassey Law, Commissioner Michelle Hammond, Commissioner Michael Siegel, Chair Madeline Di Giorgi, and Mayor Pro Tem Michael Cacciotti. Staff present: Shahid Abbas, Public Works Director; Anteneh Tesfaye, Acting Deputy Public Works Director; Garret Crawford, Acting Deputy Public Work Director; Reyna Salazar-Martin, Public Works Management Assistant; Nicolaas Van Ooyen, Temporary Water Conservation and Sustainability Analyst.

Absent: Commissioner William Kelly

**1) GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT**

Tucker Nelson, Resident, Comment not on Agenda– Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty

Travis Dunville, Resident, Comment regarding Item 2) Tree Removal Hearing: 706 Magnolia -Public comment was not read out loud due to the comment exceeding the 250-word limit. Comment was sent to commissioners prior to meeting.

No other public comments were received.

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

**2) Tree Removal Hearing: 706 Magnolia**

Staff G. Crawford presented Tree Hearing Item. Residents of 706 Magnolia, Timothy J. Searight was present to make their statement. He expressed that the trimming recommended by staff is not possible to do safely. No public comment for this item. Commission moves to make a recommendation to approve report and recommendation by staff to trim as stated in the report, but not remove.

MOTION BY VICE CHAIR BORTZ, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HAMMOND, MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 6-0 TO APPROVE

**DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

**3) Mandatory Organics Recycling Ordinance**

Staff A. Tesfaye and N. Van Ooyen presented Item. Commissioners provided feedback and suggestions. Staff is taking all comments and suggestions into consideration for Ordinance. Ordinance is scheduled to be on Agenda for future upcoming meeting for further review. Director S. Abbas requested two volunteers to be appointed to new Athens Contract Ad Hoc Committee. The Commissioner Hammond, Vice-Chair Bortz, Chair Di Giorgi all volunteer themselves. Chair Di Giorgi request that an email go out to all Commissioners, those that would like to volunteer will reply only to Staff, in order to not violate Brown Act, and Commission will make final decision by the next scheduled meeting. Commission all agreed, Ad Hoc volunteers will be appointed by the next scheduled Commission meeting.

4) Virtual Earth Day

Staff A. Tesfaye presented item. The floor was open for Commissioners to discuss Earth Day 2021 ideas and suggestions. Staff will compile list and send out reminders to all Commissioners via email to send back individually with any other ideas they may like to contribute. Staff will bring back item for further discussion at a future meeting.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

5) NREC 2021 Work Plan Approval

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comments

MOTION BY VICE CHAIR BORTZ, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER JONES, MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 6-0 TO APPROVE NREC 2021 WORK PLAN

6) NREC 2020 Annual report

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comments

MOTION BY VICE CHAIR BORTZ, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER JONES, MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 6-0 TO APPROVE NREC 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

7) Election of Chair and Vice Chair

Both Chair Di Giorgi and Commissioner Jones volunteer themselves to be NREC Chair. Chair Di Giorgi nominates Commissioner Jones for NREC Chair, Commissioner Jones accepts nomination. There were no other nominations or volunteers.

MOTION BY CHAIR DI GIORGI, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HAMMOND, MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 6-0 TO APPOINT COMMISSIONER A. JONES AS NEW NREC CHAIR

Commissioner Hammond nominates current Chair Di Giorgi for NREC Vice Chair, Commissioner Di Giorgi accepts nomination. There were no other nominations or volunteers.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HAMMOND, SECOND BY VICE CHAIR BORTZ, MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 6-0 TO APPOINT COMMISSIONER M. DI GIORGI AS NEW NREC VICE CHAIR

8) Approval of Minutes- Meeting of November 24, 2020

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comments

MOTION BY VICE CHAIR BORTZ, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER JONES, MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 6-0 TO APPROVE MINUTES

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

**9) City Council Liaison Communications**

Mayor Pro Tem M. Cacciotti shared upcoming events and news regarding South Coast AQMD. He recommended NREC having the following items be brought up for discussion at future meetings: Request School District to convert over to clean electric lawnmower equipment, and Prohibition use of all gas-powered leaf blowers in the City. Commission asks staff to add as agenda item for future meetings. Mayor Pro Tem Cacciotti will provide information to staff to distribute to commissioners for future meetings.

**10) Commissioner Communications**

Commissioner Siegel: No Communication at this time; Commissioner Hammond: Shares ideas on expanding Community Garden and Composting events to possibly be brought up at future meetings for further discussion; Commissioner Jones: In reference to Community Garden topic, she suggested looking into Edison owned land as some are vacant and underutilize; Commissioner Law: Shared ideas to add to Climate Action Plan in efforts to mitigate cost; Vice-Chair Bortz: took this time to Welcome new members; Chair Di Giorgi: Thanked Commission for her time as Chair.

**11) Staff Liaison Communications**

Staff A. Tesfaye takes this time to say he is looking forward to working with the board.

**12) 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 Madeline Di Giorgi adjourned the meeting at 9:38 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 February 23, 2021.

*Madeline Di Giorgi*

0DED4E2D7CDB4A3...

Madeline Di Giorgi, Chair