

MINUTES
NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
August 26, 2014

Roll Call - The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. Present were Commissioners Scott Kuhn, Kay Findley, Nancy Wilms, Al Benzoni, John Silverthorn and Noah Puni. Chair Kim Hughes was absent. Student Commissioner Maddie Magee will attend in September. Council Liaison Richard D. Schneider, M.D. was present. Staff Liaison Debby Figoni was present. Councilmember Cacciotti attended at 8:30 p.m.

Minutes - Minutes from the July meeting were approved with three minor changes. Minutes from the June meeting were tabled and will be brought to the September meeting for approval.

Public Comments and Suggestions - None.

1. **Nature Park 10th Anniversary Event** - Barbara Eisenstein, founder of friends of the Nature Park, provided details on the Nature Park 10th Anniversary Event. The event will take place at the Nature Park on Saturday, October 18th from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. She discussed the various exhibitors and the focus on water conservation and sustainable landscapes.
2. **City's Urban Forest Update** - Gabe Nevarez, Public Works Operations Manager, provided an update. Since July, West Coast Arborists (WCA) has trimmed 598 trees, removed 13 trees, removed two stumps and planted one tree. Irrigation timers at City properties have been changed to three days per week per the new Stage 1 watering restrictions. WCA is now watering new trees two times per week.
3. **West Coast Arborists' Contract** - WCA's present contract was sent to the new City Attorney for review. The Commission agreed to defer its follow up until after this process but expects a report at the next meeting. Staff met with WCA to establish a tree planting plan. The city was split into four quadrants targeting the best trees for specific locations and the best time to plant. The new planting plan will be brought to the NREC for review. The Commission is interested in getting a local landscape architect's feedback on the proposed tree plan.
4. **Urban Water Conservation Drought & Drought Actions** - City Council declared Stage 1 – Moderate Water Supply Shortage at the August 20, 2014 City Council meeting. This includes limiting overhead watering to three days a week on an odd/even schedule based on property address, fixing leaks within 24 hours and a recommending a 10% reduction in water use from the prior year. Outreach for this new ordinance will be in the utility bill, the South Pasadena Review, e-neighbors and other locations. Commissioner Findley showed a large ad in the Pasadena Star News detailing the State's new watering restrictions as an example of effective outreach.
5. **Water Conservation Programs Update** - The turf removal program is extremely popular with about 40 applications submitted. Recent water wise workshops are once again overflowing with residents interested in reducing their water consumption. The Stage 1 restrictions are being advertised and well received. The increased rebates for various indoor and outdoor water conserving devices should go into effect September 1st.

6. **Synthetic Turf** - Commissioner Findley stated that Figoni, Commissioner Benzoni and she presented to the Cultural Heritage, Public Works and Planning Commissions. Feedback on allowing synthetic turf in the parkway has been mixed. The Design Review Board is next and then the issue must be brought back to the Public Works Commission before a report can be compiled and presented to City Council.
7. **Styrofoam Ban** - Tabling this item until January 2015.
8. **Charging Stations** - Figoni stated that the City was moving ahead with a charger on Fairview by the Senior Center. A variety of city departments are working together to make sure everything is covered. NREC requested an estimated completion date.
9. **Ordinances Update** - Parkway Ordinance passed and is being implemented in the turf rebate projects. The Stage 1 – Moderate Water Supply Shortage passed and is being publicized.
10. **Upcoming Events** - The Household Hazardous Waste event will be in South Pasadena on August 31st, the annual Dumpster and Donation Day is October 11th, and the Nature Park 10th Anniversary event is October 18th. In addition, South Pasadena is partnering with several local cities to host a rain barrel and water wise workshop event at Descanso Gardens on September 14th.
11. **Plastic Bag Ban Education Outreach** - Figoni is working with the Chamber, the KEY club and local sponsors to create a reusable bag and to do public outreach.
12. **Renewable Energy Committee** - Management requested NREC to form a sub-committee. Staff will invite the professor from Occidental and residents from the community. The Commission suggested putting an ad in the Review.

Chair Communications – n/a

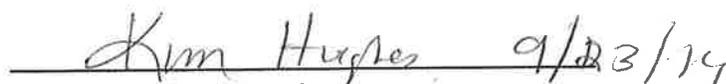
Commissioner Communications - Commissioner Kuhn suggested alternative dates for the November and December meetings due to the holidays. It was requested to add the issue of allowing new water meter hook-ups to September's agenda.

Council Liaison Communications – n/a

Staff Liaison Communications – Figoni thanked the Commissioners for their help and assistance with the Green Living Expo event.

Adjournment - The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m. approved by Commissioners Benzoni and Wilms, and all members were in favor, 6-0.

NEXT MEETING - The next regular meeting of the Natural Resources and Environmental Commission will be held on Tuesday, September 23, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in City Council Chambers.



Kimberley Hughes, Chair