

**MINUTES**  
**NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**  
**October 28, 2014**

**Roll Call** - The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. Present were Commissioners Scott Kuhn, Kay Findley, Nancy Wilms, John Silverthorn, Al Benzoni, Student Commissioner Maddie Magee, and Chair Kim Hughes. Commissioner Noah Puni was absent. Council Liaison Richard D. Schneider, M.D. was present. Staff Liaison Debby Figoni was present.

**Minutes** - Minutes from the September meeting were approved by Commissioners Wilms and Findley; with all members in favor, 6-0.

**Public Comments and Suggestions** - None.

1. **City's Urban Forest Update** – Senior Management Analyst Figoni gave the update stating that West Coast Arborists (WCA) trimmed 190 trees in October and removed three trees (two dead Eucalyptus trees on Arroyo Drive and one dead Pine tree at Snake trail). The city is proposing the removal of 25 Carob trees on El Centro between Orange Grove and Pasadena Ave due to fungal fruiting bodies, decay, and/or poor root systems. The Commissioners discussed their concern for trees in the drought and requested a watering plan for City trees, starting with a list of the most stressed trees. They requested investigating the possibility of obtaining recycled water from a local city to water the trees instead of potable water. More outreach was discussed.
2. **West Coast Arborists' Contract** – The Public Works Department reviewed modifications made by the City Attorney, edited them and returned the contract back to the City Attorney for review. Figoni to send the Commissioners a copy of this draft. The Commission requested to see the new tree planting plan which was to be ready last month. There are reports of City trees getting the bark beetles.
3. **Urban Water Conservation Drought & Drought Actions** – Chair Hughes discussed Upper San Gabriel's new water tracking and use comparison program, and suggested doing a comparison of our water use of this year compared to last. Figoni and Commissioner Silverthorne met with the golf course team again and are looking at hiring a consultant to assist with conservation. The water audit at the Library/Senior Center Park resulted in new modifications to be made. Commissioners will assist Figoni by going to City restaurants to provide table top displays that promote only serving water upon request to conserve water.
4. **Water Conservation Programs Update** - The turf removal program is extremely popular with about 60 applications submitted. Residents are requesting more water wise workshops. The increased rebates for water conserving devices went into effect September 8<sup>th</sup>. The group discussed additional water conservation outreach tools, such as doorhangers, banners and such.
5. **Synthetic Turf** – Figoni provided a draft summary report from the meetings with the various commissions. A final presentation will be made to the Public Works Commission on December 10<sup>th</sup> before the summary report can be finalized and brought back to City Council.

She stated there were a few requests from residents to install synthetic turf in their front yard, and one resident installed it after being informed it was not allowed.

6. **Charging Stations** - There is no action since Civil Engineer Assistant Thomas Amare has been out on leave. The commission would like the station installed by August of 2015.

7. **Upcoming Events** - The annual Dumpster & Donation Day and the Nature Park 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary events were successful. Participation at the Police & Fire Safety Fair was good. No future workshops are planned at the present time. Figoni discussed teaching a Tree Pruning and Maintenance Workshop. A Tree Watering event was suggested.

8. **Plastic Bag Ban Education Outreach** – Successful outreach to the public at the stores affected by the bag ban occurred the weekend before the October 6<sup>th</sup> ban with the assistance of the South Pasadena High School Key Club. Stores appear to be following the ordinance.

9. **Renewable Energy Committee** – Hughes and Figoni to work with the South Pasadena Review to get an article out to the community.

10. **Allowing New Water Meters** – The commissioners are waiting for information regarding charging for the installation of new water meters before further discussion.

11. **Banning Gas Leaf Blowers** – Councilmember Cacciotti suggested NREC review the emissions of gas blowers and what can be used instead. Even battery operated blowers blow dust particles into the air. In the City ordinances, there are specific hours when power yard equipment, including blowers, cannot be used due to noise constraints. The Commission will investigate past discussions on leaf blowers and what other cities are doing.

12. **Priority Items for 2015** – Priorities include a watering plan for City's trees, a plan for planting new trees, and assuring sustainable infrastructures at new City facilities. The Commissioners will continue the discussion at the next meeting

**Chair Communications** – Chair Hughes provided an update on water conservation changes being implemented in Los Angeles, and announced South Pasadena Beautiful's fall mixer.

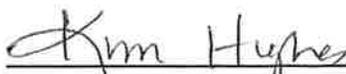
**Commissioner Communications** – Findley's turf removal project is moving along well.

**Council Liaison Communications** – n/a

**Staff Liaison Communications** – Figoni provided literature and updated the Commissioners on San Gabriel Valley's "Are We Ready?" for the drought event on October 2, 2014.

**Adjournment** - The meeting adjourned at 9:33 p.m. approved by Commissioners Benzoni and Silverthorn, 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, November 18, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in City Council Chambers.

 11/18/14  
Kimberley Hughes, Chair