

**MINUTES**  
**NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**  
**March 24, 2015**

**Roll Call** - The meeting was called to order at 7:12 p.m. Present were Commissioners Scott Kuhn, Kay Findley, Nancy Wilms, Al Benzoni, Stephen Leider, Student Commissioner Maddie Magee, and Chair Kim Hughes. Commissioner Noah Puni was absent. Council Liaison Michael Cacciotti was present. Staff Liaison Debby Figoni was present.

**Minutes** – Minutes from the January, 2015 were approved (Kuhn, Findley 6-0), and Minutes from the February, 2015 were approved (Kuhn, Findley 6-0).

**Public Comments and Suggestions** - Mayor Robert Joe made a special appearance to thank the Commission for their hard work and dedication to environmental programs. He also updated them on the Special Olympics coming to South Pasadena in July. He suggested we promote that Garfield Park is totally maintenance emission free.

1. **City's Urban Forest Update** – City arborist Gonzalo Maravilla stated that in the first three weeks of March, 51 trees had been planted, 30 of them donated by South Pasadena Beautiful. The majority of the trees were planted around the South Pasadena School District and on Foothill Street. In April, 20 trees are scheduled to be removed and replaced. Maravilla stated that 7 of the 8 tree removals on Chelton had been put on temporary hold due to resident issues. The Commissioners questioned the change and suggested meeting with the community again so the trees could be removed and replaced with the next generation. The budget amounts for tree maintenance and new trees was discussed.
2. **City's Tree Planting Plan** – Maravilla did not have an update. The Commissioners reminded Maravilla that the plan was overdue. There was mention of the monitoring of the trees on Indiana, and Monterey and Brent.
3. **West Coast Arborists' Contract** – Maravilla did not have an update. The Commissioners again voiced concern over WCA being accountable for required watering and maintenance. The commission would like confirmation that WCA has a schedule and that their work is being monitored and audited.
4. **Subcommittee for the San Pascual Stables** – Commissioner Findley was nominated for the committee due to her past experience with the Stables (Wilms, Leider 6-0).
5. **Water Conservation and Drought Actions (Next Phase)** – It is anticipated that Metropolitan Water District's (MWD's) water allocation will be announced in April. The City is waiting for this before taking any action. The Commission would like to know if future basin legislation will affect Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District's member agencies, and if Upper District should speak to City Council on possible impacts.

The Commission made a resolution to request a report of the City's 50 highest water users (month by month from January 1, 2014 to present), the water use at the City's facilities (month by month from January 1, 2014 to present), and the annual water consumption for 2014 month by month. In addition, the Commission would like a presentation by staff in the water department on water consumption, allocation, sources and costs, as well as a report on the amount of money in the water Conservation Fee Fund (Hughes, Wilms 6-0).

**6. Water Conservation Programs** - Fioni stated the turf rebate program gets more popular every month, and is taking up a lot of her time. The library partnership programs have begun, starting with the Arbor Day Nature Walk on March 7<sup>th</sup> followed by the water wise landscaping workshop the evening of March 11<sup>th</sup>. The water conservation banner has been moved to Mission Street and the water conservation car magnets are on all City vehicles. Council Liaison Cacciotti recommended a higher rebate for residential high efficiency toilets and encouraging more commercial toilet retrofits by doing a request for proposal to obtain one company to do all installations in the City.

**7. Educational Outreach on Watering** - The Commission recommended that a comprehensive process be developed in the near future to deal with water waste, reporting and enforcement so the City's residents understand what is expected and how violations will be addressed. They recommend more outreach to residents and businesses, and would like another mailer with the City's water conservation rules from the SPMC Section 35, as well as a regular ad in the South Pasadena Review. They also recommend hiring a part time staff person to work on water waste violations. Findley to create a draft notice to residents regarding the water restrictions. Fioni to provide Findley with existing outreach materials.

**8. Synthetic Turf** – At the April 4, 2015 meeting, the City Council prohibited the use of synthetic turf in parkways. Item to be revisited in two years. In addition, at the April 18<sup>th</sup> meeting they supported Senate Bill 47 which bans the use of synthetic turf in public fields for a two year period while the environmental and health impacts of it are being studied.

**9. Charging Stations** – The charging station has been moved to the Hope and Mound parking lot.

**10. Upcoming Events** – Earth Day event is set up to take place on La France on April 18, 2015. The NREC has again been approved to be a part of the Summer Concert Series on July 19, 2015. Fioni is hosting and teaching several workshops over the next few months. A Mulch and Compost Event is scheduled for May 2<sup>nd</sup>. A flyer listing a dozen upcoming workshops and events was sent to every home in South Pasadena this past week.

**11. Renewable Energy Committee** – A staff report is scheduled to go before City Council in April, 2015.

**12. Styrofoam Ban** – South Pasadena Chamber staff was unable to make the meeting. Fioni provided a list of cities that have a ban of some sort. This item will be brought up again in two months.

**Chair Communications** – Chair Hughes requested the City Attorney provide more details on the Brown Act and/or get a brochure with details about it. She suggested promoting solar education programs. She stated the Community Garden is holding a meeting in April.

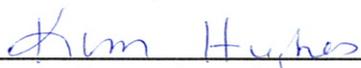
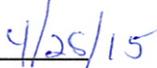
**Commissioner Communications** – Commissioner Findley stated that she received her turf removal rebate check and that her water bill was the lowest it has ever been for this time of year. Commissioner Benzoni talked about Tucson, Arizona’s mandated greywater stub outs for new development, and will research if any California cities are doing it. He invited the commissioners on a tour of a hydrogen generation plant. Commissioner Wilms emphasized the importance of developing a plan to enforce the City’s water conservation ordinance.

**Council Liaison Communications** – Council Member Cacciotti talked about the upcoming 710 Forum at Cal State L.A.

**Staff Liaison Communications** – Figoni requested staffing assistance from the Commissioners at the April 18, 2015 Earth Day Event.

**Adjournment** - The meeting adjourned at 10:06 p.m. (Benzoni, Findley 6-0).

**NEXT MEETING** - The next regular meeting of the Natural Resources and Environmental Commission will be held on Tuesday, April 28, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in City Council Chambers.

   
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Kimberley Hughes, Chair