

MINUTES
NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
December 16, 2014

Roll Call - The meeting was called to order at 7:06 p.m. Present were Commissioners Scott Kuhn, Kay Findley, Nancy Wilms, John Silverthorn, Al Benzoni, Noah Puni, Student Commissioner Maddie Magee, and Chair Kim Hughes. Council Liaison Richard D. Schneider, M.D. was present. Staff Liaison Debby Figoni was present.

Minutes - Minutes from the November meeting were approved (Findley, Wilms 7-0).

Public Comments and Suggestions - None.

1. City's Urban Forest Update – Senior Management Analyst Figoni updated the Commission on the City's Phase 1 tree planting program. The Commissioners asked questions about tree planting, specific trees, and the possibility of obtaining recycled water from a nearby city to water the trees instead of using potable water. Figoni to provide answers before the next meeting. Figoni shared that the city's tree inventory is approximately 10,000 trees with the average age being 35-65 years of age, so we have a very mature urban forest. Three trees were removed on El Centro.

2. West Coast Arborists' Contract – The contract is again being reviewed by West Coast Arborists. No other update on this item.

3. Urban Water Conservation Drought & Drought Actions – Chair Hughes stated that snowpack is at one-half the amount as last year, which was a very bad year. It was discussed that staff reach out the City's top water users via a letter to educate and encourage them to aim for a 20% reduction in their water use. Consider having the letter signed by the Mayor or City Council. The Commission would like an update on the balance in the efficiency fee fund.

No update on the golf course.

4. Water Conservation Programs Update - Figoni stated that 85 households were participating in the turf replacement program, with several finishing up this month. She is partnering with the library on several upcoming workshops and events. The December 9th workshop which was successful. The water conservation banner will be finished next month. Staff will soon provide table top displays to restaurants to promote only serving water upon request to conserve water. Stage 2 drought restrictions to be discussed at the January meeting after Figoni researches what other local cities are doing. Figoni shared that residential and commercial water use was down in October 2014. The demonstration turf replacement project on Huntington Drive is underway. South Pasadena Beautiful is assisting the City in updating the landscaping around the City's welcome sign on Fair Oaks at Columbia.

5. Synthetic Turf – Figoni to head back to Public Works Commission on January 14, 2015 and then the summary report can be finalized and brought back to City Council. Commission members will also attend to provide additional viewpoints.

6. **Charging Stations** – The original area selected might need to be moved a bit due to parking issues around the Library and Senior Center. The Commission voiced concern over checking on the status of the funding grant, as we do not want to lose the grant money.
7. **Upcoming Events** – Plans for an Earth Day event and garden tour in a neighborhood where several homes have completed the turf removal program. Vendors and potential speaker from Tree People invited for this block party event. Talk to Public Works staff about having Southern California Edison offer a free tree giveaway.
8. **Renewable Energy Committee** – A draft article was provided for review. The article will be in the e-neighbors, the South Pasadena Review and on the City's website. Figoni is waiting final direction from the City Clerk.
9. **Allowing Fees to Add New Water Meters** – The Commissioners motioned to approve charging 100% of recovery fees for in city development (Findley, Wilms 7-0). The Commissioners motioned to not favor the City providing water and sewer service outside of the City limits (Puni, Kuhn 7-0).
10. **Banning Gas Leaf Blowers** – Chair Hughes will speak with Council Member Cacciotti on how to deal with this issue because Air Quality Management District does not have an approved list of blower to recommend.
11. **Priority Items for 2015** – The Commissioners motioned to keep the goals from 2014, energy, water and trees, with just a few minor modifications for 2015 (Benzoni, Puni 7-0). In addition, they would like to look at goals from prior years to see what has been accomplished and what needs to be resurrected.

Chair Communications – Chair Hughes shared an article on using gray water and water rates.

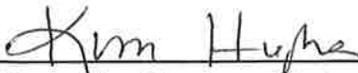
Commissioner Communications – Requested to add Styrofoam ban to the January 2015 agenda

Council Liaison Communications – n/a

Staff Liaison Communications – n/a

Adjournment - The meeting adjourned at 9:29 p.m. (Silverthorn, Benzoni 7-0).

NEXT MEETING - The next regular meeting of the Natural Resources and Environmental Commission will be held on Tuesday, January 27, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in City Council Chambers.

 1/27/15
Kimberley Hughes, Chair