

MINUTES
NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
July 28, 2015

Roll Call - The meeting was called to order at 7:09 p.m. Present were Commissioners Scott Kuhn, Kay Findley, Nancy Wilms, Al Benzoni, Noah Puni and Chair Kim Hughes. Commissioner Stephen Leider was absent. Council Liaison Michael Cacciotti was present. Staff Liaison Debby Figoni was present.

Minutes – Minutes from June 2015 were approved (Benzoni, Kuhn, 6-0)

Public Comments and Suggestions – n/a

- 1. City's Urban Forest Update** – In June, 449 trees were trimmed, 1 was removed and no trees were planted. The Commission wants to confirm that no trees will be planted this summer. The Commission will provide a list of tree questions to Senior Management Analyst Debby Figoni to send to City Arborist Gonzalo Maravilla. The Commission would like Maravilla and Tim Crothers from West Coast Arborists (WCA) to provide answers at the September 29, 2015 meeting. They would also like to review WCA's tree inventory software to confirm its efficacy and relevance for tree planting and maintenance. The necessity and benefits of updating the City's Tree Ordinance were discussed.
- 2. City's Tree Planting Plan** – The Commission would like to get an update on the Planting Plan from Maravilla and WCA at the September 29, 2015 meeting.
- 3. West Coast Arborists' Contract** – No update this month.
- 4. Styrofoam Ban** – Figoni to find a few good example ordinances the City can model their article after. She will talk to the grocery stores and other food establishments to get their feedback.
- 5. Water Conservation and Drought Actions** – Figoni provided water use figures from Global's monthly spreadsheets. The Commission had questions about Global's calculations numbers and would like clarification before the next meeting. The members want to make sure that the numbers from Global, as well as the numbers being reported to the State, are accurate. The group also discussed having signs on the medians educating residents on the drought. The Commission approved the adjusted verbiage for water conservation percentages in the City's Water Conservation Ordinance (Kuhn, Wilms, 6-0).
- 6. Water Conservation Programs** – Figoni is busier than ever with rebate programs and questions from residents and businesses. The Commission discussed other programs to offer including a turf program without Metropolitan Water District's funding, water audits for high consumption users, increased funds for toilets, target multi-family buildings and installing new toilets, showerheads and aerators, increased funds for residential washers and funds for commercial washers. NREC voted to use \$175,000 of water use efficiency fee funds for: Turf

removal (front yards only, \$1 square foot, 2,500 s.f. max.) = \$25,000; Toilets/Urinals = \$25,000; Washing machines – residential and commercial = \$25,000; Other devices = \$25,000; Water audits = \$50,000; Water audits and retrofits at City locations= \$25,000 (Hughes, Wilms 6-0). These recommendations will be proposed to the South Pasadena City Council.

7. **Greywater** – Commissioner Benzoni discussed options of greywater, including new developments need to have laundry and one bathroom hooked up and must have a minimum irrigable space to use the water. Benzoni to send proposal to Figoni for Commission to review.

8. **Charging Stations** – No update.

9. **Upcoming Events** – The July 4th Parade was fun and successful. The Green Living Expo & Car Show was well organized, but low attendance due to weather and lack of parking. Water Conservation Event at Descanso Gardens on September 13, 2015. Water wise landscaping presentation at Police Department's Open House event on September 20, 2015. The Household Hazardous Waste Event is August 29, 2015, Dumpster and Donation Day is October 17, 2015.

10. **Arroyo Seco Golf Course and Racquet Center Lease Subcommittee** – Commissioner Kuhn is interested in being on the subcommittee.

11. **Renewable Energy Committee** – Committee to get started soon.

Chair Communications – Chair Hughes discussed articles on the ending of MWD's turf removal funds, a dry lawn is not a dead lawn, Turf Terminators feedback is not positive, July Smart Irrigation Month, and recycling and diversion reports statistics.

Commissioner Communications – Kuhn talked about the successful 4th of July Festival and Findley wants to confirm we are watering medians and looking out for our trees.

Council Liaison Communications – Council Member Cacciotti stated Gold Line is still on time and budget. In addition, the Expo line is on time and budget.

Staff Liaison Communications – The Commission should start working on the Natural Resources & Environmental Commission's Annual Report due to City Clerk's office on September 25, 2015.

Adjournment – NREC voted to skip the August meeting (Noah, Wilms 4-2). NREC voted to move the September meeting out one week to the 29th (Puni, Hughes 6-0). The meeting adjourned at 9:50 p.m. (Noah, Kuhn 6-0).

NEXT MEETING – There will not be an August meeting. The next regular meeting of the Natural Resources and Environmental Commission will be held on Tuesday, September 29, 2015 (one week later than the usual 4th Tuesday of the month) at 7:00 p.m. in City Council Chambers.


Kimberley Hughes, Chair