

MINUTES
NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
November 17, 2015

Roll Call - The meeting was called to order at 7:17 p.m. Present were Commissioners Al Benzoni, Scott Kuhn, Nancy Wilms and Chair Kim Hughes. Commissioners Kay Findley and Stephen Leider arrived late. Commissioner Noah Puni and Student Commissioner Emily Ng were absent. Council Liaison Michael Cacciotti was absent. Staff Liaison Debby Figoni was present.

Minutes – Minutes from September 29, 2015 were approved (Benzoni, Kuhn, 4-0) and Minutes from October 28, 2015 were approved with noted changes (Wilms, Benzoni, 4-0).

Public Comments and Suggestions – Carolyn Dasher, Environmental Commissioner from Sierra Madre, attended the meeting to see what type of environmental issues other local cities were working on.

- 1. City's Urban Forest Update** – No update was provided on the City's Urban Forest. At the December meeting, the Commission would like an update for November, as well as a list of trees on the City's removal and planting list. They have requested to see a recent West Coast Arborist invoice.
- 2. West Coast Arborists' Contract** – Chair Hughes is going to review the most recent version of the contract and compare it with the modifications offered by the NREC months ago.
- 3. Styrofoam Ban** – Figoni obtained an updated Ordinance from the City of Pasadena which she will email to the Commissioners. In addition, she will forward information on a compostable product container company. No update from the subcommittee.
- 4. Water Conservation and Drought Actions** – Figoni stated the water conservation for September was 31%. Metropolitan Water District has modified their rebates for conservation devices. The City is adjusting their rebates accordingly. The Department of Water Resources' presentation on the updated Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance provided insight on the changes to the ordinance. South Pasadena is going to adopt the State's version of this ordinance. If a city does not adopt its own ordinance by December 1st, then the city defaults to the State's ordinance. The Commission discussed the issue of Panda Express' power washing company not following proper best management practices.
- 5. Water Conservation Programs** – Figoni reported that dozens of turf rebate program applicants have finished their projects in the past month. Rebates for toilets, washers and rain barrels continue to be very popular. Figoni obtaining grant funds to supplement the cost of the upcoming residential water audit program.

6. **Greywater** – Commissioner Benzoni had no update. He will send Figoni information soon. It was reported that the City of Pasadena is offering classes to residents about installing laundry to landscape greywater systems in their homes.

7. **Golf Course Sub-Committee** – Commissioner Kuhn provided an update on the expansion of the facilities. One issue that is of interest is the possibility of adding more water storage on the property.

8. **Upcoming Events** – Figoni held two Efficient Irrigation and Rain Water Infiltration workshops which were well received. There will be a Holiday LED light exchange event on December 12th. The 2016 Green Living Event will most likely be in the first week in May to coincide with water awareness and clean air month. Green Living Expo and Clean Air Car Show will be May 7, 2016. May is water awareness and clean air month. Figoni will do a workshop for Earth Day. The NREC is also interested in again participating in the Summer Concert Series.

9. **Renewable Energy Council** – REC members are looking at where the City spends the most money on energy, where they can install alternative energy structures and how it can be funded. Their next meeting is November 30, 2015.

Chair Communications – Chair Hughes reminded the Commissioners that they need to create goals for 2016. She discussed an article on water waster Governor Brown keeping water restrictions throughout 2016.

Commissioner Communications – n/a

Council Liaison Communications – n/a

Staff Liaison Communications – n/a

Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m. (Findley, Leider 6-0).

NEXT MEETING – The next regular meeting of the Natural Resources and Environmental Commission will be held on Tuesday, December 22, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.



Kimberley Hughes, Chair