

**MINUTES**  
**NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**  
**October 28, 2015**

**Roll Call** - The meeting was called to order at 7:11 p.m. Present were Commissioners Scott Kuhn, Kay Findley, Al Benzoni, Chair Kim Hughes and Student Commissioner Emily Ng. Commissioners Stephen Leider, Noah Puni, and Nancy Wilms were absent. Council Liaison Michael Cacciotti was absent. Staff Liaison Debby Figoni was present.

**Minutes** – Minutes from September 29, 2015 were postponed to the November 17, 2015 meeting (Hughes, Kuhn, 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** – In October, no trees were removed, planted or trimmed. Due to the potential impact of El Nino, the Commission is concerned with trees that are in need of trimming. The Commission would like "view only" access to the City's tree inventory program, Arbor Access. A list of Southern California Edison's tree trimming schedule from 2013 was provided per the commissioner's request. They would like to confirm it is up to date and then have it posted on the City's website for residents to see. The group discussed the mortality rate of newly planted trees and are concerned with proper monitoring of the survival rate. Figoni wrote an article for the November E-neighbors encouraging residents to trim their trees in an effort to be prepared for the potentially wet winter.
- 2. West Coast Arborists' Contract** – The Commissioners would like to see the most current draft of the Contract at the November meeting.
- 3. Styrofoam Ban** – A subcommittee of Chair Hughes, and Commissioners Leider and Puni will review the possibilities of using another City's ordinance. Student Commissioner Ng is tasked to find out if any of the South Pasadena schools use Styrofoam products.
- 4. Water Conservation and Drought Actions** – Figoni stated the City's average water reduction over the past four months is about 30%. The median signs, articles, newsletters and other outreach methods have effectively gotten the drought message out to the businesses and residents of South Pasadena. The Department of Water Resources will be hosting a workshop on the mandated changes to the Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance in South Pasadena on November 4, 2015.
- 5. Water Conservation Programs** – There are over 200 turf removal rebate applications in South Pasadena. Rebates for toilets, washers and rain barrels are busier than ever. Figoni will be starting the new turf removal rebate and water audit programs. She will request Public Works hang the water conservation banner again.

6. **Graywater** – Commissioner Benzoni presented on options of graywater, which falls under Chapter 16 of the California Plumbing Code. Chapter 9 of South Pasadena’s municipal code points to Los Angeles County regulations. The Commission recommends that in all new residential buildings all showers, bathtubs and laundry be plumbed for graywater with no additional permit fees. This will be brought to the Planning Department for review.

7. **Charging Stations** – The final location is in the City’s Hope and Mound parking lot. The Commission encourages the installation be expedited.

8. **Upcoming Events** – The Dumpster and Donation Day was October 17, 2015 and was more successful than ever due to outreach efforts. Figoni organized two Efficient Irrigation and Rain Water Infiltration workshops. 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.

9. **Renewable Energy Council** – The first meeting was October 19, 2015. They will be looking at energy opportunities for City facilities, as well as what residents and businesses can do to economically safe energy. They will focus most of their energy on the City’s top energy intensive facilities such as the water reservoirs.

**Chair Communications** – Chair Hughes brought up the development at Cedar Crest and Mockingbird Lane and the Commissions’ disappointment of not being able to voice their concern about all the project’s environmental impacts such as air and water quality. She mentioned the need for several Commissions to work together on projects like this.

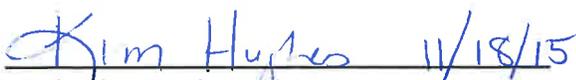
**Commissioner Communications** – Commissioner Kuhn shared that perhaps the issue of the air quality and traffic impacts issues might be out of the responsibility of the NREC, but the group looked at the list of duties and there was discussion about natural resources. He also shared that he will be attending a meeting of the Golf Course Sub-Committee. Commissioner Findley mentioned a concern over traffic plan for Arroyo Drive that would require the cutting of trees on the street.

**Council Liaison Communications** – n/a

**Staff Liaison Communications** – n/a

**Adjournment** – The meeting adjourned at 9:27 p.m. (Benzoni, Kuhn 4-0).

**NEXT MEETING** – The next regular meeting of the Natural Resources and Environmental Commission will be held on Tuesday, November 17, 2015 (one week earlier than the typical 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday meeting) at 7:00 p.m. in the Fire Department’s Emergency Operations Center.

  
Kimberley Hughes, Chair