

**CITY OF SOUTH PASADENA  
NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION – REGULAR MEETING  
MINUTES – August 23, 2022**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order at 7:09 p.m. Present at the time of roll call were: Commissioner Ella Hushagen, Commissioner Amy Davis Jones, Commissioner Michael Siegel, Vice Chair Michelle Hammond, Chair Casey Law, and City Council Liaison Mayor Michael Cacciotti. Commissioner Rona Bortz had an excused absence. Staff present: Ted Gerber: Public Works Director, Arpy Kasparian: Environmental Services & Sustainability Manager, Melanis Stepanian: Water Conservation and Sustainability Intern, and Paul Riddle: Fire Chief.

**1) General Public Comment**

There were 3 written public comments submitted and are included in additional documents provided to the Commission.

No other general public comments were received.

**PRESENTATIONS:**

**2) Commissioner Recognition**

Commissioner Bill Kelly's term in the NREC has concluded and the City is thankful for his service. He has served as Chair of the Commission, assisted with the ban on gas-powered leaf blowers and organics recycling, as well as served on several ad-hoc committees. Bill Kelly is a supportive member of the community.

There is a vacant position in the NREC. Please visit the City website or reach out to the City Clerk for more information.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

**3) Updated Emergency Operations Plan – Paul Riddle, Fire Chief**

Fire Chief, Paul Riddle, shared an update to the Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) and requested recommendations from the Commission before presenting this to City Council.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER SIEGEL, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HUSHAGEN, MOTION CARRIED 5-0, TO APPROVE THE FIRE DEPARTMENT TO CONTINUE MOVING FORWARD TO PRESENT THIS ITEM TO THE CITY COUNCIL WITH A FEW RECOMMENDATIONS: IDENTIFYING ADDITIONAL SITES FOR COOLING CENTERS AND EXPANDING THE SCOPE OF THE EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN (EOP).

**4) Approval of Minutes – Meeting of July 26, 2022**

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HUSHAGEN, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER SIEGEL, MOTION CARRIED 5-0, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE JULY 26 NREC COMMISSION MEETING.

## COMMUNICATIONS:

### 5) City Council Liaison Communications

Mayor Cacciotti shared updates on the Gold Line Project and the ban on gas-powered leaf blowers. Enforcement has been delayed as staff awaits updates from the state regarding incentives for the community.

City staff met with Pittsburgh City Council to discuss the City's implementation of the ordinance banning gas-powered leaf blowers.

### 6) Commissioner Communications

Commissioners requested information about multimodality for the October 2 Open House event. Commissioners discussed pedestrian safety and requested to dedicate additional funding for pedestrian and bicycle safety. Commissioners also discussed sending a general comment to MTIC to consider complete streets and bike infrastructure around Measure M funding.

Commissioners addressed the issue of city trees dying of disease and old age. Chair Law is requesting the Commission members to ride their bikes or walk to the NREC meetings and challenging the Mayor to ride his bike to a City Council meeting.

### 7) Staff Liaison Communications

Arpy Kasparian shared water conservation updates: street banners have been posted, an informational flyer has been sent out to residents to share new watering restrictions, and the Water Efficient Dishwasher Rebate is now active- residents can receive up to \$500 for replacing their old dishwasher with an Energy Star Dishwasher from a pre-approved list. Visit [www.SouthPasadenaCA.gov/Rebates](http://www.SouthPasadenaCA.gov/Rebates) and [www.SouthPasadenaCA.gov/WaterConservation](http://www.SouthPasadenaCA.gov/WaterConservation) for more information.

Ted Gerber spoke of the expected Mission Street closure (from Fremont to Fair Oaks) in order to allow for tabling and other activities for the October 2 Open House event. Staff is working to discuss opportunities around tree communication so residents can be informed of tree updates. There were several comments shared with NREC regarding a request for a specific tree in the City, per the municipal code process, all comments will be considered and more information from the applicant may be needed.

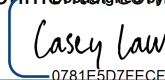
### 8) Upcoming Events

- Alhambra Household Hazardous Waste Event - August 27, 2022: 9am-3pm (<https://www.lacsd.org/services/solid-waste/household-hazardous-wastecollection/alhambra-08-27-22> )
- Upper District's "Protecting the Trees" Webinar - August 30, 2022: 6pm-7pm (<https://www.greengardensgroup.com/g3-events/protecting-the-trees-usgv-220830/> )
- LA County Smart Gardening Webinars- Various dates (<https://www.ladpw.org/epd/sg/webinars.cfm>)
- MWD Turf Removal + CA Native Landscape Webinars- Various dates (<https://greengardensgroup.com/turf-transformation/>)

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Chair Casey Law adjourned the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing minutes were adopted by the Natural Resources and Environmental Commission of the City of South Pasadena at a meeting held on August 23, 2022.

  
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Casey Law, Chair