

CITY OF SOUTH PASADENA
NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION – REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES – September 28, 2021

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 7:04p.m. Present at the time of roll call were: Commissioner Rona Bortz, Commissioner Michelle Hammond, Commissioner Casey Law, Commissioner Bill Kelly, Commissioner Michael Siegel, and Chair Amy Jones. Mayor Pro Tem Michael Cacciotti was absent. Vice Chair Di Giorgi had an excused absence. Staff present: Ted Gerber, Deputy Public Works Director, and Arpy Kasparian, Water Conservation and Sustainability Analyst.

INTRODUCTION:

- 1) City Manager Introduction - Arminé Chaparyan
City Manager, Arminé Chaparyan, introduced herself and expressed her excitement in working with the City's engaged commissions and community.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- 2) Public Comments
There were no general public comments.

PRESENTATION:

- 3) Girl Scout Gold Award Presentation – Teja Moe
Local Girl Scout, Teja Moe, presented on her Gold Award project which focused on reducing carbon emissions in the household. Miss Moe partnered with City staff to prepare flyers, create an animation, and build a website with extensive information on composting, water conservation, emissions reduction, and more. Miss Moe's animation can be found on the City website and her work can be viewed on www.carbonfootprintgogold.weebly.com.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments.

DISCUSSION ITEM:

- 4) Mandatory Organic Waste Disposal Reduction Ordinance

PUBLIC COMMENT

Tucker Nelson – Resident – Requested more information on “remote monitoring” as mentioned in the draft ordinance. More information was also requested on minimum waste waivers and enforcement procedures.

Ted Gerber provided an overview of the draft ordinance and explained differences between the ordinance staff drafted and CalRecycle's model ordinance, making changes to reflect the City's specific hauling operations. Commissioners proposed a modification to the draft language to clarify that any remote monitoring devices that may be used to evaluate compliance with the ordinance and apply potential enforcement would be mounted on hauler vehicles, and not, for example, installed in or on residents' and/or businesses' property. The NREC also recommended that staff incorporate revisions of the existing municipal code into the ordinance to allow self-hauling or an opportunity for non-exclusive haulers to operate where a public benefit is realized; for example, in the case of community-based non-profit composting organizations.

ACTION ITEMS:

5) Recommendation of Edible Food Recovery Program

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments.

Arpy Kasparian reviewed the edible food recovery requirements of SB1383 and presented the regional program being led by the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments. The commission discussed the program and City staff answered questions regarding current food recovery organizations and costs. The commission recommended to join the program noting the limited City staff resources and this cost-effective alternative.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER LAW, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER SEILGEL, MOTION CARRIED 6-0, TO RECOMMEND TO CITY COUNCIL TO JOIN THE SGVCOG REGIONAL FOOD RECOVERY PROGRAM

6) Ordinance Amending Chapter 34 (Trees and Shrubs)

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments.

Staff reviewed the reasons behind the request to remove the financial hardship portion of the ordinance including the effects on other permits. The commission discussed the issue and defended the inclusion of this discount for low-income families stating that they didn't think it would set a precedent since removing a dead or hazardous tree is not optional and this discount would incentivize residents to go through the permitting process instead of removing a tree without a permit. The commission argued that allowing the discount would increase the number of permits and it should be applied to all permits. The commission asked for more information on the criteria for the discount, the number of residents in the program, and the specific impacts on other permits.

MOTION BY CHAIR JONES, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HAMMOND, MOTION CARRIED 6-0, TO TABLE ITEM

7) Approval of Minutes- Meeting of August 24, 2021

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER KELLY, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER BORTZ, MOTION CARRIED 6-0, TO APPROVE MINUTES

COMMUNICATIONS:

8) City Council Liaison Communications

Mayor Pro Tem M. Cacciotti was absent.

9) Commissioner Communications

Commissioner Law shared that he attended the in-person electric leaf blower demonstration and thought it was successful. Commissioner Siegel expressed his concerns with the poor driving by the Athens' backyard service pick-up trucks. Commissioner Bortz had no comments. Commissioner Kelly expressed his appreciation for the outreach on the leaf blower ban. Commissioner Hammond expressed

her concerns with the amount of trash at the corner of Mission and Meridian. Chair Jones shared a job fair event for Vice Chair Di Giorgi who was unable to attend the meeting.

10) Staff Liaison Communications

Kasparian updated the commission on the gas-powered leaf blower ordinance outreach, the Athens' Ad Hoc Committee, and SB619. Gerber provided additional updates on the 2020 Urban Water Management Plan.


11) Upcoming Events

- Senior Citizen Dumpster Day – 10/11-10/15 for seniors, 10/16 for all
- 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 Jones adjourned the meeting at 9:34p.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 October 26, 2021.



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Amy Jones, Chair