

CITY OF SOUTH PASADENA
NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION – SPECIAL MEETING
MINUTES – January 28, 2020

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 7:04p.m. Present were: Amy Jones, Bill Kelly, Cynthia Liu, Rona Bortz, and Madeline Di Giorgi. Lauren Myles had an excused absence. Stephen Leider was absent Council Liaison Dr. Marina Khubesrian had an excused absence. Staff present: Julian Lee, Deputy Public Works Director; Arpy Kasparian, Water Conservation & Sustainability Analyst; Kristine Courdy, Deputy Public Works Director; and Garrett Crawford, Operations Manager.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mayor Bob Joe – Mayor Bob Joe thanked the commission for their support, time, and service. He expressed his excitement for the implementation of the recently adopted Green Action Plan.

ACTION ITEMS:

1) Election of Chair and Vice Chair

Commissioner Liu nominated Chair Di Giorgi to continue as Chair for the year. Chair Di Giorgi accepted the nomination. MOTION BY COMMISSIONER LIU, SECOND BY VICE CHAIR BORTZ, CARRIED 5-0 to approve Chair Di Giorgi to continue as Chair.

Chair Di Giorgi nominated Vice Chair Bortz to continue as Vice Chair for the year. Vice Chair Bortz accepted the nomination. MOTION BY CHAIR DI GIORGI, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER KELLY, CARRIED 5-0.

2) Approval of Minutes – Meeting of December 10, 2019

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER KELLY, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER BORTZ, CARRIED 5-0 to approve minutes.

3) Adoption of NREC 2020 Work Plan

Kasparian explained the only change made to the work plan since it was last discussed: the revision of the tree ordinance will work in conjunction with the development of the City's Forest Management Plan.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Bob Joe – Explained to the commission that the work plan would be presented at the Commission Congress and that he'd like to see all the different commissions working together throughout the year.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER JONES, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER LIU, CARRIED 5-0 to approve the NREC 2020 Work Plan.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

4) Tree Removal Hearing: 625 Fair Oaks Avenue

Courdy introduced the new Operations Manager, Garret Crawford, who is also a certified arborist and will be leading many of the tree hearings moving forward. Crawford reviewed the request of the applicant to remove 17 protected trees for a proposed Senior Housing Development located at 625 Fair Oaks Ave. The applicant reviewed plans and answered questions from the commission. Discussion ensued regarding choice of tree species, the survival of relocating existing trees, and locations for the new trees.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Michelle Hammond - Resident - Suggested the applicant consider adding a community garden or similar to the property. Applicant replied that there may be opportunities to add a private garden for tenants only.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER JONES, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER KELLY, CHAIR DI GIORGI ABSTAINED, CARRIED 4-0 to approve with conditions of approval and add a subsequent condition to plant additional shade trees on the parkway. City will work with the developer to plant either the new trees or the transplanted trees. If transplanted trees don't survive, City will require new trees.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

5) Review of City of South Pasadena Code of Ethics and Conduct

Kasparian reviewed the draft Code and provided feedback. Specifically, the commission asked the following questions and made the following comments:

Section 13. Advocacy

- At public meeting, events, etc., are commissioners allowed to state what their position is and say "I'm the NREC chair, but I'm not representing NREC today, I'm here as a South Pasadena resident" or would this be "allowing inference?"

Section 8. Conflict of Interest

- "appearance of conflict of interest" – define "appearance" more clearly
- How do you disclose your financial interests? Form 700?
- The entire section can be more specific

6) Earth Day 2020 in South Pasadena Discussion

Kasparian updated the commission on the Earth Day date and location options, scheduled Earth Day and Arbor Day proclamations, Dumpster Day scheduled for April 18th, and vendors for the Earth Day Expo. Discussion ensued and commissioners made additional suggestions including involving Food Forward, other eco-friendly vendors, involving Transition South Pasadena, and options for giveaways. Commissioner Jones provided updates on the Garden Tour.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Michelle Hammond – Resident – Hammond suggested ideas for the Earth Day events including using local vendors, working with the Chamber of Commerce, etc.

COMMUNICATIONS:

7) City Council Liaison Communications

Councilmember Khubesrian was absent from the meeting.

8) Commissioner Communications

Vice Chair Rona provided an update on the Community Dishes initiative and expressed support in being more involved with other commissions. Commissioner Liu expressed interest in starting the conversation on how to "green" the Pasadena Rose Parade. Chair Di Giorgi reiterated the success of the Community Dishes program. Commissioner Jones had no comments. Commissioner Kelly suggested implementing fees for package delivery services to address emissions from the City.

9) Staff Liaison Communications

Kasparian announced that City of South Pasadena won the ultimate champion award for the 2019 Champion for West Nile Virus Prevention Challenge. Kasparian reminded the commission of upcoming events.

10) Upcoming Events

- Free Smart Gardening/Intro to Composting Workshop – 2/8/20 (South Pasadena Library)
- South Pasadena Advisory Body Training – 2/18/20 6pm-8pm (City Council Chambers)
- Commission Congress – 2/25/20 6pm (War Memorial Building)

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER DI GIORGI, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER KELLY, CARREID 5-0, to adjourn meeting at 9:16p.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 May 14, 2020.



Madeline DiGiorgi, Chair