

**CITY OF SOUTH PASADENA
NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION – REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES – May 23, 2023**

CALL TO ORDER:

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

1) General Public Comment

There were no general public comments.

DISCUSSION:

2) Review Work Plan FY 23-24

Arpy Kasparian started by sharing the 2022-2023 Fiscal Year Work Plan with updated information reflecting actual items throughout the year. Kasparian moved on to discuss the draft Work Plan for the 2023-2024 Fiscal Year and requested Commissioner input.

Commissioner Jones requested the Planning Department to share an update or summary on parking lot codes in reference to landscaping, previously discussed amongst the NREC. Commissioner Law suggested more detail on the past year's tasks and their outcome. Commissioner Law supported focusing on active transportation in the upcoming fiscal year and encouraged the Climate Action Plan and Green Action Plan be reviewed during the same Commission meeting for timing purposes as well as content that will be discussed. Commissioner Bortz supported the focus on the topic of active transportation within the City and requested an update regarding organics recycling (SB 1383 implementation) in the City of South Pasadena. Chair Siegel suggested a budget overview to help the commissioners understand items in detail, he also questioned if there are any consistent grants that the City utilizes. Chair Siegel also suggested a Climate Action Plan (CAP) discussion to assist in understanding the "low hanging fruit". Several Commissioners suggested making active transportation a key discussion point in the CAP.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

3) Review Annual Report FY 22-23

Arpy Kasparian presented the Draft Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2022-2023 to review accomplishments of the Commission.

No Commissioner comments.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

ACTION ITEMS:

4) Approval of Minutes of April 25, 2023 NREC Meeting

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER BORTZ, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER JONES, MOTION CARRIED 3-0, 1 ABSTAINING, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE April 25, 2023 NREC MEETING.

COMMUNICATIONS:

5) City Council Liaison Communications

Councilmember Cacciotti was not present at this meeting.

6) Commissioner Communications

Commissioner Jones had no comments. Commissioner Law discussed wrapping up the year as NREC Chair and encouraged Commission members and attendees to use active transportation to attend NREC meetings. Commissioner Bortz had no comments. Chair Siegel had no comments.

7) Staff Liaison Communications

Arpy Kasparian, Environmental Services & Sustainability Manager, shared the upcoming Commissioner Congress meeting, taking place on June 28, and requested Commissioners attend. Kasparian updated the Commission on City-wide outreach efforts regarding Commercial Water Conservation Rebate as well as the ban on gas-powered leaf blowers. She encouraged community members to attend the upcoming Electric Leaf Blower Demonstration on Tuesday, June 27, at Garfield Park from 9:00 am – 1:00pm. Public Works Week was May 22- May 26, Arpy Kasparian thanked the Public Works team, especially the field staff, for their hard work and commitment to the City. Kasparian also congratulated Melanis for joining the Public Works team full-time as a Management Assistant in Public Works.

Ted Gerber, Public Works Director, had no updates for the Commission.

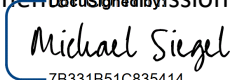
8) Upcoming Events

- Electric Leaf Blower Demonstration – June 27, 2023: 9:00 am -1:00 pm - Garfield Park (<https://www.southpasadenaca.gov/Home/Components/Calendar/Event/10535/716>)
- Commissioner Congress - June 28, 2023: 6:00 pm -8:00 pm (<https://www.southpasadenaca.gov/Home/Components/Calendar/Event/10509/716>)
- 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 Michael Siegel adjourned the meeting at 8:11 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 May 23, 2023.

Michael Siegel

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Michael Siegel, Chair