

**CITY OF SOUTH PASADENA
NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION – REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES – September 22, 2020**

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 7:02p.m. Present were: Commissioner Amy Jones, Commissioner Bill Kelly, Commissioner Stephen Leider, Vice Chair Rona Bortz, and Mayor Pro Tem Diana Mahmud. Chair Madeline Di Giorgi joined the meeting at 7:36pm. Commissioner Lauren Myles was absent. Staff present: Julian Lee, Deputy Public Works Director; Garret Crawford, Public Works Operations Manager; and Arpy Kasparian, Water Conservation & Sustainability Analyst.

1) GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Ed Donnelly – Chair of South Pasadena Yes on Measure U – Urged support for renewal of the Utility Users Tax (UUT) at the November 3 General Election.

PRESENTATION:

2) Energy Efficiency Resources – San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments

Alexander Fung gave a presentation on the San Gabriel Valley’s background, their Energy Wise Partnership which provides incentives for cities’ direct energy savings, their partnership activities and resources for local governments, and the Energy Champion Awards. Fung also provided information on energy efficiency programs for residents and businesses and reviewed a few energy efficiency tips.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

3) Second Reading of Tree Ordinance

Crawford walked through the Tree Code and reviewed the changes made per the commission’s requests from the previous meeting. The commission further discussed additional changes including adding language to clarify tree permit requirements for non-native trees, ensuring parkway trees were addressed, changing the headings for 34.6 and 34.10, and ensuring that the appropriate fine was issued depending on the size and scope of the project. In addition to changes to the tree code, the commission and Crawford discussed a map of heritage trees in the City, ensuring that replacement trees were appropriate, adjusting the timeline of when the commission and Public Works reviewed development plans so that they are reviewed in the earlier stages and open to more guidance, and including examples of fines in the permit to give applicants an idea of how severe the penalty could be.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments

4) Heat Tolerant Trees List

Crawford presented the updated Heat Tolerant Trees List to the commission. The commission appreciated the details of the list. It was suggested to add pictures to the list. Crawford suggested including hyperlinks instead of pictures to keep the file size manageable and shareable.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments

ACTION ITEMS:

5) Approval of Minutes – Meeting of August 25, 2020

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments

MOTION BY CHAIR DI GIORGI, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER KELLY, CARRIED 5-0 to approve minutes.

COMMUNICATIONS:

6) City Council Liaison Communications

Mayor Pro Tem Mahmud announced that the City Council selected Sean Joyce for Interim City Manager and Elaine Aguilar started as an Assistant City Manager to oversee the Finance Department. She also announced that the Finance Commission released their agenda packet which included a draft audit.

7) Commissioner Communications

Commissioner Jones had no comments. Commissioner Kelly had no comments. Commissioner Leider had no comments. Chair Di Giorgi shared the South Pasadena’s Library program, One City Many Stories and encouraged the commissioners to join the program. Vice Chair Bortz encouraged watching the documentary, “Kiss the Ground,” and shared that Compost Culture would be at the Farmer’s Market accepting food scraps.

8) Staff Liaison Communications

Kasparian reminded everyone that the Draft Climate Action Plan was completed and the comment period would be open until October 1st.

9) Upcoming Events

- Free Compost and Mulch Giveaway Day – 10/3/20, 8:00am
- Dumpster Day – 10/24/20, 8:00am
- 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:

Vice Chair Rona Bortz adjourned the meeting at 9:15p.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 27, 2020.

DocuSigned by:

Madeline Di Giorgi

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Madeline Di Giorgi, Chair