

**CITY OF SOUTH PASADENA  
NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION – REGULAR MEETING  
MINUTES – July 28, 2020**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order at 7:10p.m. Present were: Commissioner Amy Jones, Commissioner Bill Kelly, Commissioner Lauren Myles, Vice Chair Rona Bortz, Chair Madeline Di Giorgi, and Councilmember Dr. Marina Khubesrian. Commissioner Stephen Leider was absent. Staff present: Julian Lee, Deputy Public Works Director; Arpy Kasparian, Water Conservation & Sustainability Analyst; and Garrett Crawford, Public Works Operations Manager.

**GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comments

**PRESENTATION:**

**1) City Tree Policies and Procedures**

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comments

Staff Liaison Kasparian presented on the City's tree policies including the City's tree dedication program, tree trimming and removal processes, tree replacements, and City tree maintenance procedures. She also presented the new tree education webpage on the City website.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

**2) Heat-Tolerant Trees List**

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comments

Public Works Operations Manager, Garrett Crawford, presented the draft Heat-Tolerant Trees List. The commissioners discussed and made recommendations for changes to the list including defining the ISA Species Classification, defining the year range for Growth Rate (for example, fast = 5 years), and adding a column for heat tolerance. Overall, the commission appreciated the comprehensive list that provided detailed information for those who are not familiar with trees. Edits will be made and the updated list will be brought back to a future meeting.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

**3) Approval of Minutes – Meeting of June 23, 2020**

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comments

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER KELLY, SECOND BY VICE CHAIR BORTZ, CARRIED 4-0 to approve minutes.

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

**4) City Council Liaison Communications**

Councilmember Khubesrian shared the Mobility and Transportation Infrastructure Commission's discussion of the "Complete Streets" implementation/planning for Freemont Ave. and Meridian Ave. Khubesrian also mentioned at the end of the meeting that South Pasadena youth wanted to post a plaque at the Nature Park dedicated to the Tongva indigenous tribe.

**5) Commissioner Communications**

Commissioner Kelly shared concerns from residents regarding the CAP survey including that the survey was very long, it was difficult to assess what was important, and there were concerns over cooking with a wok on electric stoves. Commissioner Myles had no comments. Vice Chair Bortz had no comments. Chair Di Giorgi encouraged residents to comment during the August 5<sup>th</sup> City Council meeting.

**6) Staff Liaison Communications**

Kasparian provided an update on what the City is doing to re-enforce the Plastic Bag Ban including publishing an article on the City blog and the Chamber newsletter. Most grocery stores are resuming pre-Covid plastic bag practices. Kasparian provided an update on the Climate Action Plan and survey participation.

**7) Upcoming Events**

- Edible Gardening for Beginners Webinar – July 29, 6pm-7pm
- Free Household Hazardous and Electronic Waste Drive-Thru Collection Event – August 29, 9am-2pm (SPUSD Headquarters Parking Lot)
- 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 Di Giorgi adjourned the meeting at 8:26p.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 25, 2020.

DocuSigned by:  
*Madeline Di Giorgi*  
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Madeline Di Giorgi, Chair