

**CITY OF SOUTH PASADENA
NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION – REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES – January 24, 2023**

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. Present at the time of roll call were: Chair Casey Law, Commissioner Rona Bortz, Commissioner Amy Davis Jones, Commissioner Michael Siegel, and Commissioner Richard Tom. Commissioner Ella Hushagen and Councilmember Michael Cacciotti, City Council Liaison, arrived late to the meeting. Vice Chair Hammond had an excused absence. Staff present: Ted Gerber: Public Works Director, and Melanis Stepanian: Water Conservation and Sustainability Intern.

1) General Public Comment

There was one written public comment submitted.

No other general public comments were received.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

2) Green Action Plan Update- Ted Gerber, Public Works Director

Ted Gerber, Public Works Director, briefed the Commissioners with an update of the South Pasadena Green Action Plan. ([South Pasadena Green Action Plan | South Pasadena, CA \(southpasadenaca.gov\)](https://southpasadenaca.gov)) The Green Action Plan consists of 5 goals: Work towards making South Pasadena a Plastic-Free City, Enhance Water Conservation Projects and Programs, Increase Organics Diversion from Landfill, Mitigate Impacts of the Urban Heat Island Effect, and Prepare for the Consideration of Future Sustainability Initiatives. He gave a detailed update on each goal and shared the progress that has been made for each “Move”.

Commissioners periodically asked questions and provided suggestions throughout the presentation. Commissioner Bortz asked about Greywater System rebates that may be in place for the City. Commissioner Jones raised the question about permits with greywater systems and how to encourage residents to utilize this technology. Commissioner Siegel asked how successful the water conservation rebates have been in the City. Chair Law asked how often City law is revisited to comply with State mandate.

ACTION ITEMS:

3) Appoint NREC Member for Recreation Lease Ad Hoc Committee

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER JONES, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER TOM, MOTION CARRIED 6-0, TO APPOINT COMMISSIONER MICHAEL SIEGEL AS THE RECREATION LEASE AD HOC COMMITTEE MEMBER.

4) Approval of Minutes – Special Meeting of December 5, 2022

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HUSHAGEN, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER SIEGEL, MOTION CARRIED 6-0, TO DENY THE APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE DECEMBER 5, 2022 NREC COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING. THE MOTION UNDER ITEM 2: CONTINUED TREE HEARING-1865 HANSCOM DRIVE WILL BE REVISED AND REVIEWED DURING THE FEBRUARY COMMISSION MEETING.

COMMUNICATIONS:

5) City Council Liaison Communications

Councilmember Cacciotti discussed the Gold Line Project. He spoke about the ban on gas-powered leaf blowers and thanked City Staff for their efforts with outreach. He briefly spoke of AB2766, an Assembly Bill set in place that is meant to reduce mobile source emissions.

6) Commissioner Communications

Commissioner Siegel congratulated Councilmember Cacciotti for becoming Vice Chair of the SCAQMD Governing Board. He also shared that a recent report published by the EPA disclosed that Particulate Matter (PM) is dangerous to human health. Commissioner Siegel then proposed City Staff to consider including active transportation efforts in the City's Climate Action Plan's transportation section.

Chair Law shared State climate goals, as proposed by the California Air Resources Board (CARB), during the Mobility and Transportation Infrastructure Commission Meeting (MTIC). Chair Law also encouraged Commissioners to continue using alternative forms of transportation walking, biking, or using transit to attend NREC meetings.

7) Staff Liaison Communications

Ted Gerber, Public Works Director, discussed the feasibility of a "community toolbox" program suggestion and avenues the City can explore. When the Climate Action Plan (CAP) is revisited, active transportation will be considered. He shared updates from the Mobility and Transportation Infrastructure Commission (MTIC) Meeting.

Melanis Stepanian, Water Conservation and Sustainability Intern, shared the upcoming Electric Leaf Blower Demonstration event with the Commission. She discussed that Earth Day is approaching and encouraged Commission Members and residents to brainstorm ideas for events.


8) Upcoming Events

- South Pasadena Community Garden and South Pasadena Beautiful Seed Swap & Plant Swap: Saturday January 28, 2023- 10am-12pm (southpasbeautiful.org)
- Electric Leaf Blower Demonstration: Wednesday February 8, 2023- 8am-1pm (<https://www.southpasadenaca.gov/LeafBlowers>)
- South Pasadena Beautiful Garden Tour and Plant Swap: Saturday, March 18, 2023- 1-4pm (southpasbeautiful.org)
- 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 Casey Law adjourned the meeting at 8:32 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 January 24, 2023.

Handwritten signature of Casey Law in blue ink.

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Casey Law, Chair