



Additional Documents List Special City Council Meeting February 23, 2022

Item No.	Agenda Item Description	Distributor	Document
1	Commission Analysis Study Session	Mary Jerejian, Management Analyst	Memo provides corrections to the Staff Report.
	Written Public Comment	Christina Muñoz, Deputy City Clerk	Emailed public comment.



City of South Pasadena City Manager's Office

Memo

Date: February 22, 2022
To: The Honorable City Council
Via: Arminé Chaparyan, City Manager
From: Mary Jerejian, Management Analyst
Re: February 23, 2022, Special City Council Meeting Item No. 1
Additional Document – Commission Analysis Study Session

Attached is an additional document which provides a correction to the following:

Page 1 – 3

City Council Ad Hoc Committees Liaison Assignments

January 2021 to December 2021		
City Ad Hoc Committees	Appointed Liaison(s)	Staff Liaison
Ad Hoc Committee: City Council and South Pasadena Unified School District	Primuth and Zneimer	Arminé Chaparyan, City Manager
Ad Hoc Committee: Finance	Primuth and Donovan	Ken Louie, Interim Finance Director
Ad Hoc Committee: Mission-Meridian Village Subcommittee (08/14/2013)	Donovan and Zneimer Mahmud	Margaret Lin, Deputy Director of Community Development
Ad Hoc Committee: Implementation, Caltrans Surplus Properties Disposition Replaced "Leg" & "non-leg" committees by council action on Dec, 1, 2021	Donovan and Primuth	Angelica Frausto-Lupo, Director of Community Development Margaret Lin, Deputy Director of Community Development

- Public Arts Commission:
 - The Public Arts Commission was established a couple of years ago with the purpose to integrate art into public spaces within the City. The Public Art Commission is a five member body that is responsible for the review and approval of public art projects associated with the Public Art Program. These projects include, but are not limited to, proposed site-specific public art, art donations, and public art developed with the funds from the Public Art Development Fee. The current staff liaison to the Public Arts Commission is Deputy Director of Community Development, Margaret Lin while ~~Diana Mahmud~~ Mayor Michael Cacciotti serves as the Council liaison.

- Youth Commission:
 - The Youth Commission is represented by students of the South Pasadena Middle School and South Pasadena High School. The students on the commission are involved in coordinating activities, events, and volunteering for charitable fundraisers and food drives. There are ten youth members on the commission, an adult Community-at-Large member, and a South Pasadena Unified School District representative. ~~The current staff liaison to the Youth Commission is Community Services Director Sheila Pautsch, and Jack Donovan serves as the Council liaison.~~

**Special City Council Meeting
February 23, 2022
Emailed Public Comment**

From: [Joanne Nuckols](#)
To: [City Council Public Comment](#)
Subject: 2/23/22 Agenda Item #1
Date: Wednesday, February 23, 2022 10:13:43 AM
Attachments: [Design Advisory Group to Council on DAG role 01-18-2011.pdf](#)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the City of South Pasadena. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Mayor and City council, I will not be able to attend tonight's Study Session so submitting my comments in writing.

I have reviewed the recommendations and I did attend the community session and voiced my concerns at that time. As I recall, most of the comments were in favor of maintaining the commissions. If they are not working properly, then figure out a way for them to function more efficiently. I still can't see what the problem is and why this keeps being brought up. Don't rush into making any final decisions. Sometimes it take a while to discuss and discover the best creative solution to solve the perceived or actual problem.

**1. "Those that fail to learn from history are doomed to repeat it."
Winston Churchill He then went on to add, however, we must learn
from our mistakes so that we do not run the risk of repeating them.**

As to consolidating MTIC and PW, not a good idea, see quote above! All one has to do is read the attached letter and remember the resulting Fiasco on Fair Oaks, the failed public works project, that was a mess given there was no oversight of DAG on the project they designed over many years, because three councilmen decided, for political reasons, to eliminate the DAG just before construction started.

The resulting mess caused by staff changing the approved design before construction and during, has left a long standing problem for the last 10 years. Hopefully one day it can be remedied. The whole street does not function as it should and needs an overhaul to function properly in conjunction with the proposed loop ramp at the 110.

With about a \$100 million Measure R available for transportation projects in town, given the elimination of the 710, not having a fully functioning MTIC focusing on those projects, will surly be a detriment to our city. This is our second chance to get it right and rid some and control the rest of the traffic, finally after 70 years of fighting. There will not be a third chance. The city

has to get it right this time, your last chance.

Last go around on this idea to combine a few years ago under a former City Manager was rejected by Freeway and Transportation Commission and Public Works at a combined meeting. Clearly the two have separate duties and responsibilities. If it's too much work for staff, then I suggest the commissions go back to before there was staff help and Chairmen developed and posted the agenda with the City Clerk and there was a Secretary Commissioner taking minutes of the meeting, or a hybrid.

I totally reject the premise that this cannot be done since I was on the Freeway and Transportation Commission in the late 80's when we did not have staff help and again 25 years later when we did. It can be done. The staff help is only as good as the staff person.

2. I am totally against dissolving the Animal Commission. So many more people have animals after the pandemic which also produced more wild animal encounters in town if one follows social media and there have been mixed results with Humane Society and their contractual duties with the city. I would think the city council would want local residents to review data and make a recommendation that's informed as to how to deal with these issues, which are many. This is a short sighted recommendation, in my opinion, and should be reevaluated.

Months ago some former commissions spoke in public comment about what the commission does and did. I was really impressed with all the different issues they covered, a lot I didn't even know about. Council and staff, ask yourself this question...who would you want to study and advise you if we had a crow problem like Sunnyvale is having now?

In my opinion, it would be my fellow citizens studying the issue in conjunction with the staff to come up with various options to consider. It's a vexing problem that they don't seem to be solving effectively. Not knowing what will ultimately be the solution in Sunnyvale, it's a teaching moment in South Pasadena to think about how to solve such a problem and one would want good advice from locals who have a vested interest in our city and a successful outcome pertaining to any animal issue, domestic or wild.

4. I see value in this recommendation and it should be considered further.

6. As a designer I can tell you that artists/designers are not planners/architects and visa versa. Not a good idea! Public art could be a valuable asset to the community as far as economic development and tourism if it's done right as a cohesive plan for the city. It would not improve our image if done wrong.

Thank you for your consideration.

Joanne Nuckols, Freeway & Transportation Commissioner 1987-1993 and 2013-2020



RECEIVED

JAN 19 2011

**SOUTH PASADENA
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE**

Members of the City Council
City of South Pasadena
1414 Mission Street
South Pasadena, CA 91030

January 18, 2011

Dear Members of the South Pasadena City Council,

On Wednesday, December 15, 2010, the South Pasadena City Council voted 3-2 on Agenda Item 18 to dissolve the South Pasadena Design Advisory Group (SPDAG) and transfer its responsibilities to a newly-constituted Freeway and Transportation Commission. This vote was null and void, and thus has no affect upon the organization, structure and functioning of the SPDAG.

During the Council meeting, Councilmember and SPDAG member Richard Schneider informed Mayor Mike Ten of the Council's lack of authority and jurisdiction over the SPDAG and noted that the agenda item should be withdrawn since it was outside the purview of the Council, but Mayor Ten proceeded with a vote anyway. The Council voted 3 in favor (Putnam, Sifuentes, Ten and 2 against (Cacciotti, Schneider).

Caltrans established the Design Advisory Groups in Pasadena, South Pasadena, and El Sereno to "consider the specific community mitigation needs of their community" at the direction of the Federal Highway Administration as a condition of the FHWA 1998 Record of Decision State Route 710 Freeway (ROD). FHWA specified that members "will include local officials, neighborhood representations, preservationists, and other interests".

Since the City Council has no authority or jurisdiction over Caltrans and/or the FHWA, they have no authority or jurisdiction over the SPDAG and thus cannot dissolve the SPDAG and transfer its responsibilities to a City Commission, so the agenda item was improper and out of order.

Therefore, the vote was null and void since it is outside the purview of the City Council and conflicts with the authority of state and federal government entities. Thus, the SPDAG should continue to operate in the future as it always has in the past, as a community input entity to Caltrans and the FHWA with the same members, organization, structure, and functioning.

In his 1999 order regarding the City's lawsuit granting a preliminary injunction, Judge Pregerson referenced the fact that the ROD included a promise to prepare a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) addressing changed conditions resulting, in part, from DAG activities. He also indicated that the commitment in the ROD to prepare an SEIS was binding on the defendants (FHWA & Caltrans).

That was one of the reasons the FHWA informed Caltrans in December 2003, that the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) approved in the ROD must be supplemented before the project can proceed and that a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS), followed by a new Record of Decision, is required.

The SPDAG still has a vital role providing Caltrans and FHWA with community input regarding the interim improvement projects and on any future SEIS process. In addition, the SPDAG is responsible for project changes and seeing the projects to completion. We ask the City Council and City Attorney to re-examine the responsibilities of the SPDAG being transferred to a City Commission so that we continue our important work serving the people of South Pasadena as we have for over a decade.

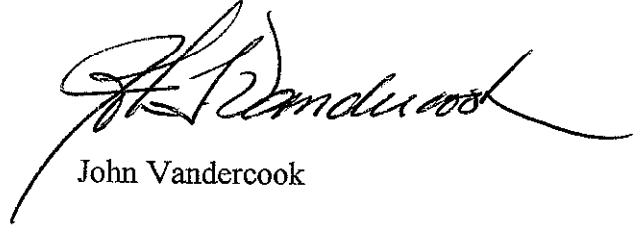
Respectfully the South Pasadena DAG members,




Robert Joe



Joanne Nuckols



John Vandercook



Mayor Pro Tem Michael Cacciotti



Councilman Richard Schneider, M.D.

Cc:

John Davidson, City Manager

Richard Adams, City Attorney

From: [Erin Fleming](#)
To: [City Council Public Comment](#)
Cc: [Elisabeth Emirhanian](#); [Ed Simpson](#); [Cornelia Balogh](#); [Eavie Porter](#); [Marcos Holquin](#); [Tracy Reiman](#); [Sheila Ananeh-Firemong](#); [Olivia Galvin](#); [Bev B](#); [City Clerk's Division](#); [Noelle Brown](#); [Michael Cacciotti](#); [Jon Primuth](#); [Jack Donovan](#); [Diana Mahmud](#)
Subject: City Council Meeting 02/23/22
Date: Tuesday, February 22, 2022 3:03:51 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the City of South Pasadena. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Council,

I will keep this short. I stood by our Council when you asked for increased sales taxes to “**maintain our South Pasadena public lifestyle for community and events**”. Your measure passed but you are failing now on your promises.

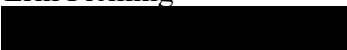
From my six years on The Animal Commission, I can tell you that everyone I have ever met serving their city on all commissions does so out of commitment to that way of life. Aside from “Rocking the Vote” on your sales tax increase measure, Commissioners enlist their neighbors and friends to help and volunteer on projects because enthusiasm is contagious.

I have been asked to help with your upcoming Be Kind to Animals event (in fact the email list looks to be exclusively “Animal Commissioner Who’s Who”) and I believe you will find it more difficult to come close to those volunteer hours put into events. Therefore, if events don’t get canceled all together, the city will have to use paid labor — Hardly the cost saving motive that I see in only non-specific terms on your agenda. While you will pay more, we the residents get less.

It is my opinion that this council is being wagged by people who work for the city but don’t live in this city.

Don’t let this be another time in recent years where our council over-promises and under-delivers.

Do your best,
Erin Fleming



.....
Mailed on the move
So excuse my brevity
Here is a Haiku

From: [Tracy Reiman](#)
To: [City Council Public Comment](#)
Subject: City Council Meeting 2-23-22 comments for agenda item #1
Date: Wednesday, February 23, 2022 11:03:30 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the City of South Pasadena. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mayor Cacciotti and Council Members,

I am sending again a letter from September of last year as it seems none of my concerns or my fellow South Pasadena citizens' concerns have been considered.

I write as a South Pasadena resident as well as on behalf of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) and our more than 600 members in the city to urge the Council not to disband the South Pasadena Animal Commission.

In the wake of the pandemic, many are reflecting on their impact on the world including all the deeply disturbing ways in which animals are violated. PETA has seen its support rapidly grow, for instance, during the past year perhaps because animals have played an important role in our collective sanity, or maybe the pandemic and lock-downs have helped them relate to the fear, loneliness, and confinement animals suffer as a result of human neglect and cruelty.

One of the great things about our city is the willingness of its leaders to do bold things, to be leaders, and we saw that when South Pasadena passed the life-saving ordinance banning the sale of commercially-bred dogs, cats, and rabbits a few years ago. The council, at the time, expressed interest in amending it further to ban the sale of *all* animals. Just as the Commission's work on this bill was being finalized, Covid hit and the work came to a halt, understandably. There had also been important discussion about a bill to require spay and neuter for dogs and cats in the city, something Pasadena and Los Angeles have already done, and something South Pasadena should do. There are many other important issues too, such as peacefully co-existing with coyotes and peacocks, beloved in our city by most, but not all.

There is much to be done still and the Animal Commission has played a vital role in evaluating and crafting these important initiatives for our city. Now is the time to *double* our efforts to protect animals, not cut back on them. We urge you to keep the Animal Commission in place so that it may continue to do the excellent work it has done for decades.

Sincerely,

Tracy Reiman
Executive Vice President

People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals



From: [Lucy Demirjian](#)
To: [City Council Public Comment](#)
Subject: FW: City Council Meeting 2-23-22 comments for agenda item #1
Date: Tuesday, February 22, 2022 1:19:13 PM

From: Betty Emirhanian [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, February 22, 2022 1:14 PM
To: City Clerk's Division <CityClerk@southpasadenaca.gov>
Cc: Erin Fleming [REDACTED]; Ed Simpson [REDACTED]; Bev B [REDACTED]; Jason Rosner [REDACTED]; Elizabeth Ann Erler <[REDACTED]>; Cornelia Balogh [REDACTED]; Mary Urquhart <[REDACTED]>; Bianca Richards [REDACTED]; Kay Findley [REDACTED]; Sherry Plotkin <[REDACTED]>; Tracy Reiman <[REDACTED]>; Ellen Wood <[REDACTED]>; Lela Bissner <[REDACTED]>; Olivia Galvin <[REDACTED]>; Dollie Chapman <[REDACTED]>; [REDACTED]; Joanne Nuckols [REDACTED]; Michael Cacciotti <mcacciotti@southpasadenaca.gov>; Diana Mahmud <dmahmud@southpasadenaca.gov>; Jack Donovan <jdonovan@southpasadenaca.gov>; Jon Primuth <jprimuth@southpasadenaca.gov>; Evelyn Zneimer <ezneimer@southpasadenaca.gov>
Subject: City Council Meeting 2-23-22 comments for agenda item #1

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the City of South Pasadena. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mayor and City Council Members,

I am disappointed to see the city recommendation to eliminate the Animal Commission. By incorporating the commission into a community services commission, issues related to animals are being reduced to a couple of animal community events, ignoring many important animal issues. I understand that the city staff and city council are overwhelmed with the number of commissions for a city our size. But, I did expect that the decision would be based on a fair hearing.

The agenda packet has distilled the role of the animal commission down to a few popular community events and vague wording about creating ordinances about birds. There is no mention of the long list of accomplishments. There is no mention of the letter sent to you and the city by a number of concerned residents asking the city to let the commission continue for just one more year so that it could finish some business that was left in limbo when covid hit (see letter below). All other commissions were allowed to meet again in 2021 except the Animal Commission.

I cannot shake the feeling that the Animal commission and it's commissioners, past and present) have not been treated with fairness or respect by our city, beginning with my last year on the commission in 2019 and extending to the meeting today. Sadly, I will never quite feel the same about this city that I have lived in and loved for almost 50 years.

Sincerely,

Elisabeth Emirhanian

As residents and former Commissioners, we are very concerned that the Animal Commission continues to be in limbo. Although we are very appreciative that you kept the commission from being eliminated, the fact remains that the commission has not met since March of 2020!

Rather than letting it continue to be on hiatus until the issue of too many commissions can be addressed by the city council, we strongly urge you to continue the commission for at least one more year. This would allow the commission to complete the important work that was interrupted by the Covid lockdown.

There is work pending within SPAC that deserves to be completed.

- The commission was asked by City Council to amend the ordinance to ban the sale of animals in South Pasadena. It was never allowed to be presented to the Council — which was extremely disrespectful to the commissioners who put in 50-75 hours each over the course of a year+ and community members who came to voice their concerns. The commission and the city deserve a hearing, regardless of the outcome. Although we do not have any stores selling pets at the moment, there is nothing stopping someone new coming in to sell animals.
- City Council sent a group of residents to the Commission to hear their issues related to Peafowl. SPAC was actively working on the peafowl problem with residents and had crafted some solutions & ideas that are still waiting to be presented to Council.
- The Pasadena Humane had asked the commission to work on a spay/neuter ordinance for the city and SPAC was working on that project.
- To clear up some of the Councilmembers' understanding of SPAC, SPAC is the group that reviews the PHS contract prior to it going to City Council. PHS has greatly increased its fees to the city and even its namesake City is looking at other options over the course of the year. This commission should be reviewing the agreement before it goes to Council.
- Mosquito activity in South Pasadena is on the rise and there's confirmation of the insects carrying West Nile Virus in the San Gabriel Valley. There needs to be public education on how to minimize the risk.
- Additionally, the Be Kind To Animals event is coming up soon and SPAC's guidance and boots on the ground would likely be appreciated by Sheila Pauch.

The South Pasadena residents deserve to have the commission finish the work it has started. Please appoint at least two more commissioners and continue the commission for a period of one year, after which the status of the commission can be reviewed.

Sincerely,

Betty Emirhanian
Erin Fleming
Beverly Biber
Bee Simpson

Ed Simpson
Tracy Reiman
Rabbi Jason Rosner
Sherry Plotkin
Mary Urquhart
Kay Findley
Bianca Richards
Lela Bissner
Cornelia Balough
Olivia Galvin
Brandy Guenveur
Dollie Chapman
Stephen Plotkin
Ellen Wood
Pat LoVerme
Bruce Crum
Diane Crum
Liz Calvert
Patrick O'Neal
Marysia Wojcik
Susie Henry
Sally Ehrheart
Lisa Shetler
Jean Shetler
Dorothy Mueller
Al Taylor
Gail Wetmore
Joanne Nuckols

From: [Ed Simpson](#)
To: [City Council Public Comment](#)
Subject: Fwd: Council Meeting Feb. 23, 2022 Agenda Item #1-Our Comments
Date: Wednesday, February 23, 2022 10:59:59 AM

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Begin forwarded message:

From: Ed Simpson <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Council Meeting Feb. 23, 2022 Agenda Item #1-Our Comments
Date: February 23, 2022 at 9:35:19 AM PST
To: Michael Cacciotti <mcacciotti@southpasadenaca.gov>, Jon Primuth <jprimuth@southpasadenaca.gov>, "ezneimer@southpasadenaca.gov" <ezneimer@southpasadenaca.gov>, "jdonovan@southpasadenaca.gov" <jdonovan@southpasadenaca.gov>, Diana Mahmud <dmahmud@southpasadenaca.gov>, City Clerk's Division <CityClerk@southpasadenaca.gov>

Dear Mayor and Council:

While we do believe there are many commissions in our city and they require much time of councilmembers, we are very disappointed that the solution for the Animal Commission is to join it with Senior, Youth and Public Recreation Commissions.

We strongly recommend you read why the animal commission was created. It could happen tomorrow that residents demand the council act on issues involving animals. We learned back in 1982 that the council and many residents had little experience with coyotes and had no idea where to obtain reliable data. Hard work was done by the residents serving on the Coyote Committee and was much appreciated by that council who decided to have a permanent commission on animal issues. Did you ever think the main reason our city has not had serious problems involving animals is because of the commission's work of researching and sharing knowledge with the council and residents?

We find it insulting for you to imply that you are handling animal issues by allowing a Be Kind to Animals event. You really miss the point of the work of the commission and the fact that our city has been well served by these good people who do extensive research, give much of their time, and save the council and city potential problems.

Likely most of you have limited experience with animals. Your pets are loved and cared for. You cannot be expected to know much about wildlife and human interactions. Those who have served on the commission have decades of experience. Ed and I have been activists on many animal issues since the early 1970's. Other commission members have the concern for animals beyond their pets while understanding many people are often quite uninformed. This breeds fear and strong, often dangerous, reactions.

Therefore we are urging you to make sure that you welcome the knowledge and generosity of past commissioners on all issues involving animals. How many people with animal interests will be on the new combined commission we do not yet know. It will be very difficult for just two people to do what five have done in the past.

We also would like a response as to why this, and only this, commission was placed on hiatus in 2019 while other commissions continued to meet.

Ed and Bee Simpson

From: [Phung Huynh](#)
To: [City Council Public Comment](#)
Subject: Public Comment for Agenda Item #6 for 2/23/2022 City Council Meeting
Date: Tuesday, February 22, 2022 5:31:40 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the City of South Pasadena. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear City Council Members,

My name is Phung Huynh, and I am a resident of South Pasadena in District 3. I am also Chair of the Public Art Commission, and I would like to make a public comment for Agenda Item #6, the recommendation to absorb the Public Art Commission into the existing Planning Commission.

Since its inception, the Public Art Commission has included dedicated artists, educators, curators, managers, arts and culture professionals, and cultural builders who have years of experience in LA County and nationwide. The collective wealth of knowledge and expertise of the Public Art Commission provides a robust advisory group that would shape public art policies, create opportunities for quality arts and culture public programming, endorse meaningful public art for our communities, invite renown artists to contribute to our city, work hard to make South Pasadena an artist friendly city, and advocate for diversity, inclusion, and equity in the arts.

Although communication and collaboration between the Public Art Commission and the Planning Commission are necessary, I strongly disagree with a decision to absorb the Public Art Commission into the existing Planning Commission. It does not make sense for Planning commissioners with no arts background to lead in public art policy as it would also not make sense for commissioners with no planning background to lead in the consistent physical development of the city. Absorbing the Public Art Commission into the Planning Commission would signal that public art is not a priority in a county that has a nationally recognized public art department, and it would devalue art as a vital, cultural part of our community. South Pasadena is a city in Los Angeles County, a vibrant arts center that serves a global and international audience. I urge you not to absorb the Public Art Commission into the existing Planning Commission. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Phung Huynh