



**CITY OF SOUTH PASADENA
NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, MARCH 26, 2024, AT 7:00 P.M.**

CALL TO ORDER:

The Meeting of the South Pasadena Natural Resources and Environmental Commission was called to order by Chair Michael Siegel on March 26, 2024, at 7:01 P.M. in the City Council Chambers, 1424 Mission Street, South Pasadena, California.

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT

Chair	Michael Siegel
Vice Chair	Emily Ng
Commissioner	Amy Davis Jones
Commissioner	Casey Law
Commissioner	Richard Tom
Commissioner	Rona Bortz
Council Liaison	Councilmember Michael Cacciotti

ABSENT

Commissioner	Liam R. de Villa Bourke
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CITY STAFF PRESENT:

Arpy Kasparian, Environmental Services & Sustainability Manager, and Melanis Stepanian, Management Assistant were present at Roll Call. Other staff members presented reports or responded to questions as indicated in the minutes.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Flag Salute was led by Chair Siegel.

PUBLIC COMMENT

1. PUBLIC COMMENT – GENERAL (NON-AGENDA ITEMS)

In Person Public Comments:

None.

PRESENTATION**2. SOUTH COAST AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT**

Councilmember Cacciotti, Vice Chair of the South Coast AQMD Board, delivered a presentation on the sources and types of air pollution, their health impacts, and the City's investments in clean air.

The Commissioners and Councilmember Cacciotti discussed how the City could improve local air quality by pushing for environmental policies. Councilmember Cacciotti also discussed the incentives and rebates South Coast AQMD provides. The discussion also touched on opportunities to fund projects that improve local air quality.

In Person Public Comments:

None.

DISCUSSION/ACTION**3. SELECTION OF PLASTICS AD HOC COMMITTEE**

Environmental Services & Sustainability Manager, Arpy Kasparian, discussed opportunities for the City to meet goals outlined in the City's Green Action Plan. These goals include becoming a plastic-free city by implementing a Plastics Ad Hoc Committee. She also spoke about the duties of the ad hoc committee and suggested that the Commission further outline these duties.

Commissioner Jones and Commissioner Bortz volunteered to join the Plastics Ad Hoc Committee.

In Person Public Comments

None.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 27, 2024, NREC MEETING**Recommendation**

It is recommended that the Commission review and consider approval of the February 27, 2024, Meeting Minutes.

COMMISSION ACTION AND MOTION

A motion was made by Commissioner Law, seconded by Commissioner Tom and approved by roll call vote to approve the February 27, 2024, NREC Meeting Minutes. The motion carried 5-1-0, by the following vote:

AYES: Siegel, Ng, Jones, Law, and Tom.
NOES: None.
ABSENT: De Villa Bourke
ABSTAINED: Bortz

COMMUNICATIONS

5. CITY COUNCIL LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS

City Council Liaison Cacciotti had no comments.

6. COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS

Commissioner Law spoke about the removal of the bike lane on Grand Ave and traffic safety.

Commissioner Jones asked Commissioners and Staff to participate in her compost video.

Chair Siegel spoke about the bike lane removal on Grand Ave. and air quality concerns.

Vice Chair Ng, Commissioner Tom, and Commissioner Bortz had no comments.

7. STAFF LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS

Environmental Services & Sustainability Manager, Arpy Kasparian, promoted Earth Month events such as the Sustainability Fair, Plant Swap, and Garden Tour on April 6th, the Compost and Mulch Giveaway on April 13th, and two lectures as part of the library's Sowing South Pasadena initiative on April 1st and April 16th.

Public Works Director, Ted Gerber, announced the agreement between the City, San Gabriel, and Alhambra with the SGVCOG to host the 2024 Active Streets Mission to Mission event on Sunday, April 28th.

8. UPCOMING EVENTS

- Ed Begley Jr. Author Talk
April 1 – 7:00pm – Library Community Room
- Sustainability Fair, Garden Tour, and Plant Swap
April 6 - 1:00pm-4:00pm – Arroyo Seco Woodland and Wildlife Park
- Free Compost and Mulch Giveaway
April 13 - 9:00am-12:00pm - Arroyo Golf Course Parking Lot
- Greening South Pasadena: Unveiling the Healing Powers of Native Flora and Fauna with Matthew Teutimez
April 16 – 7:00pm – Library Community Room
- LA County Smart Gardening Webinars
(<https://www.ladpw.org/epd/sq/webinars.cfm>)

- MWD Turf Removal + CA Native Landscape Webinars (<https://greengardensgroup.com/turf-transformation/>)

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further matters, Chair Siegel adjourned the meeting of the Natural Resources and Environmental Commission at 8:14 P.M. to the next Regular Commission meeting scheduled for April 23, 2024.

Respectfully submitted:  A8668A5FD78B40E...

Arpy Kasparian
Staff Liaison, Environmental Services &
Sustainability Manager

APPROVED:  7B331B51C835414...

Michael Siegel
Chair

Approved at Commission: May 28, 2024