

MINUTES
NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING – January 26, 2016

Roll Call – The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m. Present were Commissioners Nancy Wilms, Kay Findley, Al Benzoni, William Kelly, Noah Puni (arriving at 7:22p.m.), and Vice-Chair Scott Kuhn. Absent was Commissioner Stephen Leider. Present were Council Liaison Robert Joe, Student Commissioner Emily Ng and Staff Liaisons Lucy Demirjian and Amber Duran.

Minutes - Commissioner Benzoni proposed an amendment to the minutes from December 22, 2015 item 7. The sentence, "Project size was discussed." should state, "An Issue was raised about why graywater requirements wouldn't apply to larger than duplex developments." (Benzoni, Wilms 4-0).

Public Comments and Suggestions - n/a

1. **Election of Chair and Vice Chair** – Commissioners discussed who would be available and willing to be chair. Demirjian informed Commissioners that the end of March is the deadline for Chair election. Election will be kept on the agenda for next meeting.

City's Urban Forest Update – Spring 2016 planting plan and map from Public Works Operations Manager Kristine Courdy was distributed. Findley presented an additional map of 789 vacancies for trees acquired from City Arborist Gonzalo Maravilla. Findley reported from her conversations with Arborist Maravilla that there are plans to add 55 trees from March to May 2016 with a \$17,875 fiscal year budget. Commissioners discussed how involved NREC wants to be with tree selection and expressed concern over a small budget. Demirjian will verify the tree budget; she said Courdy will be introduced at the next meeting and will be able to answer questions. Commissioners request that Maravilla be present every quarter to give updates on the tree planting plans. In the name of efficiency, Commissioner's questions for Maravilla will be formulated and submitted in writing prior to meeting and City's Urban Forest Updates will be first on the agenda when Maravilla is present for meetings.

2. **West Coast Arborists' Contract** – Commissioners Wilms and Puni along with interested citizen Kim Hughes will be requesting a meeting with the City Manager Sergio Gonzalez, Mayor Diana Mahmud, and Public Works Director Paul Toor, to assist in the West Coast Arborists' contract. Benzoni requested read only access to the WCA software for NREC. Duran distributed WCA invoices from 2013- 2014 & 2014-2015. Duran will send invoices quarterly to Commissioners. Councilmember Joe noted Courdy would be present at the next NREC meeting for further discussion.

3. **Styrofoam Ban** – Puni recommends using Santa Monica's Styrofoam Ban ordinance since the Pasadena ordinance hasn't been enacted yet. Puni volunteered to be a subcommittee

and head the efforts to prepare a draft ordinance for South Pasadena. Kelly will update the NREC at the next meeting on the status of the Styrofoam ban in Pasadena. Puni will provide a list of alternate providers. Duran will again provide the “Styrofoam Ban List” from October of 2015 to Commissioners.

4. Water Conservation and Drought Actions – The State’s Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance (MWELO) was introduced and new rebate amounts were approved on January 20, 2016 by City Council. Duran will give Commissioners updates every six months on how many rebates were issued. Demirjian reported an update on recruitment for Debby Figoni’s replacement and plans to have the position filled by end of March.

5. Water Conservation Programs – Programs are on hold until Water Conservation Analyst position is filled.

6. Graywater – Benzoni will send graywater ordinance draft to Duran and Kelly. Commissioners discussed whether the ordinance should be expanded to include commercial buildings, multi-family complexes greater than duplexes, and remodels to existing structures. Demirjian said the draft ordinance was submitted to Planning staff for review and consideration at a future meeting of the Planning Commission.

7. Golf Course subcommittee – Nothing new to update since subcommittee canceled last meeting and will meet in February.

8. Upcoming events- Duran stated that the CoolCalifornia Challenge is ongoing and encouraged Commissioners to participate. Duran will forward link to Commissioners. Earth Day event and Clean Air Car Show/Green Living Expo will be combined this year and tentatively slated for the first week of May to coincide with Water Week.

9. Renewable Energy Council – Kelly reported the council has had 2 meetings and have formed technical, finance, and public affairs subcommittees. A public tour is to take place January 30, 2016 at 9am to view certain City building roof tops and water reservoir facilities for their suitability to add solar panels. The REC will be evaluating solar energy potential and energy efficiency standing and opportunities. Benzoni inquired about local Climate Action Plans and whether the Council should start gathering baseline information about energy use.

Chair Communications- n/a

Commissioner Communications- Findley reported that the Stable subcommittee had its first meeting on January 12, 2016. They will be meeting monthly as they assist in evaluating the stable’s current lease and the need for future RFP’s. Findley voiced concerns about traffic, impacted schools, and public pushback in regards to The Mission Place Project development.

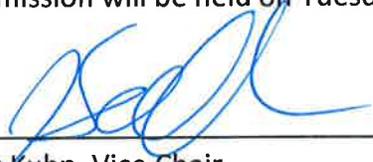
Kuhn reported that the school district has a link and comment section on their website. Demirjian confirmed that the comment period was still open.

Council Liaison Communications- Councilmember Joe reported the City Council will go forward with a financial assistance application to the State Water Resources Control Board for projects related to the Graves Reservoir.

Staff Liaison Communications- Demirjian reported that staff will carry on water conservation efforts through continued outreach and rebate processing as a water conservation analyst replacement is sought.

Adjournment - The meeting adjourned at 8:37 p.m. (Benzoni, Puni 7-0).

NEXT MEETING – The next regular meeting of the Natural Resources and Environmental Commission will be held on Tuesday, February 23, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.



Scott Kuhn, Vice Chair