

MINUTES
NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
July 26, 2016

Roll Call – The meeting was called to order at 7:05p.m. Present were Commissioners: Chair William Kelly, Vice-Chair Scott Kuhn, Noah Puni, Kay Findley, and Nancy Wilms. Commissioner Al Benzoni arrived at 7:33pm. Absent were Commissioner Stephen Leider, and Council Liaison Robert Joe. Also present was Staff Liaison Jenna Shimmin.

Minutes – Minutes from June 28, 2016 were approved with corrections to Commissioner Kay Findley’s “Commissioner Communication”, clarifying that there was only one response to the City’s RFP, and now a RFQ would be sent out in regards to the Stables Subcommittee (Kuhn, Puni 5-0, Absent: Benzoni and Leider).

Public Comments and Suggestions – None.

BUSINESS ITEMS

1. **South Pasadena Polystyrene Ban (Shimmin)** – Jenna Shimmin advised the commission that one business community meeting had been held in conjunction with the Chamber of Commerce. Only one attendee, with hopefully the majority of business owners planning to attend the July 27th meeting. Input so far is that banning Styrofoam containers is fine, but alternatives for other types of containers have been difficult to find, and have an increased cost. Staff findings are that hot cup lids are quite difficult to find that are 100% not made of polystyrene 6; and that quality straw alternatives are difficult to find as well.

Staff will bring back more information, as well as a draft ordinance at the August meeting.
2. **Grey Water (Benzoni)** – Commissioner Benzoni gave a presentation on various models for a grey water system in a single family home. Some of the plans were from other cities, and had been formally adopted by their councils. One example was for a two-story home. There were examples of whole home systems, a system centralized to the restroom(s) only, and a drain waste recycling (DWR) system. These systems could potentially save 40% of the water transported in a home with the typical cost for a less complex system being around \$500. Commissioner Benzoni to send plans he presented, and Jenna Shimmin will forward them to Public Works for their review.
3. **NREC 2015-16 Annual Report (Kelly)** – The NREC’s annual report is due to the City Clerk’s office on August 26th, and will be presented to the Council on September 8th. Staff sent out a draft report, and commissioners have been giving their edits. A final report for formal adoption as an agenda item will be presented at the August meeting.
4. **Water Conservation Programs and Drought Actions (Shimmin)** – The City had a total water reduction of 27.3% for May 2016 and 28% for June 2016 versus the same months in 2013. Jenna Shimmin advised the Commission that the Council is interested in revisiting the days

of the week irrigation is allowed. Because the City has self-certified a 0%, and the State's restrictions have been lifted, there are not the triggers for Stage 2 of the Water Conservation Ordinance. The Commission would like to review what these triggers are, as many of the Commissioners do not support increasing the number of days irrigation will be allowed because of long-term water supply concerns.

INFORMATION ONLY

5. **West Coast Arborist Contract Update** – Nancy Wilms requested a copy of future drafts, as she would like to be kept in the loop and provide input on the contract. She would like to see more transparency in the contract language and pricing break down.
6. **Urban Forest Update** – Jenna Shimmin provided an update that trimming is in progress in the following grids: Phase 1 Arterial Streets, and Grid 8A; and trimming is complete in the following grids: Phase 2 Arterial Streets, Grid 6B, and Grid 7A. In Fiscal Year 2015/16 2,528 trees were trimmed, 105 trees were removed, and 85 trees were planted. Staff is currently in the process of planning the Grid Pruning cycle, as well as tree removals and replacements for the 2016/17 Fiscal Year.
7. **Tree Care and Watering Article Update** – Staff advised the commission that a tree care article will be released in the next week that will also briefly discuss the LLMD update. Commission requested that the article be placed on the City's website permanently.
8. **Commissioner Training** – Staff advised the commissioners about a training on August 24th.
9. **Arbor Access** – Staff reviewed the demo that was held on July 14th, highlighting the abilities of the system to search by nearly any criteria one could think of. Chair Kelly expressed that he was pleased with all that system could provide.
10. **Upcoming Events** – National Night Out August 2nd, Household Hazardous Waste and E-Waste event August 27th, Clean Air Car Show & Green Living Expo September 10th, and the Descanso Garden Event - Rain Barrel event September 18th. Commission asked staff to look into a street banner for the HHW event.

Chair Communications- Chair Kelly advised that the Renewable Energy Council presented their report to Council at the July 20th council meeting, and it was favorably received. Council directed staff to look into putting solar panels at City Hall and the reservoirs. He also asked that at the next meeting the commission review its work plan to take stock of progress.

Commissioner Communications-

Commission Puni: No updates at this time.

Commissioner Kuhn: Reported that there are four trees on Fair Oaks, just south of Columbia, that don't look healthy.

Commissioner Benzoni: Attended the July 20th council meeting, and felt that Chair Kelly's report was well done. He agrees with the majority of the report. Feels that a correctly sized

system should be put on Garfield Reservoir. He doesn't feel that a battery at City Hall is beneficial at this time, until the technology advances. There is a limited life of 6 years, and so it would be more financially beneficial to put more solar cells elsewhere.

Commissioner Findley: Seconded a desire to review the work plan. She would like to see an item regarding increasing residents' personal responsibility and pride in caring for their yards. The care of the parkways falls on the homeowner, and people need to be reminded of this. She would like to see public outreach on "How to be a good neighbor with the property around you". She also gave an update on the Stables Subcommittee: the RFQ is being developed. They are looking for someone qualified to visit other stables with the subcommittee members.

Commissioner Wilms: No updates at this time.

Council Liaison Communications- Not in attendance.

Staff Liaison Communications-

Staff advised the commission that social media posts regarding the mobile game "Pokemon Go" can be used to promote residents to take good care of their city.

Adjournment – Commissioner Benzoni motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:23 p.m., Commissioner Puni seconded. Ayes: All (Absent – Leider), Nays: None.

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

William Kelly, Chair