

MINUTES
NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
June 28, 2016

Roll Call – The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. Present were Commissioners: Chair William Kelly, Vice-Chair Scott Kuhn, Noah Puni, Kay Findley, and Student Commissioner Emily Ng. Commissioner Nancy Wilms arrived at 7:08pm, and Commissioner Al Benzoni arrived at 8:13pm. Absent was Commissioner Stephen Leider. Present were Council Liaison Robert Joe and Staff Liaison Jenna Shimmin.

Minutes – Minutes from May 24, 2016 were approved (Kuhn, Puni 4-0).

Public Comments and Suggestions – Mary Ferrero, a South Pasadena resident, inquired about two palm trees marked to be removed by Public Works. She expressed to the NREC the importance of trees in our area and requested they not be removed, if possible. Resident was advised to visit Public Works for more information.

BUSINESS ITEMS

1. **South Pasadena Polystyrene Ban (Puni)** – Commissioner Puni presented a brief synopsis of the background so far of a polystyrene ban proposal. Commissioner Kelly reiterated what was said in a memo that was sent to the commissioners. This memo supported proposing a ban similar to Manhattan Beach’s ordinance, with the addition of a ban on lids and straws.
 - a. **Public Comment** – Laurie Wheeler, President of the South Pasadena Chamber of Commerce, advised the commission that she felt it would be beneficial to host a few informational meetings with local businesses in order to educate and inform them about the proposed ban, and to gain insight into what the businesses think about the ban. She requested that the commission give her time to reach out to the businesses before it makes any formal recommendations to the City Council.
 - b. **Staff recommendation** – Jenna Shimmin recommended that the commission meet with the business community prior to making any formal recommendations.
 - c. **Council liaison recommendation** – Councilman Robert Joe advised that it is the responsibility of the commission to do public outreach before an item is brought before the Council for consideration. The Council will want to know the opinion of the community prior to making its decision.

A timeline was discussed regarding this ban. It would be several months before this item would be presented to the Council, with it taking a few months for formal adoption of the ordinance. There would be no impact to businesses in this year. Commissioners Kelly suggested meeting with businesses to discuss what the Styrofoam Subcommittee is considering proposing to the NREC, and how it will affect them. Commissioner Kuhn made a motion that meetings be held while staff drafts an ordinance that is similar to that of

Manhattan Beach, but also includes items such as lids and straws, pending the outcome of the public meetings with businesses. The draft should be brought back in two months.
Second: Commissioner Puni, Ayes: All (Absent – Benzoni and Leider), Nays: None.

2. **Public Education on Tree Watering (Kelly)** – The commission requested that staff write an article regarding proper tree care and watering.
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 is requesting all items be submitted by August 1st, and a final copy of the report will be submitted for approval at the August 23rd meeting.
4. **NREC Meetings** – Commissioner Wilms suggested that if a meeting were to be cancelled, it should be the July meeting rather than the August meeting as that is when the draft ordinance will be completed by staff. Commissioners Kuhn and Findley stated they would rather meet all summer. Commissioner Puni stated he would agree to whatever the majority decided. The commission ultimately chose to continue meeting for the summer, and not “Go Dark” for any meetings.
5. **Water Conservation Programs and Drought Actions (Shimmin)** – The City had a total water reduction of 29.1% for April 2016 versus 2013. The State recently asked water agencies to self-certify their water reduction targets. They asked for the next three years of projected water use and projected water supply with the difference between the two being the agencies’ new water conservation standard. The City of South Pasadena self-certified at 0%. Staff asked for Commission support to take an item before council to set a reduction goal, in order to maintain a reliable water supply. Commissioner Findley made a motion that the City of South Pasadena maintain a 20% reduction target through the year 2020. Second: Commissioner Kuhn, Ayes: All (Absent – Leider), Nays: None.

INFORMATION ONLY

6. **Water Conservation Rebates Report** – MWD current FY: 68 applicants paid for turf removal and 34 on the reservation list; 227 paid applicants for all other rebate items. City current FY: 62 toilets rebated.
7. **Code of Ethics and Values** – Commissioners submitted their signed copies.
8. **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. Between June 1 and June 15, 2016 there were eight dead trees discovered in grids 8A and 6B that will be scheduled for removal, and replacement in the fall of 2016.
9. **Drought Restriction Violation Update** – 227 first time violation tags issued so far FY15-16.
10. **Commissioner Training** – Staff advised the commissioners about a training on August 24th.

11. **Arbor Access** –Staff would like to set up a demonstration of the Arbor Access system for any commissioners that would like to attend. Staff to email commissioners for availability.
12. **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 Days - Rain Barrel event September 18th.

Chair Communications- Chair Kelly advised that the Renewable Energy Council finalized their report, and will be presenting it at the July 20th council meeting. It discusses putting solar panels in various locations throughout the city.

Commissioner Communications-

Commission Puni: On July 17th, Grass Roots is having an event.

Commissioner Benzoni: Requested that grey water be put on the July agenda.

Commissioner Findley: Stated that the San Pasqual Stables Subcommittee met with a contractor to visit the stables to provide recommendations, and they're looking into other alternatives as well; and Steven Peters joined the committee.

Commissioner Wilms: Requested a status update from Public Works regarding the resident who petitioned to be exempt from the tree replacement ordinance; briefly discussed the current fire hazard conditions caused by the drought and beetles; and provided her amendments to the West Coast Arborist contract.

Commissioner Kuhn: Reported that the Golf Course Subcommittee will be going on a local golf course tour.

Student Commissioner Ng: Thanked the commission for the experience.

Council Liaison Communications- No updates at this time.

Staff Liaison Communications-

Staff advised the commission that 2015 Urban Water Management Plan has been finalized, and to forward any comments as soon as possible.

Adjournment – Commissioner Kuhn motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:58 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 July 26, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.