

**CITY OF SOUTH PASADENA
NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
MINUTES – October 18, 2016**

Roll Call – The meeting was called to order at 7:04p.m. Present were Commissioners: Chair William Kelly, Vice-Chair Scott Kuhn, Al Benzoni, Stephen Leider, Noah Puni (arrived 7:36pm) and Nancy Wilms. Commissioner Al Benzoni arrived at 7:33pm. Absent was Commissioner Kay Findley. Also present were Council Liaison Robert Joe (arrived at 7:25pm), Student Commission Hailey Bugg, and Staff Liaison Jenna Shimmin.

Opening- The new student commissioner, Hailey Bugg was introduced and welcomed by all.

Minutes – Approval of the minutes from September 27, 2016 were tabled until the November meeting.

Public Comments and Suggestions – None.

BUSINESS ITEMS

1. **Use of pesticides and fertilizers at City parks (Shimmin)** – Jenna Shimmin reviewed the 2014 Public Works staff report that details the pesticides and fertilizers used throughout the City, and comments from Amber Duran regarding the potential toxicity of certain product, with the level of risk differing with the frequency and time of application.

Chair Kelly: Review materials he sent out regarding various studies done in other areas, including Malibu, Irvine, Maryland County (Maryland), Reno (Nevada), and Connecticut. He also reviewed a media outlet, Beyond Pesticides, which gathers studies and other relative data regarding pesticide use and their effects. All these sources have very comprehensive information on policies.

One of them in particular, Tacoma Park, Maryland County, is similar to South Pasadena. Montgomery County, Maryland requires a sign to be displayed for 72 hours after spraying. The city of Portland, OR organized volunteer weed pulling events, as an alternative to chemical treatments. This required about 107 hours of volunteer time per park each year, and roughly \$3600/year per park in City costs.

Need to have the following questions answered by Public Works staff:

- Is this list correct? Are they all still used, if not what is used instead?
- How often are the pesticides used?
 - o How are they used?
 - o Where?
- How often are the fertilizers used?
 - o How are they used?
 - o Where?

- How often is the weed control used?
 - o How are they used?
 - o Where?
- Are the pest truly a problem? Or are these measures more preventative?
 - o Are we able to stop using any of the products currently in use?
- Is runoff a potential issue?
- Do we know what is used at the golf course? And the stables?

Commission agrees that we should look to promote more green practices where possible to ensure we don't cause undue concern. Will discuss further once Public Works responds.

2. **Gray Water (Benzoni)** – Commissioner Benzoni has replied to Craig Melicher regarding language clarification, and ordinance intent. Staff is awaiting his response to move forward. Benzoni also provided draft language developed in 2015. This includes the language for climatic allowance. The language also clarifies that the system doesn't have to be connected, the home owner can do this at their leisure. Hoping to bring this back for formal recommendation in January.

Reviewed other cities that are being proactive in their ordinances. Discussed “zero water” or “water neutrality” currently being developed in Santa Monica. It is having a hard time finding existing data to support and guide its ordinance. The City of San Francisco has a fairly aggressive gray water ordinance.

3. **Tree Ordinance review (Kelly)** – The Commissioners discussed issues they've seen around the city with trees being trimmed improperly, which are not a violation of the tree ordinance, but possibly should be. Asked staff to have someone from Public Works attend the next meeting to discuss this issue, along with a more in depth urban forest update. The following questions came of the discussion for Public Works:

- Who approves tree removal applications, and where is it codified?
- Should Building Permit applications come through the NREC when they relate to tree removal?
- Is there a new system for permits coming online?
- Can the tree removal permit applications be tracked in an Excel spreadsheet?
- Where is the list of heritage trees?
- Language of SPMC Chapter 36, Article VI needs to be cleaned up.
- Does the Police Department add the cost of damaged tree replacement (from car accidents, etc.) to the police report/claim for property damage?

4. **Water Conservation Programs and Drought Actions (Shimmin)** – The City had a total water reduction of 28% for September 2016 versus the same month in 2013. This gives the City a cumulative reduction of 27.2% since June 2015.

INFORMATION ONLY

5. **Urban Forest Update** – Jenna Shimmin provided an update that trimming has begun in the following grids: Grid 9 south east side of City, Grid 8B eastern side of the City. Staff is currently in the process of planning the remaining grid pruning, tree removals and replacements.
6. **Upcoming Events** – Meeting with Mayor and Restaurant Association regarding the Expanded Polystyrene Ordinance on October 28th; Arroyo Seco Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study Workshop on November 15th; and the Mayor's State of the City Address on December 14th.

Chair Communications- Discussed the Expanded Polystyrene Ban and outreach efforts.

Commissioner Communications-

Commissioner Puni: Discussed the Health Expo held at Grassroots on October 1st; event was a success and widely attended by a large group.

Commissioner Benzoni, Leider, and Wilms: No updates at this time.

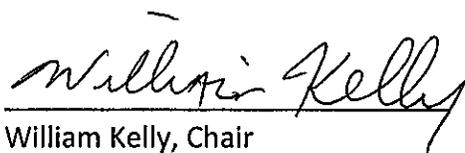
Commissioner Kuhn: Attended the Grassroots Health Expo, and echoed the success of the event.

Council Liaison Communications- Advised the commission that he will work with Public Works to put together a tour for the NREC of all parks and landscape areas, so the Commission can have a better idea of what the City's landscape areas looks like.

Staff Liaison Communications- Recapped the landscape workshop, as well as the dumpster day event.

Adjournment – Commissioner Leider motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:24 p.m., Commissioner Puni seconded. Ayes: All (Absent – Findley), Nays: None.

NEXT MEETING – The next meeting of the Natural Resources and Environmental Commission will be held on November 22, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.


William Kelly, Chair