

**CITY OF SOUTH PASADENA
NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
MINUTES – November 22, 2016**

Roll Call – The meeting was called to order at 7:02p.m. Present were Commissioners: Chair William Kelly, Vice-Chair Scott Kuhn, Al Benzoni, and Kay Findley. Absent were Commissioners Stephen Leider, Noah Puni, and Nancy Wilms, as well as Student Commissioner Hailey Bugg. Also present were Council Liaison Robert Joe, and Staff Liaison Jenna Shimmin.

Minutes –Minutes from September 27, 2016 were approved (Kuhn, Benzoni 4-0; Absent: Leider, Puni, and Wilms).

Public Comments and Suggestions – None.

BUSINESS ITEMS

1. **Use of pesticides and fertilizers at City parks (Shimmin)** – This item was tabled until the January, 2017 meeting, as the position of Park Supervisor is currently vacant. Public Works is suggesting any changes that come from this discussion be taken to Council during future contract negotiations. The current contract is set to expire in July, 2017.
2. **Gray Water (Benzoni)** – Craig Melicher, from Building and Planning, provided draft language that was more aggressive than what the NREC initially proposed. Commissioner Benzoni reviewed his emailed response to Craig, in which he expressed that while the NREC initially took the less aggressive stance, he fully supports the proposed language. There were just a few exceptions that he had:
 - a. Add language regarding an “Undue hardship” exemption, that requires a Building official to make the determination
 - b. Exclude bathroom sinks from the connection requirement because of the contents of the water that goes down drain (e.g. toothpaste, hair from shaving, etc.)
 - c. Consider making this applicable to complete remodels, where a home is “guttred”

Not including commercial properties, at this time. But there was discussion over whether or not multi-family should be included in this, and at what size is a multi-unit property is considered commercial. The NREC would like this item to go before the Planning Commission for its input on the multi-family/commercial issue, as well as the requirement for complete remodels to comply.

Commissioner Benzoni suggested supporting the draft language with the following changes (Motion: Chair Kelly, Second: Kuhn, Favor: All [4], Against: 0):

- Add language for “Undue hardship”
- Look at the applicability to complete remodels

- Exclude bathroom sinks from the connection requirement
 - Keep to residential dwellings of 2 units or less
3. **Tree Ordinance review (Kelly)** – Discussed the importance of proper tree care, especially in regards to proper tree trimming practices, and proper tree planting (right tree, right place). The commissioners feel that there should be language in the Tree Ordinance regarding mandatory property maintenance (watering, trimming, etc.). They also feel that the City needs to maintain a focus on trees, especially with the LLMD ballots going out soon, and the potential increase of funds available for tree maintenance, replacement, and improved irrigation systems. The commission wants to look at the necessity of altering the ordinance language to cover private property trees, and what is currently available as far as enforcement. Also, some of the code is contradictory and should be updated to be consistent.

Commissioner Benzoni will continue to look into this to get answers to all their questions, so that the NREC can move forward with recommending changes to the ordinance.

The commission asked staff to look into the possibility of Tree Removal Permit requests being accessible online via a tree removal permit database (spreadsheet, etc.) so that residents can know about a removal request in their area. This would make it easier and more accessible than having to go through a Public Record's Request.

The commission discussed the possibility of tree issues brought to the NREC, instead of the building commission, to ensure that the correct species and care are being approved. Perhaps the Planning Commission shouldn't be the sole purveyor of all things tree related when it comes to developments. Staff, either Public Works or Environmental Programs, should review. Site plans with tree issues should be subject to approval by a designated person, similar to the Landscape Plan Check process. Need to look into what other cities do in regards to this issue.

Commissioner Benzoni to email staff a modified tree questionnaire that will be sent out.

4. **Organic Waste Ordinance (Shimmin)** – Jenna Shimmin discussed the requirements of AB 1826, which requires generators of organic waste to separate it for pick up, and diversion to a source other than a landfill. Staff will be taking an item to Council on December 21st to approve an ordinance governing this requirement. There will be 17 businesses affected in total as of January 1, 2017, per the requirements of AB 1826. The commission requested to know who these affected businesses are.
5. **Water Conservation Programs and Drought Actions (Shimmin)** – The City had a total water reduction of 24% for October 2016 versus the same month in 2013. This gives the City a cumulative reduction of 27% since June 2015.
6. **December's meeting (Shimmin)** – Would like to have a joint meeting of the NREC and Renewable Energy Council (REC) for a presentation from a company called Climatech,

regarding the next step for recommendations in the REC's report. To be held December 8th at 7 pm, and the regular meeting on December 27th will be canceled.

INFORMATION ONLY

7. **Urban Forest Update** – Jenna Shimmin provided an update that trimming is near completion in the following grids: Grid 9 (90% complete) south east side of City, Grid 8B (78% complete) eastern side of the City. Staff is currently in the process of planning the remaining grid pruning, tree removals and replacements.
Trimming has been completed in the Arroyo Park and along Arroyo Drive. It was recently discovered that numerous trees in the Arroyo are infested with the polyphagous shot hole borer, a beetle, and will need to be removed or treated.
8. **Upcoming Events** – LLMD Community Meeting on November 29th at 6:30pm; Mayor's State of the City Address on December 14th.

Chair Communications- None at this time.

Commissioner Communications-

Commissioner Benzoni: No updates at this time.

Commissioner Findley: Gave an update from the Stable Committee – the committee has recommended hiring ICG, which is an independent consulting group. It will cost \$15,000, or less, to have ICG assist with an assessment of what is needed at the stables. The commission is having a hard time getting commissioners to attend the meetings, which is slowing things slightly.

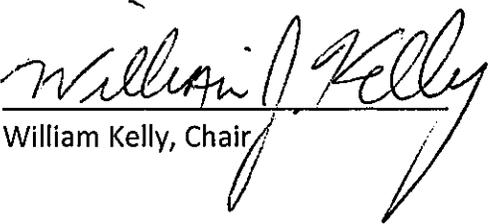
Commissioner Kuhn: He is terming out next month, leaving a vacancy on the NREC. He expressed his gratitude to his fellow commissioners, and stated that he enjoyed his time on the NREC.

Council Liaison Communications- None at this time.

Staff Liaison Communications- None at this time.

Adjournment – Vice-Chair Kuhn motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 p.m., Commissioner Benzoni seconded. Ayes: All (Absent – Leider, Puni and Wilms), Nays: None.

NEXT MEETING – The next meeting of the Natural Resources and Environmental Commission will be held on December 8, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.


William Kelly, Chair