

**CITY OF SOUTH PASADENA**  
**NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**  
**MINUTES – January 22, 2019**

- 1) **Call to Order/Roll Call:** The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm. Introductions of the new Commissioners. Present were: Lauren Myles, Bill Kelly, Madeline Di Giorgi, Rona Bortz, and Cynthia Liu. Commissioner Leider and Commissioner Jones were absent. Council Liaison Dr. Marina was present. Staff present: Leaonna DeWitt, Public Works Assistant.
- 2) **Approval of Minutes – Meeting of October 23, 2018**  
Minutes approved as submitted. (Myles, Bortz; unanimous)
- 3) **Public Comment**  
None
- 4) **Discussion/Action Items:**
  - A. Clean Power Alliance and the 100% Clean Power Presentation: Public Information Officer, John Pope, provided an overview of the Clean Power Alliance Program. John answered questions of the Commission and no action was taken.
  - B. Tree Removal Hearings
    - a. 1921 Illinois Drive – Maia Durant and Fernando PA presented a brief overview of their tree removal request to remove two pine trees and argued that the cost of tree maintenance was unreasonable; the denial of the tree removal permit would be a hardship; the proposed replacements provide a greater benefit than the existing trees value. The applicants based their argument on the South Pasadena Municipal Code (SPMC) Section 34.7- Criteria for approving tree removal permit. The applicants answered questions from the Commission and after some discussion a motion was made to deny the removal of the two pine trees. (Di Giorgi, Bortz; unanimous)
    - b. 2060 Primrose Avenue – Wilson Vong and Mrs. Vong presented a brief overview of their tree removal request to removal one (1) pine and one (1) oak. He stated his youngest son is asthmatic and his health has deteriorated since moving to the home. The applicants removed a significant amount of shrubs and foliage from around the perimeter in an attempt to relieve his son’s symptoms. The applicants answered questions from the Commission and after some discussion a motion was made to table the hearing for further information. (Di Giorgi, Myles; unanimous)
  - C. Tree Ordinance Update: No discussion
  - D. NREC Transition Plan & Discussion of Interests and Goals for the Coming Year: Commissioner Kelly requested Mayor Khubesrian to explain the Commissions role in the coming year. Mayor Khubesrian gave a brief background on the City’s accomplishments and issues the Commission could discuss. The Mayor discussed pesticides, waste and recycling, and incentive homeowners to purchase electric lawn equipment. Discussion ensued regarding other issues food waste, electric mowers, citywide composting, cool roofs, adaptation of climate change, disincentives for excessive water use, enforcement of energy efficiency Building Codes, energy audit, incentives for alternative forms of

transportation, bike racks, citywide electric fleet vehicles, leaf blower ban and partnership with the schools/sponsor a contest.

E. Election of Chair and Vice Chair: Madeline Di Giorgi selected as Chair and Rona Bortz as Vice Chair.

5) **Council Liaison Comments:** No Comments.

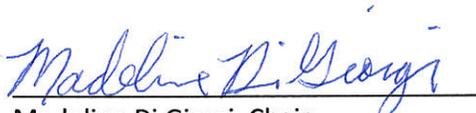
6) **Staff Liaison Comments:** Announced the tree planting event for the outgoing Mayor Dr. Schneider on Thursday, January 24 at 4:00pm. Brown Act Training in February or March.

7) **Commission Comments:** No Comments.

8) **Upcoming Events** – HHW Collection Event – 1/26/19 (Monrovia)

**Adjournment** – Meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing minutes were adopted by the Natural Resources and Environmental Commission of the City of South Pasadena at a meeting held on February 26, 2019.

  
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Madeline Di Giorgi, Chair