

**CITY OF SOUTH PASADENA  
NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION  
MINUTES – April 23, 2019**

- 1) Call to Order/Roll Call:** The meeting was called to order at 7:01 pm. Introductions of new Commissioners. Present were: William Kelly, Madeline Di Giorgi, Rona Bortz, Commissioner Jones, Commissioner Liu, and Commissioner Myles. Commissioner Leider was absent. Council Liaison Dr. Marina Khubesrian was present. Staff present: Daniel Ojeda, P.E., Interim Director of Public Works and Leaonna DeWitt, Public Works Assistant.
- 2) Approval of Minutes – Meeting of March 26, 2019**  
Minutes approved. (Kelly, Bortz; unanimous)
- 3) Public Comment**  
No Comment.
- 4) Discussion/Action Items:**
  - A. Discussion to Ban Single-Use Plastic Straws – Commissioner Kelly gave a brief overview of this issue. Discussion ensued regarding other items to include as part of the ban. A subcommittee was formed including William Kelly and Lauren Myles. It was agreed that the committee would reach out to the Youth Commission to discuss a ban on single-use plastic straws.
  - B. Discussion on Public Education and Outreach – Commissioner Kelly gave a brief overview of this issue. Discussion ensued regarding citywide composting and different ways to educate the community. A subcommittee for Community Outreach was formed including Commissioner Liu, Commissioner Bortz, and Commissioner Di Giorgi.
  - C. Discussion of Amendments to the Tree Ordinance – Chair Di Giorgi has concerns with tree removals in the City and would like to amend the ordinance in certain areas regarding utility companies being exempt; redefining a hardship; and penalties.

**Reordering of the Agenda to hear Public Comment**

Alan Ehrlich – 1221 Lyndon Street #15. Mr. Ehrlich supports the ban of glyphosate due to the links to cancer. Public Comment Period Closed.

- D. Discussion of Timeline for Goals and the Formation of Subcommittees – Commissioner Jones gave a brief overview of the NREC Initiative Tracking Log and that the proposed list can be added. Chair Di Giorgi discussed identifying the Commission’s goals and creating a timeline. Discussion ensued regarding the list of goals and initiatives, organizing the goals and priorities. The Commission agreed to create subcommittees which include Land Management (Di Giorgi, Myles), Climate and Energy (Kelly, Liu, Jones), Water (Bortz, Jones, Di Giorgi), Waste Management (Di Giorgi, Bortz, Kelly), and Community Outreach (Liu, Di Giorgi, Bortz).
- 5) Council Liaison Comments:** Mayor Khubesrian attended a climate change forum sponsored by the League of Women Voters. She noted the City adopted the Strategic Plan. The City will host a Memorial Day program. The program will include guest speaker Phlunte Riddle, Police Lt. of Pasadena, yoga meditation drum circle, SP Jazz Band and a Brass Band.

- 6) **Staff Liaison Comments:** Staff inquired if anyone would like to attend a composting tour sponsored by Athens Services. Mr. Ojeda informed the Commission the City is in the process of completing the second round of interviews for the Sustainability Analyst and hopefully on board by mid to late June.
- 7) **Commission Comments:** Commissioner Liu commented that she could connect with some of the School Board Members to find out what pesticides are being used. Commissioner Jones said she would forward her emails from the School Board and the Facility's Director. Council Liaison Khubesrian offered to bring up the issue at their monthly meeting. Commissioner Bortz inquired about grants and who at the City would she send the information too. Commissioner Kelly announced that Southern California Edison is requesting a rate increase of about 15% to cover expected wild fire cost. Chair Di Giorgi attended the Sierra Club Zero Waste Fair. She spoke to Laurie Wheeler, Chamber of Commerce about the Eclectic Festival and setup for the NREC table. Chair Di Giorgi attended a presentation at CalTech with the Leonardo DiCaprio Foundation about various issues such as waste management. Chair Di Giorgi, Commissioner Rona and Council Liaison Khubesrian will be attending a meeting with Transition Pasadena which will be held on next Tuesday in the City Council Chambers at 9am.
- 8) **Upcoming Events** – HHW Collection Event – 05/11/19 (City of Altadena); Free Workshops Garden Design Concepts – 4/23/19 (Hacienda Heights Community and Recreation Center); and Garden Design Applications – 5/2/19 (Duarte Community Center)

**Adjournment** – Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m. (Kelly, Myles; unanimous)

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 May 28, 2019.

  
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Madeline Di Giorgi, Chair