

**CITY OF SOUTH PASADENA
NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
MINUTES – July 9, 2019 (SPECIAL MEETING)**

1) Call to Order/Roll Call: The meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm. Present were: William Kelly, Amy Jones, Stephen Leider, Lauren Myles and Madeline Di Giorgi. Rona Bortz had an excused absence. Cynthia Liu was absent. Council Liaison Dr. Marina Khubesrian was present. Staff present: Kristine Courdy, P.E., Deputy Public Works Director and Arpy Kasparian, Water Conservation & Sustainability Analyst.

2) Approval of Minutes – Meeting of May 28, 2019
Minutes approved as amended. (Kelly, Jones; unanimous)

3) Public Comment

Karen Veitch – 1703 Wayne Ave. – City has south-facing property in the hills (southwest corner of the City; 2100 Hanscom) - proposed to have a City solar farm there.

Marianne Veach – 707 El Centro St. - On the South Pasadena Beautiful Board. They are currently doing some outreach to educate residents on newly planted trees within the City, the next event is on July 16th from 6:00pm to 9:00pm, meeting outside of Garfield Park.

Samantha Molina – 1177 Monterey Rd. - Discussed the existing contract with Athens and concerns of GHG emissions resulting from trucking organic waste from South Pasadena to Victorville. Discussed keeping organic waste in South Pasadena.

Liam de Villa – 1512 Indiana Ave. - Discussed concerns over the diesel trucks that transport organic waste to Victorville and suggested ways that the City might be able to keep organic waste in the City of South Pasadena. Also requested City outreach and community engagement programs on educating the citizens on waste and emission reductions. Emphasis on sustainability initiatives, reducing, and reusing.

Nicole Lu – 1618 Indiana Ave. – Discussed the need to educate and enact change before legislature. Suggested removing plastic items in schools and implementing a similar program to UC Irvine’s study on plastic reusable containers that are washed and reused. Stores and businesses should not provide bags without question, they should only be provided upon request.

Amber Chen – 2029 Amherst Dr. – Encouraged support for state bills AB1080 and SB54 that reduce plastic. The City government needs to take initiative and action on these bills. In addition, start implementing the bills at the local level before the bills pass at the state, eliminate top 10 single-use plastics (SUP), and strengthen enforcement of the polystyrene ban.

4) Discussion/Action Items:

A. Establishing Goals and Prioritization of Sustainability Initiatives:

The Natural Resources and Environmental Commission (NREC) discussed each proposed sustainability initiative and decided whether to keep, amend, or remove them for consideration of the work plan.

Amber Chen - 2029 Amherst Dr. – Recommended the City look into the California Product Stewardship Council (CPSC) for insight and resources. Suggested creating a separate section

of the Farmer's Market for ugly produce to reduce food waste. The government provides tax breaks for large corporations who donate food and suggests a City incentive to do the same for smaller businesses. Target small events (such as games of the American Youth Soccer Organization) around the City to limit SUPs.

Samantha Molina – 1177 Monterey Rd. – Mentioned that she has seen vendors at the Farmer's Market use Styrofoam and additional wasteful items such as plastic bags and plastic single-use condiment cups. Has seen Styrofoam in other restaurants in South Pasadena and sees a need to re-educate and enforce the Styrofoam Ban.

Jaime Garza - Representing Holy Family Church on Fremont – Discussed creating city-wide goals in accordance to the 50-year anniversary of Earth Day in 2020. Goals mentioned were: 1) be a carbon-neutral city in seven or so years - all government and school buildings to be upgraded/built in accordance to the Living Building Challenge standards or better, 2) provide incentives for building owners, home owners, and developers to do the same, 3) change all public school parkland to drought tolerant and native planting, 4) remove concrete paving and replace with permeable paving, and 5) make the City more bike/walk/scooter friendly.

Michelle Hammond – 1921 Rollin St. – Owner of The Munch Company. Discussed importance of pollution prevention by adding more bike infrastructure and micro-mobility. Wants the 2011 Bike Master Plan to be implemented, has concerns over idling cars in school pickup lines, suggested increasing bike and pedestrian mobility.

Marianne Veach - 707 El Centro St. - Wants to see something about tree planting as a goal. Supports connecting to real estate developers to inform residents on trees. Help people connect to the Metro (first mile and last mile).

A revised list with added initiatives was created. Items on this list will be prioritized at the next commission meeting. Communications and outreach efforts will apply to all activities/initiatives/events as appropriate. Strengthening enforcement and education on existing bans was discussed. Commissioner Kelly to summarize California Power Alliance's (CPA) efforts on creating an investment plan that would help finance solar panels and other power sources in the City.

B. Discussion of SB54 and AB1080 State Legislation on Single Use Plastics:
NREC discussed the bills strengths and shortcomings.

Juliana Fong – 1823 Milan Ave. - Presented research on AB1080 and SB54 state bills. There are loopholes in the bill and ambiguous language on the producers. There are no enforcement mechanisms in the attached bills. In order to go above and beyond the City should consider a SUP and straw ban at the local level.

Elijah Carder – 435 Garfield Ave. - Legislative Analyst for LA County Public Works and member of the LA County Solid Waste Taskforce. Agrees with concerns over lack of enforcement and lack of producer responsibility. Taskforce has also identified this as a primary concern. Enforcement needs to be effective and significant.

A motion was made to adopt a support position with the following amendments: reduce the implementation timeline, extend producer responsibility, increase enforcement, and

remove local preemptive language so that local governments can enact stricter language than enacted by the state (if needed) (Jones, Leider, unanimous).

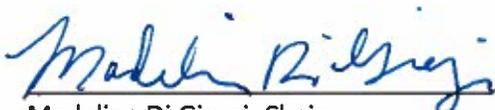
C. Discussion of City Compliance with AB1826 Organics Regulations:

City Liaison Courdy updated the Commission on discussions with Athens on the commercial accounts that need to comply. Commissioner Kelly explained that the rulemaking for AB1826 is ongoing and regulations will be expanded. Advised that City look into future regulations while discussing compliance with Athens. Commissioner Kelly reiterated concerns over emissions produced by trucking organics to the Athens facility and would like to see an emissions report of the facility. Recommended connecting with the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments to learn of other solutions. Commissioner Jones recommended reviewing the waste contract with Athens and negotiating changes regarding the organic waste.

- 5) **Council Liaison Comments:** Mayor Khubesrian announced a program called, "Nature for All" which aims to develop environmental stewards. Would like the information sent to the high school students in attendance.
- 6) **Staff Liaison Comments:** Arpy Kasparian announced that the City is working on the Climate Action Plan and provided a status updated on the project. Kristine Courdy announced that there is a new Public Works Director.
- 7) **Commission Comments:** Commissioner Myles none. Commissioner Jones none. Commissioner Leider discussed some of the environmental initiatives internationally and thanked the High School students in attendance. Commissioner Kelly encouraged the students to voice environmental concerns with the school district. Will be sharing an Urban Heat Island Effect presentation from a UC Davis Landscape Architect. Commissioner Di Giorgi discussed the supermarket plastic score card work with Green Peace.
- 8) **Upcoming Events:** Free Smart Gardening Workshop for Beginners – 7/13/19 (La Crescenta); Summer Concerts in the Park – 7/14/19 (South Pasadena); Free Turf Removal Class – 7/31/19 (Baldwin Park)
- 9) **Urban Forest Update:** None

Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 9:09 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 July 9, 2019.


Madeline Di Giorgi, Chair

