

MINUTES
NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
December 16, 2014

Roll Call - The meeting was called to order at 7:06 p.m. Present were Commissioners Scott Kuhn, Kay Findley, Nancy Wilms, John Silverthorn, Al Benzoni, Noah Puni, Student Commissioner Maddie Magee, and Chair Kim Hughes. Council Liaison Richard D. Schneider, M.D. was present. Staff Liaison Debby Figoni was present.

Minutes - Minutes from the November meeting were approved (Findley, Wilms 7-0).

Public Comments and Suggestions - None.

1. City's Urban Forest Update – Senior Management Analyst Figoni updated the Commission on the City's Phase 1 tree planting program. The Commissioners asked questions about tree planting, specific trees, and the possibility of obtaining recycled water from a nearby city to water the trees instead of using potable water. Figoni to provide answers before the next meeting. Figoni shared that the city's tree inventory is approximately 10,000 trees with the average age being 35-65 years of age, so we have a very mature urban forest. Three trees were removed on El Centro.

2. West Coast Arborists' Contract – The contract is again being reviewed by West Coast Arborists. No other update on this item.

3. Urban Water Conservation Drought & Drought Actions – Chair Hughes stated that snowpack is at one-half the amount as last year, which was a very bad year. It was discussed that staff reach out the City's top water users via a letter to educate and encourage them to aim for a 20% reduction in their water use. Consider having the letter signed by the Mayor or City Council. The Commission would like an update on the balance in the efficiency fee fund.

No update on the golf course.

4. Water Conservation Programs Update - Figoni stated that 85 households were participating in the turf replacement program, with several finishing up this month. She is partnering with the library on several upcoming workshops and events. The December 9th workshop which was successful. The water conservation banner will be finished next month. Staff will soon provide table top displays to restaurants to promote only serving water upon request to conserve water. Stage 2 drought restrictions to be discussed at the January meeting after Figoni researches what other local cities are doing. Figoni shared that residential and commercial water use was down in October 2014. The demonstration turf replacement project on Huntington Drive is underway. South Pasadena Beautiful is assisting the City in updating the landscaping around the City's welcome sign on Fair Oaks at Columbia.

5. Synthetic Turf – Figoni to head back to Public Works Commission on January 14, 2015 and then the summary report can be finalized and brought back to City Council. Commission members will also attend to provide additional viewpoints.

6. Charging Stations – The original area selected might need to be moved a bit due to parking issues around the Library and Senior Center. The Commission voiced concern over checking on the status of the funding grant, as we do not want to lose the grant money.

7. Upcoming Events – Plans for an Earth Day event and garden tour in a neighborhood where several homes have completed the turf removal program. Vendors and potential speaker from Tree People invited for this block party event. Talk to Public Works staff about having Southern California Edison offer a free tree giveaway.

8. Renewable Energy Committee – A draft article was provided for review. The article will be in the e-neighbors, the South Pasadena Review and on the City’s website. Figoni is waiting final direction from the City Clerk.

9. Allowing Fees to Add New Water Meters – The Commissioners motioned to approve charging 100% of recovery fees for in city development (Findley, Wilms 7-0). The Commissioners motioned to not favor the City providing water and sewer service outside of the City limits (Puni, Kuhn 7-0).

10. Banning Gas Leaf Blowers – Chair Hughes will speak with Council Member Cacciotti on how to deal with this issue because Air Quality Management District does not have an approved list of blower to recommend.

11. Priority Items for 2015 – The Commissioners motioned to keep the goals from 2014, energy, water and trees, with just a few minor modifications for 2015 (Benzoni, Puni 7-0). In addition, they would like to look at goals from prior years to see what has been accomplished and what needs to be resurrected.

Chair Communications – Chair Hughes shared an article on using gray water and water rates.

Commissioner Communications – Requested to add Styrofoam ban to the January 2015 agenda

Council Liaison Communications – n/a

Staff Liaison Communications – n/a

Adjournment - The meeting adjourned at 9:29 p.m. (Silverthorn, Benzoni 7-0).

NEXT MEETING - The next regular meeting of the Natural Resources and Environmental Commission will be held on Tuesday, January 27, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in City Council Chambers.

 1/27/15
Kimberley Hughes, Chair

MINUTES
NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
November 18, 2014

Roll Call - The meeting was called to order at 7:08 p.m. Present were Commissioners Scott Kuhn, Kay Findley, Nancy Wilms, John Silverthorn, Student Commissioner Maddie Magee, and Chair Kim Hughes. Commissioners Al Benzoni and Noah Puni were absent. Council Liaison Richard D. Schneider, M.D. was present. Staff Liaison Debby Figoni was present.

Minutes - Minutes from the September meeting were approved by Commissioners Kuhn and Silverthorn; with all members in favor, 5-0.

Public Comments and Suggestions - None.

- 1. Shot Hole Borer Beetle Attacking Southern California Trees** - Guest Speaker Daniel Berry, Nursery Manager at The Huntington Library and Botanical Gardens, explained that the polyphagous shot hole borer is an invasive pest that is attacking over 330 host trees in the Southern California area. First discovered in 2003 in the Whittier Narrows area, there currently are no biological or chemical controls for this pest. Once the bug has bored through the bark and into the vascular system, it infects the tree with two new fungal pathogens which ultimately destroys the tree. Mr. Berry, and coworker Tim Thibault, have collaborated with the University of Riverside, United Department of Agriculture, Los Angeles County, and others are conducting research into ways to combat this pest. For more details, visit: www.eskalenlab.ucr.edu/ or www.ucanr.edu/sites/socaloakpests/ The group talked about finding a way to alert the public to this pest and to not transport contaminated materials.
- 2. City's Urban Forest Update** – Park Supervisor Gonzalo Maravilla stated that West Coast Arborists (WCA) trimmed 93 trees in November. City staff met with residents on El Centro between Orange Grove and Pasadena Avenue about replacing 25 Carob trees with Coast Live Oaks and Chinese Pistache. The commission suggested taking photos of the trees for educational purposes and to plant during the school holiday. One hundred replacement trees will soon be planted in the Fair Oaks to Garfield area. City staff is also evaluating the diseased Carobs on Mission. Maravilla stated that WCA is watering twice a week. NREC stated that Council Member Cacciotti noted that Garfield Park is still too wet. Maravilla stated that it was from a broken sprinkler head. He said he would work with WCA to investigate the possibility of obtaining recycled water from a near-by city to water the trees instead of using potable water.
- 3. West Coast Arborists' Contract** – The Commission suggested the contract have more detail regarding the work to be performed and associated costs, providing more accountability. There still is no Scope of Services. NREC suggests more detail in the invoices, such as a spreadsheet detailing the work being done, which would provide more specificity and effective oversight. The Commissioners requested their comments be presented to Public Works Director Paul Toor and are open to meet with Toor to provide more details and suggestions.
- 4. Urban Water Conservation Drought & Drought Actions** – Chair Hughes provided articles on water rates in various California cities supporting the need for a behavioral shift in water use. The golf course team has not met yet. Figoni provided list of restaurants in South Pasadena that serve water. Volunteer intern to provide table top displays that promote only

serving water upon request to conserve water. Stage 2 drought restrictions to be discussed at the January meeting. Figoni shared that the water use by the residents and businesses of South Pasadena was down in October 2014.

5. **Water Conservation Programs Update** - The turf removal program continues to be popular with about 85 applications submitted. Residents request for more workshops resulted in a December 9, 2014 workshop. The water conservation banner will be finished next month.
6. **Synthetic Turf** – Figoni to head back to Public Works Commission on December 10th before the summary report can be finalized and brought back to City Council.
7. **Charging Stations** – The area selected might need to change.
8. **Upcoming Events** – A water wise workshop detailing the turf rebate program, preparation, plants and irrigation is scheduled for December 9, 2014. An article on how to water your trees in a drought was in the December e-neighbors and now on the City’s website. The group discussed a possible California Friendly home tour as an Earth Day activity.
9. **Renewable Energy Committee** – A draft article was provided for review. The article will be in the e-neighbors, the South Pasadena Review and on the City’s website. NREC is waiting final direction from the City Clerk.
10. **Allowing Fees to Add New Water Meters** – Information was provided on this topic which will be discussed in December.
11. **Banning Gas Leaf Blowers** – This item was reviewed in 2010 – 2011 when the City would only allow AQMD-approved blowers, but there were no models on their list, only motors. Chair Hughes to speak with Council Member Cacciotti on how to deal with this issue.
12. **Priority Items for 2015** – The Commission to look at items discussed and worked on in the past and what they want to include for 2015 for discussion at the December meeting.

Chair Communications – n/a

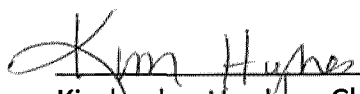
Commissioner Communications – Findley’s turf removal is advancing successfully.

Council Liaison Communications – n/a

Staff Liaison Communications – n/a

Adjournment - The meeting adjourned at 10:03 p.m. approved by Commissioners Findley and Wilms, and all members were in favor, 5-0.

NEXT MEETING - The next regular meeting of the Natural Resources and Environmental Commission will be held on Tuesday, December 16, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in City Council Chambers.



Kimberley Hughes, Chair

12/16/14

MINUTES
NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
October 28, 2014

Roll Call - The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. Present were Commissioners Scott Kuhn, Kay Findley, Nancy Wilms, John Silverthorn, Al Benzoni, Student Commissioner Maddie Magee, and Chair Kim Hughes. Commissioner Noah Puni was absent. Council Liaison Richard D. Schneider, M.D. was present. Staff Liaison Debby Figoni was present.

Minutes - Minutes from the September meeting were approved by Commissioners Wilms and Findley; with all members in favor, 6-0.

Public Comments and Suggestions - None.

1. **City's Urban Forest Update** – Senior Management Analyst Figoni gave the update stating that West Coast Arborists (WCA) trimmed 190 trees in October and removed three trees (two dead Eucalyptus trees on Arroyo Drive and one dead Pine tree at Snake trail). The city is proposing the removal of 25 Carob trees on El Centro between Orange Grove and Pasadena Ave due to fungal fruiting bodies, decay, and/or poor root systems. The Commissioners discussed their concern for trees in the drought and requested a watering plan for City trees, starting with a list of the most stressed trees. They requested investigating the possibility of obtaining recycled water from a local city to water the trees instead of potable water. More outreach was discussed.

2. **West Coast Arborists' Contract** – The Public Works Department reviewed modifications made by the City Attorney, edited them and returned the contract back to the City Attorney for review. Figoni to send the Commissioners a copy of this draft. The Commission requested to see the new tree planting plan which was to be ready last month. There are reports of City trees getting the bark beetles.

3. **Urban Water Conservation Drought & Drought Actions** – Chair Hughes discussed Upper San Gabriel's new water tracking and use comparison program, and suggested doing a comparison of our water use of this year compared to last. Figoni and Commissioner Silverthorne met with the golf course team again and are looking at hiring a consultant to assist with conservation. The water audit at the Library/Senior Center Park resulted in new modifications to be made. Commissioners will assist Figoni by going to City restaurants to provide table top displays that promote only serving water upon request to conserve water.

4. **Water Conservation Programs Update** - The turf removal program is extremely popular with about 60 applications submitted. Residents are requesting more water wise workshops. The increased rebates for water conserving devices went into effect September 8th. The group discussed additional water conservation outreach tools, such as doorhangers, banners and such.

5. **Synthetic Turf** – Figoni provided a draft summary report from the meetings with the various commissions. A final presentation will be made to the Public Works Commission on December 10th before the summary report can be finalized and brought back to City Council.

She stated there were a few requests from residents to install synthetic turf in their front yard, and one resident installed it after being informed it was not allowed.

6. Charging Stations - There is no action since Civil Engineer Assistant Thomas Amare has been out on leave. The commission would like the station installed by August of 2015.

7. Upcoming Events - The annual Dumpster & Donation Day and the Nature Park 10th Anniversary events were successful. Participation at the Police & Fire Safety Fair was good. No future workshops are planned at the present time. Figoni discussed teaching a Tree Pruning and Maintenance Workshop. A Tree Watering event was suggested.

8. Plastic Bag Ban Education Outreach – Successful outreach to the public at the stores affected by the bag ban occurred the weekend before the October 6th ban with the assistance of the South Pasadena High School Key Club. Stores appear to be following the ordinance.

9. Renewable Energy Committee – Hughes and Figoni to work with the South Pasadena Review to get an article out to the community.

10. Allowing New Water Meters – The commissioners are waiting for information regarding charging for the installation of new water meters before further discussion.

11. Banning Gas Leaf Blowers – Councilmember Cacciotti suggested NREC review the emissions of gas blowers and what can be used instead. Even battery operated blowers blow dust particles into the air. In the City ordinances, there are specific hours when power yard equipment, including blowers, cannot be used due to noise constraints. The Commission will investigate past discussions on leaf blowers and what other cities are doing.

12. Priority Items for 2015 – Priorities include a watering plan for City's trees, a plan for planting new trees, and assuring sustainable infrastructures at new City facilities. The Commissioners will continue the discussion at the next meeting

Chair Communications – Chair Hughes provided an update on water conservation changes being implemented in Los Angeles, and announced South Pasadena Beautiful's fall mixer.

Commissioner Communications – Findley's turf removal project is moving along well.

Council Liaison Communications – n/a

Staff Liaison Communications – Figoni provided literature and updated the Commissioners on San Gabriel Valley's "Are We Ready?" for the drought event on October 2, 2014.

Adjournment - The meeting adjourned at 9:33 p.m. approved by Commissioners Benzoni and Silverthorn, and all members were in favor, 6-0.

NEXT MEETING - The next regular meeting of the Natural Resources and Environmental Commission will be held on Tuesday, November 18, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in City Council Chambers.

 11/18/14
Kimberley Hughes, Chair

MINUTES
NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
September 23, 2014

Roll Call - The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. Present were Commissioners Scott Kuhn, Kay Findley, Nancy Wilms, John Silverthorn, Noah Puni, Al Benzoni and Chair Kim Hughes. Student Commissioner Maddie Magee attended her first meeting. Council Liaison Richard D. Schneider, M.D. was present. Staff Liaison Debby Figoni was present.

Minutes - Minutes from the June meeting were approved by Commissioners Kuhn and Puni; with all members in favor, 7-0. Minutes from the August meeting were approved by Commissioners Kuhn and Puni; with all members in favor, 7-0.

Public Comments and Suggestions - None.

1. **City's Urban Forest Update** - Gabe Nevarez, Public Works Operations Manager, provided an update. In August, West Coast Arborists (WCA) trimmed 511 trees and removed 11 trees. The request for a tree removal of the Camphor trees at 1425 Milan was discussed. The Commission supported keeping the trees. They suggested having WCA come out and evaluate the tree and suggested to use this opportunity as a time to do outreach on how to water your trees in a drought.
2. **West Coast Arborists' Contract** – Nevarez provided an update stating the City Attorney made modifications to WCA's present contract. Once the Public Works Department has reviewed them, the contract will be sent to the NREC for review. The Commission would like to confirm that WCA has clearer direction on their duties. WCA's new tree planting plan to be finalized in the next few weeks. The city will be split into two sections instead of four. The NREC is interested in getting a local landscape expert's feedback on the proposed tree plan. The group also talked about the need for tree watering. There are reports of trees getting the bark beetles. There needs to be clear direction on a watering plan for the city's trees.
3. **Urban Water Conservation Drought & Drought Actions** – Chair Hughes discussed an article on the reduction of water reserves and groundwater replenishment. Senior Management Analyst Figoni stated that the Stage 1 watering restrictions are being advertised and well received, and that staff has a system for tracking violators. Figoni and Commissioner Silverthorne to meet with the golf course team again. Staff did a water audit at the Library/Senior Center Park. While there are no areas where turf can be removed, another water audit has been set up with Upper District. Ecotech to assist with the water and landscape audit.
4. **Water Conservation Programs Update** - The turf removal program is extremely popular with about 60 applications submitted. Residents requesting more water wise workshops. The increased rebates for water conserving devices went into effect September 8th. The group discussed additional water conservation outreach tools, such as doorhangers, banners and such.
5. **Synthetic Turf** - Commissioner Findley stated that two Commissions, Design and Review and Planning approved the installation of up to 30% synthetic turf in the parkway. Cultural Heritage was not in support. The issue must be brought back to the Public Works Commission. Figoni to compile meeting notes to review with NREC before sending to City Council.

6. **Styrofoam Ban** - Tabling until January 2015. To be removed from future Agenda.
7. **Charging Stations** - Figoni again stated that the City was moving ahead with a charger on Fairview by the Senior Center. The commission would like it in by summer of 2015.
8. **Ordinances Update** - Parkway Ordinance passed and is being implemented in the turf rebate projects. To be removed from future Agenda.
9. **Upcoming Events** - The Household Hazardous Waste and Descanso Gardens Rain Barrel & Water Wise Workshop events were successes. The annual Dumpster & Donation Day is October 11th, and the Nature Park 10th Anniversary event is October 18th. The Police & Fire Safety Fair is September 28th, Figoni will be teaching a workshop during the event. The Commission's Annual Report is due on October 19th and will be presented at the November 5th City Council Meeting.
10. **Plastic Bag Ban Education Outreach** - Figoni is working with the Chamber of Commerce, the South Pasadena High School Key Club, South Pasadena Beautiful and local sponsors to create a reusable bag and to do public outreach.
11. **Renewable Energy Committee** - Management requested NREC to form a sub-committee. Hughes and Figoni to do outreach to obtain interested residents from the community.
12. **Allowing New Water Meters** - Councilmember Schneider discussed the proposed charge for new meters and sewers. The commissioners were concerned with the idea of more demand on the city's limited supply. They requested additional information.
13. **New Dates for November and December NREC Meetings** – The November meeting was moved from the 25th to the 18th and the December meeting from the 23rd to the 16th approved by Commissioners Kuhn and Findley; with all members in favor, 7-0.

Chair Communications – Chair Hughes stated that if there is no rain by this winter, Los Angeles may go into a more severe phase.

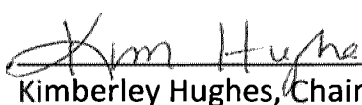
Commissioner Communications – Findley provided a positive update on her water wise garden installation.

Council Liaison Communications – n/a

Staff Liaison Communications – Figoni reminded the Commissioners of upcoming events and asked for support. She also shared the water conservation table top sign available for restaurants.

Adjournment - The meeting adjourned at 9:27 p.m. approved by Commissioners Kuhn and Puni, and all members were in favor, 7-0.

NEXT MEETING - The next regular meeting of the Natural Resources and Environmental Commission will be held on Tuesday, October 28, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in City Council Chambers.

 11/14/18
Kimberley Hughes, Chair

MINUTES
NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
August 26, 2014

Roll Call - The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. Present were Commissioners Scott Kuhn, Kay Findley, Nancy Wilms, Al Benzoni, John Silverthorn and Noah Puni. Chair Kim Hughes was absent. Student Commissioner Maddie Magee will attend in September. Council Liaison Richard D. Schneider, M.D. was present. Staff Liaison Debby Figoni was present. Councilmember Cacciotti attended at 8:30 p.m.

Minutes - Minutes from the July meeting were approved with three minor changes. Minutes from the June meeting were tabled and will be brought to the September meeting for approval.

Public Comments and Suggestions - None.

1. **Nature Park 10th Anniversary Event** - Barbara Eisenstein, founder of friends of the Nature Park, provided details on the Nature Park 10th Anniversary Event. The event will take place at the Nature Park on Saturday, October 18th from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. She discussed the various exhibitors and the focus on water conservation and sustainable landscapes.
2. **City's Urban Forest Update** - Gabe Nevarez, Public Works Operations Manager, provided an update. Since July, West Coast Arborists (WCA) has trimmed 598 trees, removed 13 trees, removed two stumps and planted one tree. Irrigation timers at City properties have been changed to three days per week per the new Stage 1 watering restrictions. WCA is now watering new trees two times per week.
3. **West Coast Arborists' Contract** - WCA's present contract was sent to the new City Attorney for review. The Commission agreed to defer its follow up until after this process but expects a report at the next meeting. Staff met with WCA to establish a tree planting plan. The city was split into four quadrants targeting the best trees for specific locations and the best time to plant. The new planting plan will be brought to the NREC for review. The Commission is interested in getting a local landscape architect's feedback on the proposed tree plan.
4. **Urban Water Conservation Drought & Drought Actions** - City Council declared Stage 1 – Moderate Water Supply Shortage at the August 20, 2014 City Council meeting. This includes limiting overhead watering to three days a week on an odd/even schedule based on property address, fixing leaks within 24 hours and a recommending a 10% reduction in water use from the prior year. Outreach for this new ordinance will be in the utility bill, the South Pasadena Review, e-neighbors and other locations. Commissioner Findley showed a large ad in the Pasadena Star News detailing the State's new watering restrictions as an example of effective outreach.
5. **Water Conservation Programs Update** - The turf removal program is extremely popular with about 40 applications submitted. Recent water wise workshops are once again overflowing with residents interested in reducing their water consumption. The Stage 1 restrictions are being advertised and well received. The increased rebates for various indoor and outdoor water conserving devices should go into effect September 1st.

6. **Synthetic Turf** - Commissioner Findley stated that Figoni, Commissioner Benzoni and she presented to the Cultural Heritage, Public Works and Planning Commissions. Feedback on allowing synthetic turf in the parkway has been mixed. The Design Review Board is next and then the issue must be brought back to the Public Works Commission before a report can be compiled and presented to City Council.
7. **Styrofoam Ban** - Tabling this item until January 2015.
8. **Charging Stations** - Figoni stated that the City was moving ahead with a charger on Fairview by the Senior Center. A variety of city departments are working together to make sure everything is covered. NREC requested an estimated completion date.
9. **Ordinances Update** - Parkway Ordinance passed and is being implemented in the turf rebate projects. The Stage 1 – Moderate Water Supply Shortage passed and is being publicized.
10. **Upcoming Events** - The Household Hazardous Waste event will be in South Pasadena on August 31st, the annual Dumpster and Donation Day is October 11th, and the Nature Park 10th Anniversary event is October 18th. In addition, South Pasadena is partnering with several local cities to host a rain barrel and water wise workshop event at Descanso Gardens on September 14th.
11. **Plastic Bag Ban Education Outreach** - Figoni is working with the Chamber, the KEY club and local sponsors to create a reusable bag and to do public outreach.
12. **Renewable Energy Committee** - Management requested NREC to form a sub-committee. Staff will invite the professor from Occidental and residents from the community. The Commission suggested putting an ad in the Review.

Chair Communications – n/a

Commissioner Communications - Commissioner Kuhn suggested alternative dates for the November and December meetings due to the holidays. It was requested to add the issue of allowing new water meter hook-ups to September's agenda.

Council Liaison Communications – n/a

Staff Liaison Communications – Figoni thanked the Commissioners for their help and assistance with the Green Living Expo event.

Adjournment - The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m. approved by Commissioners Benzoni and Wilms, and all members were in favor, 6-0.

NEXT MEETING - The next regular meeting of the Natural Resources and Environmental Commission will be held on Tuesday, September 23, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in City Council Chambers.



Kimberley Hughes, Chair

MINUTES
NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
July 22, 2014

Roll Call - The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. Present were Commissioners Scott Kuhn, Kay Findley, Nancy Wilms, Al Benzoni, John Silverthorn, Noah Puni and Chair Kim Hughes. The Student Commissioner position is presently vacant. Council Liaison Richard D. Schneider, M.D. was present. Staff Liaison Debby Figoni was present.

Minutes - Minutes from the June 24, 2014 were tabled and will be brought to the August meeting for approval.

Public Comments and Suggestions - Resident Leslie Crumley of 1821 Hanscom Drive wanted to encourage the City to install an electric vehicle charging station in the City (update on this issue below).

1. **City's Urban Forest Update** - Oak season is here and residents are pulling about 10 permits per week. West Coast Arborists (WCA) trimmed Oak trees on Ramona between Roland and Huntington, on Fair Oaks between Columbia and Huntington and trimmed Silk oaks (Grevileas) on Diamond. WCA did an inventory of new trees and will be replacing dead trees. WCA has started their new water truck with a dedicated driver. Due to drought, staff is upgrading some medians from overhead sprinklers to drip. The commissioners wanted more facts on planting a 15 gallon tree versus a 24" box.

2. **West Coast Arborists' Contract** - Gabe Nevarez, Public Works Operations Manager, updated the commission on West Coast Arborists' (WCA) contract. He stated that the contract is up but that the Public Works Director had the authority to extend the contract annually. Due to inadequate contract specifications, NREC requested more details on the contract, and how WCA will be accountable for managing tree health, replacement and watering.

3. **Urban Water Conservation Drought & Drought Actions** - The commission discussed removing turf and installing drought tolerant landscapes in more city medians and parts of city parks, including Arroyo Park, and the golf course without jeopardizing the aesthetics of the golf course. Staff showed photos of a beautiful and expensive remodel at a golf course in Los Angeles. Sprinkler systems at City parks were recently upgraded but staff needs to continue to monitor all irrigation on a regular basis. The commission suggested installing auto flow sinks at City facilities.

4. **Water Conservation Programs Update** - Senior Management Analyst Figoni is promoting the City's turf rebate program and rebates on water efficient devices via flyers, the South Pasadena Review, the website, facebook and workshops. The free showerheads and hose nozzles are still a big hit. More will have to be ordered soon. Figoni is working on workshops and events promoting water conservation (see Events #9 below).

5. **Synthetic Turf** - Per City Council direction, the topic of synthetic turf in the parkways will be discussed at the August meetings of the Design Review Board, and the Natural Resources and Environmental, Cultural Heritage, Public Works and Planning Commissions. Figoni will present and Commissioners Benzoni and Findley will attend to provide feedback the meetings.

6. **Styrofoam Ban** - No update, table this item.

7. **Charging Stations** - Figoni stated that the City was approved for matching grant funds from the Air Quality Management District. Benzoni talked to the Bristol Farms shopping center property management company and they would be interested in installing a charger if the Adopt-a-Charger funds were still available. Unfortunately, that funding is no longer available.

8. **Ordinances Update** - Figoni updated the commission new rebate amounts for water conservation devices amounts approved by City Council at the July 2, 2014 meeting. The Parkway Ordinance is going for the final reading at the August 20th meeting. The Commissioners stated that outreach should be done city wide. A motioned was made by Commissioners Kuhn and Wilms to request City Council adopt the City's Stage 1 – Moderate Water Supply Shortage; with all in favor, 7-0.

9. **Upcoming Events** - The July 20th Living Green Expo and Concert was a success. Both of Figoni's mini-workshops were well attended. More Water Wise Workshops are scheduled for August. The Household Hazardous Waste event will be in South Pasadena on August 31st, the annual Dumpster and Donation Day is October 11th, and the Nature Park 10th Anniversary event is October 18th.

10. **Plastic Bag Ban Education Outreach** - Chair Hughes and Figoni to work on sponsors for a reusable bag and outreach for the October 6, 2014 start date.

11. **Renewable Energy Committee** - The commission would like not only city staff, but also experts from the community involved, similar to what was done for the Water Committee.

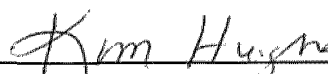
Chair Communications - Chair Hughes informed the Commissioners on Los Angeles Natural History Museums' upcoming water lectures.

Commissioner Communications - Commissioner Kuhn suggested moving the meetings up one week during November and December and to discuss at August Meeting.

Staff Liaison Communications - Thanked the Commissioners for their help and assistance with the Green Living Expo event.

Adjournment - The meeting adjourned at 9:13 p.m. approved by Commissioners Silverthorne and Puni, and all members were in favor, 7-0.

NEXT MEETING - The next regular meeting of the Natural Resources and Environmental Commission will be held on Tuesday, August 26, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in City Council Chambers.



Kimberley Hughes, Chair

9/23/14

MINUTES
NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
June 24, 2014

Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 p.m. Present were Commissioners Scott Kuhn, Kay Findley, Nancy Wilms, Al Benzoni, Noah Puni, John Silverthorn, Chair Kim Hughes and Student Commissioner Thomas Kutzer. Council Liaison Richard D. Schneider, M.D. was present. Staff Liaison Debby Figoni was present.

Minutes

Minutes from the May 27, 2014 were approved by Commissioner Wilms and Kuhn; with all members in favor, 7-0.

Public Comments and Suggestions

None.

1. Recognize Student NREC Member Thomas Kutzer

Chair Hughes acknowledged Kutzer for his service and contribution to the commission. Kutzer thanked the Commissioners for the opportunity and for sharing their knowledge.

2. City Tree Update & West Coast Arborist's Contract

Project Manager Gabe Nevarez provided an update on West Coast Arborists (WCA) and the City's trees situation. He provided the Commission with a copy of WCA's contract. WCA to provide a dedicated water truck for the City's trees. The commissioners have concerns over the contract and want to make sure that someone is overseeing the contract and tasks.

3. Urban Harvester – Food Recovery Resolution

Council approved a resolution for food recovery in South Pasadena. Figoni added Urban Harvester to the City's Reduce, Reuse & Recycle Directory as a source for food recovery.

4. Styrofoam Policy

Scott Feldman from the South Pasadena Chamber spoke about the pros and cons of a Styrofoam ban. He said he would work with the Commission and City but first we needed to do more homework on the requirements and what other cities are doing. The Commission agreed and decided to table it until the end of the year after the plastic ban takes effect. There are many issues, such as what is the volume of styrofoam now being taken in by Athens. What are the cost impacts? All businesses need to be considered, retail, food service, take out, food trucks, school district and more.

5. Synthetic Turf

Per Council request, Figoni will present to the Design Review Board and Cultural Heritage, Public Works and Planning Commission on allowing synthetic turf in parkways. Commissioner Findley and Benzoni will accompany Figoni to the meetings to provide additional information.

6. Charging Station

Figoni will work with Grants Analyst Tracy Percosky on using the AQMD grant funds to install a charging station near the senior center.

7. Water Conservation Programs Update

Figoni discussed the continued popularity of the turf program, toilet rebate and free showerheads. Commissioner Benzoni is working with his associates at the YMCA in an effort to help them conserve water. The Commission discussed the options of keeping the turf program as is at \$3 per square foot for front yards only with a maximum of 1,500 square feet, or expanding the program to \$2 per square foot for front, side and back yards with unlimited square feet. They thought the later was more inclusive and equitable. The Huntington Drive and Fair Oaks median landscape project was brought to City Council and has been postponed to review ideas for landscape design modifications. The issue of Global Water and associated billing problems was discussed. Figoni reported that there seemed to be fewer complaints. There is a tentative plan to have a Management Analyst assist in responding to customer issues.

8. Ordinance Updates

The Parkway ordinance and The Native and Drought Tolerant Tree resolution were adopted by Council at the June 4th meeting. The Parkway ordinance was also presented at the June 4th meeting. Council adopted the ordinance minus allowing synthetic turf in the parkway (see item #5 above).

9. Upcoming Events

There will be a Household Hazardous Waste Round Up event on August 31st at the school district parking lot. Figoni is working with Barbara Eisenstein to hold a 10 year event at the Nature Park on October 18th and with Athens for the October 11th Dumpster and Donation.

10. Concert Series – Green Living Expo & Concert

The Living Green Expo and Concert will be on Sunday, July 20th from 2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Everything is moving along smoothly with this event. The Greenest, Fastest Mile will be from 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. The concert will begin at 5:00 p.m. There will be a variety of vendors and green cars. The NREC is also interested in supporting the other concert events planned for July 6, 13, 27 and August 3, 2014.

11. Water Use at the City's Golf Course and Parks

Figoni is still hoping to work with the City of Los Angeles' golf course group. The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power contact has yet to provide information to Figoni. Commissioner Silverthorn will be included in all potential meetings.

12. Drought Actions

Thorough outreach is being done via an array of written and social media outlets. NREC would still like a banner and ads in the local paper.

13. Solar Energy Committee

The Commission is waiting for information from management.

Chair Communications - Chair Hughes talked about the MWD's new outreach programs and provided articles on the drought.

Commissioner Communications

No Update

Council Liaison Communication

No update

Staff Liaison Communication

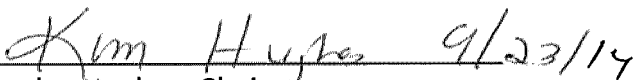
No update

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:43 p.m. with motions by Commissioners Kuhn and Findley; with all members in favor, 7-0.

NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting of the Natural Resources and Environmental Commission will be held on Tuesday, July 22, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in City Council Chambers.



Kimberley Hughes, Chair

MINUTES OF THE NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

May 27, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.

South Pasadena Council Chambers - 1424 Mission Street

ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 p.m. Present were Commissioners Scott Kuhn, Kay Findley, Nancy Wilms, Al Benzoni, Noah Puni, John Silverthorn and Chair Kim Hughes. Student Commissioner Thomas Kutzer was absent. Council Liaison Richard D. Schneider, M.D. and Council Member Cacciotti were present. Staff Liaison Debby Figoni was present. The Commission would like to acknowledge Student Commissioner Kutzer for his dedication at the June meeting.

MINUTES

Minutes from the March 25, 2014 and April 22, 2014 meetings were approved by Commissioner Findley and Wilms; with all members in favor, 7-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS

None.

1. URBAN HARVESTER PRESENTATION

Linda Hess, Founder of Urban Harvester, presented to the commission on the importance and benefits of food waste recovery and donation. She explained how her organization worked as a liaison with the donators and the organizations that need the food, and how the Good Samaritan Food Act protected the food supplier. The Commission voted to support the reuse of food whenever possible to encourage repurposed and redistribution for consumption. A motioned was made by Commissioners Puni and Benzoni; with all in favor, 7-0. Ms. Hess stated their organization was hosting a fundraiser on June 27th at Al Fresco.

2. CITY TREE REMOVALS

City Arborist Gonzalo Maravilla and Project Manager Gabe Nevarez provided an update on West Coast Arborists (WCA) and the City's trees situation. The commission wanted clearer information on tree accountability as well as a planting plan. They also requested staff provide a copy of WCA's contract for them to review. Maravilla stated that no trees were removed in May and that 1,079 trees were trimmed in the past two months.

3. SYNTHETIC TURF

A sub-committee consisting of members from the Design Review Board, and the Natural Resources and Environmental, Cultural Heritage, Public Works and Planning Commissions will be created to discuss the issue of synthetic turf.

4. CHARGING STATIONS

Council Member Cacciotti stated that the Air Quality Management District had just

awarded the City of South Pasadena \$10,183 to install a public charging station. Commissioner Benzoni to talk to the property management company at the Bristol Farms shopping center and Figoni to talk with Adopt-a-Charger to see if they still have grant funds for a private station. The group again agreed the proposed location near the library and senior center would be a beneficial location for the charger.

5. WATER CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

Figoni discussed the continued popularity of the \$2 per square foot turf rebate program and stated that Metropolitan Water District (MWD) is now paying \$2, instead of \$1, which could allow the City to adjust their funding process. She said the May water wise landscaping workshop was the largest yet. The toilet rebate is popular, especially with senior citizens. Figoni just received the new chrome-colored 1.75 gallon per minute low flow showerheads which were preferred by residents over the white one. Commissioner Benzoni will contact his associates at the YMCA in an effort to help them conserve water. Council Member Cacciotti would like the Huntington Drive and Fair Oaks median landscape project to be brought to City Council at the next meeting for approval.

6. UPDATE ON ORDINANCES

Figoni stated the Water Conservation and Water Shortage Plan ordinance and Plastic Bag Ban ordinance were adopted. Outreach plans for both ordinances are underway. The proposed Parkway ordinance and Native and Drought Tolerant Tree resolution will be brought to Council in the next month or so.

7. UPCOMING EVENTS

The Mulch and Compost Giveaway Event is Saturday, May 31st. The South Pasadena Beautiful Garden Tour booth on April 27th was a huge hit. There will be a Household Hazardous Waste Round Up event on August 31st at the school district parking lot. Figoni is working with Barbara Eisenstein to hold a 10 year event at the Nature Park on October 18th and with Athens for the October 11th Dumpster and Donation Day.

8. CONCERT SERIES – Green Living Expo & Concert

The Living Green Expo and Concert will be on Sunday, July 20th from 2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. The Greenest, Fastest Mile will be from 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. The concert will begin at 5:00 p.m. There will be a variety of vendors and green cars. Figoni continues to work closely with Community Services on this event. The NREC is also interested in supporting the other concert events planned for July 6, 13, 27 and August 3, 2014.

9. WATER USE AT THE CITY'S GOLF COURSE AND PARKS

Figoni is working with the City of Los Angeles' golf course group to see how South Pasadena can use some of Los Angeles' conservation programs, technologies and ideas. She will include Commissioner Silverthorn on potential meetings.

10. CITY'S ACTIONS TO CALIFORNIA DROUGHT

With the City's newly adopted ordinance, more outreach will be done. NREC would like more advertisements in local papers. There was also discussion about street banners.

11. PADLLA STATE SENTATE BILL 407

The Commission does not feel the City should require plumbing fixture replacements in buildings being sold due to SB407 already requiring similar upgrades over the next few years. No action to be taken.

12. ELECTRONIC CIGARETTES

Figoni to work with City Attorney Richard Adams.

13. SOLAR ENERGY COMMITTEE

The Commission suggested candidates for this committee, which would consider solar as well as other renewable energy sources. Chair Hughes to work with Figoni on this.

14. STYROFOAM POLICY

The Commission suggested looking at other cities that have banned the use of styrofoam in their community for everything but hot take-out food. The Commissioners would like to have a representative from the Chamber of Commerce attend the next NREC meeting for the Chamber’s take on this subject.

CHAIR COMMUNICATIONS

Chair Hughes talked about the MWD’s continued drought outreach. She also discussed an article discussing the challenges of California water rights, some of which date back to the early 1900’s.

COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS

Commissioner Benzoni provided an updated on L.A. County’s permit fees on gray water, stating they are \$250, like South Pasadena’s \$250 plumbing permit.

COUNCIL LIAISON COMMUNICATION

No update.

STAFF LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS

No update.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:23 p.m. with motions by Commissioners Kuhn and Findley; with all members in favor, 7-0.

NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting of the Natural Resources and Environmental Commission will be held on Tuesday, June 24, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in City Council Chambers.

 7/22/14

Kimberley Hughes, Chair

MINUTES OF THE NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

April 22, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.

South Pasadena Council Chambers - 1424 Mission Street

ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m. Present were Commissioners Scott Kuhn, Kay Findley, Nancy Wilms, Al Benzoni, John Silverthorn and Chair Kim Hughes. Commissioner Noah Puni and Student Commissioner Thomas Kutzer were absent. Council Liaison Richard D. Schneider, M.D. was present. Staff Liaison Debby Figoni was present.

MINUTES

Minutes from the March 25, 2014 were tabled and will be brought to the May meeting for approval.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS

None.

1. CITY TREE REMOVALS

Water Conservation Analyst Figoni received an update from City Arborist Gonzalo Maravilla that 17 city trees will be removed and replaced. Maravilla stated the City is no longer planting Camphor or Pepper Trees in the parkway. The commissioners are concerned about some of the dying trees. They would like a follow up from West Coast and Maravilla regarding planting, maintenance and watering, particularly in respect to contract compliance issues. The commissioners recommend that there is accountability for placing the right tree in the right place and want to know who is in charge for the final write off. They requested Public Works Director Toor and Maravilla attend the May meeting with an update.

The updated list of native and drought tolerant trees was discussed. Figoni stated an updated resolution to Chapter 34 was heading to City Council. It will provide information on which trees are affected by native tree trimming laws as well as a detailed list of drought tolerant trees.

2. SYNTHETIC TURF

At the March 19, 2014 City Council meeting, Council requested the Parkway ordinance move forward for a first reading and introduction with all suggestions (36" maximum plant height, 30% maximum hardscape, 18" access path every 15' and provisions for street trees in new dwellings) except synthetic turf. Council requested the NREC work with the Design Review Board, and the Cultural Heritage, Public Works and Planning Commissions. The NREC would like representatives from these commissions to attend a future NREC meeting for discussion on this subject.

3. CHARGING STATIONS

Figoni stated that there is no new information on this item. She has not heard anything on the matching grant funds from the Air Quality Management District. A reminder for Benzoni to talk to the property management company at the Bristol Farms shopping center to encourage them to install a charger.

4. WATER CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

Figoni discussed the continued popularity of the \$2 per square foot turf rebate program and participation in the various water wise landscaping workshops. The \$100 high efficiency toilet program is active and she is promoting this program in a variety of ways, including through the senior newsletter. The hose nozzles continue to be popular while the 1.75 gallon per minute low flow showerheads provided by Upper District are not due to color or logo imprint. She met with the YMCA on indoor conservation rebates and will soon work with restaurants on not serving water, unless requested, as well as offering rebates.

5. UPDATE ON ORDINANCES

Figoni updated the commission on the second reading and adoption of the proposed Water Conservation and Water Shortage Plan ordinance and Plastic Bag Ban ordinance to Council on May 7, 2014. The proposed Parkway ordinance will be brought back in June.

6. UPCOMING EVENTS

The Mulch and Compost Giveaway Event will be Saturday, May 31st. Four Water Wise Workshops have taken place, all have been very successful. There is one more on May 17th. Figoni will have a booth the South Pasadena Beautiful Garden Tour on April 27th. Figoni is working with Barbara Eisenstein to hold a 10 year event at the Nature Park on October 18th. She will also work with Athens for the October 11th Dumpster and Donation Day.

7. CONCERT SERIES – Green Living Expo

The Living Green Expo and Concert will be on Sunday, July 20th from 2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. There will be a variety of vendors and green cars. The race will take place earlier in the day. Figoni is working closely with Community Services on this event.

8. LANDSCAPE REQUIREMENTS FOR FRONT YARDS

No update and the decision was made to table this item.

9. WATER USE AT THE CITY'S GOLF COURSE AND PARKS

The commission recommends exploring avenues to reduce turf areas around the golf course and how things can be reconfigured to reduce turf acreage without jeopardizing the aesthetics of the golf course. For water reduction purposes, the commission would like staff to talk to experts about conservation. The commission requested researching

the possibility of building a second reservoir to use for watering City trees. A motioned was made by Commissioner Silverthorne and seconded by Commissioner Kuhn with all in favor, 6-0.

10. CITY'S ACTIONS TO CALIFORNIA DROUGHT

The City continues to be proactive about watering the parks, medians and golf course. Staff continues to move forward on the demonstration project on Huntington to remove the turf and install water wise plants.

11. ELECTRONIC CIGARETTES

In early March, Los Angeles City voted to ban the use of e-cigarettes, just like their ban of traditional cigarettes. The commission recommends that the sale and usage of e-cigs fall under the existing restrictions of our present cigarette ordinance. The commission would like to add in the restriction of all vaping devices into the existing City ordinance, similar to the actions taken by the City of Los Angeles. Chair Hughes motioned that the City Attorney explore this action. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Silverthorne with all in favor 6-0.

12. LOW EMISSION VEHICLE PURCHAING POLICY

The commission looked at this policy in 2011. Councilmember Schneider noted the present idea is not just to look at the 10% cost difference, but at the lifetime benefits. Since there are so many items, values, trade-offs and details to consider, the commission believes the purchase of each vehicle needs to be addressed on a case by case basis.

13. ANTI-IDLING POLICY AROUND SCHOOLS

The commission feels the school traffic of parents picking up students is moving properly and due to safety and traffic flow, the subject of air quality from idling is not a serious concern at this time. The commission also discussed the air quality of idling cars at the train crossings but no suggestion for improvement was made on this subject.

CHAIR COMMUNICATIONS

Chair Hughes talked about the Colorado River water and shared an article on bees. Hughes attended the City's budget meeting and mentioned the proposed budget provided an additional \$200,000 for the City's Urban Forest.

COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS

Commissioner Wilms brought up the issue of Global Water and wanted an update on how things were progressing with this contractor. Commissioner Benzoni mentioned he had stubbed out his house for gray water.

COUNCIL LIAISON COMMUNICATION

No update.

STAFF LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS

No update.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:46 p.m. with motions by Commissioners Kuhn and Benzoni, with all members in favor, 6-0.

NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting of the Natural Resources and Environmental Commission will be held on Tuesday, May 27, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in City Council Chambers.

Kim Hughes 6/4/14
Kimberley Hughes, Chair

MINUTES
NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
March 25, 2014

1. ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. Present were Commissioners Scott Kuhn, Kay Findley, Nancy Wilms, Al Benzoni, John Silverthorn and Chair Kim Hughes. Commissioner Noah Puni and Student Commissioner Thomas Kutzer were absent. Council Liaison Richard D. Schneider, M.D. was present. Staff Liaison Debby Figoni was present.

2. MINUTES

Minutes from the February 25, 2014 meeting were approved by Commissioner Findley and Wilms; with all members in favor, 6-0.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS

None.

4. COMMUNITY GARDEN

Richard Tom of the South Pasadena Community Garden group discussed the new proposed Caltrans owned property at 1028 Magnolia and the support of the neighborhood. Michelle Hammond discussed her role as one of the many community garden board members and supporters and stated that she is also part of South Pasadena's Homegrown Exchange group. In response to commissioner's questions, Mr. Tom stated that the site is approximately 90' by 180', insurance will be provided by the Los Angeles County Community Garden Council, the Garden Board, Master Gardeners, and possibly others will manage the garden plots, plots to be given on a first come first serve basis, water costs and details are not yet worked out, and the garden will be open from dawn to dusk. If they secure the CalTrans property, they will work out the final details with the City and start fundraising. The Community Garden is interested in getting the high school students involved in the garden as an educational tool and for projects.

5. CITY'S URBAN FOREST UPDATE

Tim Crothers, Area Manager for West Coast Arborist (WCA) presented. WCA is under contract and works with the City to trim and maintain trees using a grid system. To improve the future of the City's urban forest Crothers suggested greater tree diversity and a greater percentage of newly planted trees to replace the diseased and declining trees. Established trees are stressed from the drought, but it is more important to water the newer, younger trees. The tree health along the Arroyo was discussed. WCA and the City follow the International Society of Arboriculture's (ISA) standard of only allowing 25% trimming allowance per trim.

Ben Wong from Southern California Edison (SCE) presented. He explained about safe and mandated tree trimming requirements 18" of clearance between radio conductors. Due to the amount of trees they trim and the time table, it is too challenging for SCE to notify residents ahead of time. Issues of residential complaints regarding unnecessary or poor tree trimming standards were discussed. Wong stated SCE's contractors use ISA tree trimming policy around utility lines. Wong stated SCE's main concern is not aesthetics but safety and if residents want to use their own arborist, they must be certified to work around live wires. The City's new Tree List states that "trees under SCE lines should be no taller than 25' at maturity" and lists which trees are good under utility lines.

More education needs to be done to the public about trees, including "right tree – right place", proper watering, maintenance and trimming.

6. CITY TREE REMOVALS

City Arborist Gonzalo Maravilla informed that the City and WCA is trimming Palms on Oak Street and from Monterey to Mission toward Romona and has already trimmed 170 Palm trees this year. No tree removals in March but there will be some removals and replacements in the near future, especially in the North section of the City.

7. CITY'S TREE TRIMMING & REMOVAL REQUIREMENTS

After the presentations by WCA and SCE, the commission discussed digesting the information just provided and revisiting this issue in the future.

8. CHARGING STATIONS

Water Conservation Analyst Figoni stated that there is no new information on this item. Grants Analyst Tracy Perkosky has applied for matching grant funds from the Air Quality Management District. Benzoni will talk to the property management company at the Bristol Farms shopping center to encourage them to install a charger.

9. WATER CONSERVATION PROGRAMS & BUDGET REVIEW

Figoni discussed the popularity of the \$2 per square foot turf rebate program and the upcoming \$100 high efficiency toilet program which is coming soon. Figoni will be offering 1.75 gallon per minute low flow showerheads to residents which were provided by Upper District.

10. UPDATE ON ORDINANCES

Water Conservation Analyst Figoni updated the commission on the first reading and introduction of the Water Conservation and Water Shortage Plan ordinance which was presented to Council on March 19, 2014 meeting. The ordinance will go to City Council for second and final reading in May or June. Figoni brought the Plastic Bag Ban ordinance to Council for direction on March 19, 2014. Council requested the ordinance

be brought back for first reading and introduction at the April 23, 2014 meeting. Figoni will also bring the Low Impact Development resolution soon.

11. UPCOMING EVENTS

The Mulch and Compost Giveaway Event will be Saturday, May 31st. The first Water Wise workshop was a huge success. There are five more to go from March through May. Figoni will have a booth at the Doggie Day event and the South Pasadena Beautiful Garden Tour on April 27th. She will also be presenting at the Senior Citizen Center on April 9th.

12. CONCERT SERIES/CLEAN CAR SHOW

The Living Green Expo and Concert will be on Sunday, July 20th. Figoni will be working with Community Services on this event. The NREC will be sharing an outreach booth with Figoni.

13. LANDSCAPE REQUIREMENTS FOR FRONT YARDS

No update, but this item will remain on the Agenda as NREC continues to follow the status of the draft Parkway ordinance.

14. WATER USE AT THE CITY'S GOLF COURSE

Figoni informed the commission that the audit has been completed. The commission suggested hiring a consultant to remodel the amount of turf on the golf course and/or to install a second reservoir at the golf course. If a second reservoir was installed, that water could also be used to water city trees.

15. CITY'S ACTIONS TO CALIFORNIA DROUGHT

The City is being proactive about the drought. To date, the City has performed water audits and retrofits at all city parks upgrading sprinkler heads, installed weather based irrigation timers, retrofitted overhead to drip in a few locations, reduced watering time and added mulch to certain locations.

16. ELECTRONIC CIGARETTES

Councilmember Schneider believes that Los Angeles County is going to treat them like traditional cigarettes. Some e-cigarettes are vapor and some have nicotine. Figoni to forward information from City Clerk Evelyn Zneimer regarding L.A. County's direction to the commissioners.

16. LOW EMISSION VEHICLES

Councilmember Schneider updated the NREC Councilmember Cacciotti City's purchasing policy for vehicles. The present 10% less is restrictive, but if we analyze the lifetime cost of the vehicle. Look at other cities and what other things they add to their policy.

17. CHAIR COMMUNICATIONS

Chair Hughes asked Commissioner Kuhn if he could look into the rubberized pavement. Figoni will try to obtain information from other cities. Hughes stated that Metropolitan Water District was implementing a \$5.5 million campaign for indoor and outdoor water conservation.

18. COUNCIL LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS

In addition to a tree a day, Councilmember Schneider wants to get additional funds for more trees.

19. COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS

Commissioners wanted to make sure the right trees including variety are planted in the right place.

20. STAFF LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS

Figoni informed the commission on the City of Long Beach's Laundry to Landscape program. The not so successful gray water program did not save water. Figoni will forward the PowerPoint to the commissioners.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:34 p.m. approved by Commissioners Kuhn and Benzoni, with all members in favor, 6-0.

NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting of the Natural Resources and Environmental Commission will be held on Tuesday, April 22, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in City Council Chambers.

Kim Hughes 4/4/14
Kimberley Hughes, Chair

MINUTES
NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
February 25, 2014

1. ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. Present were Commissioners Scott Kuhn, Kay Findley, Nancy Wilms, Al Benzoni, John Silverthorn, Noah Puni and Chair Hughes. Student Commissioner Thomas Kutzer was absent. Council Liaison Richard D. Schneider, M.D. was present. Staff Liaison Debby Figoni was present.

2. MINUTES

Minutes from the January 28, 2013 meeting were approved by Commissioner Puni and Commissioner Benzoni; all members present were in favor, 7 – 0.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS

None.

4. CITY TREE REMOVALS

Water Conservation Analyst Debby Figoni stated that Arborist Maravilla had no tree work to report. Figoni informed the Commission that the City's new tree list was going to include native and non-native trees appropriate for planting in South Pasadena.

5. CITY'S TREE TRIMMING & REMOVAL REQUIREMENTS

The commissioners discussed the city's tree trimming process and schedule as well as issues with Southern California Edison. They thought it would be helpful to have representatives from West Coast Arborists and Southern California Edison present at an upcoming meeting. Staff liaison Figoni will set it up for March and also invite City Arborist Gonzalo Maravilla. All commissioners are to email Figoni the questions and issues they have regarding the City's trees by March 11, 2014. Figoni gave a presentation, originally given to City Council by Public Works Director Paul Toor, regarding South Pasadena's urban forest that included information about the City's tree inventory. It was estimated that the value of the urban forest is \$55 million. There was discussion about the trees in the Arroyo and the need for supplemental water for young trees. There was also a question regarding a tree removal on Alta Vista Circle.

6. CHARGING STATIONS

Water Conservation Analyst Figoni stated that there is no new information on this item. Grants Analyst Tracy Perkosky has applied for matching grant funds from the Air Quality Management District.

7. HERO/PROPERTY BILL FINANCING PROGRAM

The Commissioners are concerned about up-front costs, fees, residents getting confused and getting in over their head, especially seniors. Since the HERO program could result with liens on resident's homes, they wonder if a home equity line of credit is better. They wondered how the program checks out contractors and are concerned with potential deceptive advertising. The Commissioners would like to keep a watch on the program and consider adding a disclaimer when advertising in our City.

8. WATER CONSERVATION PROGRAMS & BUDGET REVIEW

Water Conservation Analyst Figoni updated the Commission on the Water Conservation and Water Shortage Plan which was presented to Council on February 5, 2014. Council requested NREC proceed on this ordinance with water reduction percentages tied to each Stage. Stage one is a recommended 10% reduction, Stage 2 is 20% and Stage 3 is a 30% reduction potentially tied to yearly usage. The second modification to the draft ordinance was the word "designated" was placed in front of the allowed number of watering days tied to each Stage. The various Stages would likely come into effect based on what is declared by the State, Metropolitan Water District and/or Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District, or if the City has problems with the pumps or wells. The Stage and effective date would be at

the discretion of the City Council based on supply and/or emergency issues such as maintenance on supply lines. Violations will be given based on the Article V of the Violations and Penalties section.

The NREC voted on the percentage reductions, one option for the three Stages was 10%, 15% and 20% which was voted for by Commissioner Findley. The second option was 10%, 20% and 30% which was voted for by Commissioners Hughes, Kuhn, Wilms, Benzoni, Silverthorn, and Puni. The various reductions in Stages 1 through 3 are recommended while Stage 4 is mandated.

9. SYNTHETIC TURF

The commission discussed the use of synthetic turf and reviewed a “Pros and Cons” list put together by Water Conservation Analyst Figoni. Last year, the commission approved synthetic turf in the draft Parkway Ordinance and would like to proceed with the ordinance as is. The draft ordinance will be given to City Council for review at an upcoming meeting. Discussion over whether the draft ordinance should first be reviewed by the Public Works and/or Planning Commissions was discussed. Since this is only being provided to Council as a discussion item, it will be up to Council to send it to other Commissions for review.

10. UPDATE ON ORDINANCES

The Water Conservation and Shortage ordinance went to City Council on February 5, 2014 and was sent back to NREC for more details. Turf removal and toilet exchange programs went to Council on February 5, 2014 and were both approved with a \$20,000 budget for toilets and \$50,000 for turf removal from front yards only. The commission would like to proceed with the Plastic Bag Ban no matter how the State is proceeding. Other draft ordinances heading to City Council soon include Low Impact Development and Parkway.

11. UPCOMING EVENTS

Water Conservation Analyst Figoni has secured a Mulch and Compost Giveaway Event for Saturday, May 31st. She has set up six water wise workshops taking place March through May. In addition, she will host a booth at several community events and be presenting at the Senior Citizen Center.

12. CONCERT SERIES/CLEAN CAR SHOW

Proposed dates for the sustainably fair and clean car show, which will also include a health run, are July 13th or 20th. Figoni will be working with Community Services on this event.

13. COMMUNITY GARDEN

Chair Hughes talked with Richard Tom who has been working with the Parks and Recreation Commission on the next steps to lease space from CalTrans. Mr. Tom is checking with the Community Services Manager on the details. The ad hoc committee is still proceeding with the garden needs.

14. LANDSCAPE REQUIREMENTS FOR FRONT YARDS

No update, but this item will remain on the Agenda as NREC continues to follow the status of the draft Parkway ordinance.

15. WATER USE AT THE CITY'S GOLF COURSE

Water Conservation Analyst Figoni informed the commission that an audit is scheduled at the golf course in the next few weeks. The consultants will look at the efficiency of the sprinklers and irrigation controller and actually make the retrofits necessary to help conserve water.

The City's parks have had water audits. At Garfield Park, approximately 50% of the nozzles were upgraded to a more efficient nozzle. In addition, 350 square feet of overhead nozzles were converted to drip in the rose garden area. City staff will lay mulch to finalize that project. At Arroyo Park, 2 soil sensors were installed to help water more efficiently. The consultants could not upgrade the sprinkler heads due to water pressure issues. The irrigation controllers at both parks were already state of the art.

16. CHAIR COMMUNICATIONS – Gave a belated welcome to new Commissioner Puni.

17. COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS – Commissioner Findley mentioned the water break in front of her house and how Public Works took care of the issue in a prompt and professional manner. Commissioner Benzoni discussed the City’s capital improvement projects which cover reservoirs, streets and sidewalks. He would like to know the Public Works Department has looked into the benefits of using permeable pavement or cement when appropriate.

18. STAFF LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS – n/a

19. COUNCIL LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS – n/a

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m. approved by Commissioners Puni and Commissioner Kuhn, and all members were in favor, 7-0.

NEXT MEETING - The next regular meeting of the Natural Resources and Environmental Commission will be held on Tuesday, March 25, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in City Council Chambers.


Kimberley Hughes, Chair

MINUTES
NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
January 28, 2014

1. ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 p.m. Present were Commissioners Scott Kuhn, Kay Findley, Nancy Wilms, Al Benzoni, John Silverthorn, Noah Puni and Student Commissioner Thomas Kutzer. Chair Kimberley Hughes was absent. Staff Liaison Debby Figoni was present.

2. MINUTES

Minutes from the December 17, 2013 meeting were approved with two minor changes by Commissioner Puni and Commissioner Benzoni; all members present were in favor, 6 – 0.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS

None.

4. PRESENTATION BY HERO/PROPERTY BILL FINANCING PROGRAM

Eric Rosenthal from the Renovate America / HERO program spoke to the Commission about the financial benefits and flexibility of the HERO program. He explained that HERO offered affordable ways for residents to do energy upgrades to their home and that it shows up on their property taxes therefore it is tax deductible. The Commission was concerned with liability and financial risks for South Pasadena residents and businesses but their concerns were put to rest with details of the program and how hundreds of other cities in California have been providing this financing option and/or are about to implement it for their community. Conservation Analyst Figoni will remain updated on the program and keep in contact with the HERO representatives.

5. CITY TREE REMOVALS

Water Conservation Analyst Debby Figoni stated that Arborist Maravilla had no tree work to report. She updated the commission on the drought and public tree situation, informing them that West Coast was not supplying supplemental water to older, existing trees and that the water they used was potable, not recycled water.

Figoni informed the Commission about a resident's concern with the City's tree trimming and removal process. This gentleman lives on Oak Street and has had several issues with power outages stemming from what he believes are the City's and other residents' failure to trim trees in the parkway. He believes the trees are neglected due to the City's stringent tree trimming process and would like the Commission to review the guidelines. Staff informed this resident that trees in the utility easement were maintained by South California Edison. Commissioner Silverthorn commented on how poorly Edison trimmed the City's trees and wanted to work with Edison on improving their process and guidelines. The Commission requested a representative from Edison attend an upcoming meeting to discuss tree trimming. In addition, it was requested that a representative from West Coast attend to be a part of a comprehensive tree trimming discussion.

6. BEE POPULATION & IMPACT OF PESTICIDES

There is no new information on this item. The Commission requested removing this item from the Agenda and possibility adding it back when a new Public Works Superintendent is hired.

7. ELECTRIC CHARGING STATIONS

Water Conservation Analyst Figoni stated that there is no new information on this item. She is still waiting on grant opportunities.

8. WATER CONSERVATION PROGRAMS & BUDGET REVIEW

Water Conservation Analyst Figoni discussed the turf removal rebate and toilet exchange programs and explained how they would be heading to City Council in February. Figoni has been very busy with water audits which residents really appreciate. She is working on teaching four more water wise workshops in combination with the upcoming turf removal rebate program. She is still working on the Huntington Drive landscape retrofit project as well as water audits and retrofits at the City's parks and golf course.

9. UPDATE ON ORDINANCES

The Water Conservation and Shortage ordinance is complete and heading to City Council on February 5, 2014. Also the turf removal and toilet exchange programs are heading to Council on February 5, 2014. Low impact development and green streets are in progress and the plastic bag ban is moving along. The parkway ordinance is waiting for direction.

10. UPCOMING EVENTS

In 2014, Water Conservation Analyst Figoni is still working with Athens Services and TruGreen Landcare to hold three Mulch and Compost Giveaway Events. In addition, she plans to host several water wise workshops. Finally, the Commission discussed partnering with Southern California Edison on a tree giveaway event. Due to the drought, they voted to postpone this event and revisit it in the fall with Chair Hughes present. Arborist and tree teacher Matt Ritter will be speaking at the library in June. There are also opportunities to reach out at community events, such as Relay for Life, the Egg-stravaganza Event, Doggie Event, etc.

11. COMMUNITY GARDEN

No new information.

12. LANDSCAPE REQUIREMENTS FOR FRONT YARDS

Until the parkway ordinance has been settled, the Commissioners requested this item be removed from the Agenda.

13. WATER USE AT THE CITY'S GOLF COURSE

Commissioner Silverthron and Water Conservation Analyst Figoni performed a walk through audit at the golf course with the on-site superintendent. Their irrigation practices are good, but there seems to be room for improvement. The course is back to using water from the Arroyo since the temporary construction that took place up stream is over. In the next month, Figoni will be working with a consulting firm to have a professional audit including irrigation retrofits performed. Furthermore, she is working with the Community Services Manager, Shelia Pautsh to investigate additional conservation measures. The Commission suggested looking into the future water supply options like building a second reservoir at the golf course to store more water coming down the Arroyo and looking at redesigning the golf course to reduce the amount of grassy, green areas. They also suggested allowing the turf to brown a little or allowing the fairways to brown, without jeopardizing the health of the trees, looking at the contract with Donovan Brothers to see if we can work with them to use less water, and considering hiring a professional from the golf course industry to make our golf course more water efficient.

14. DEVELOPMENT OF NATIVE TREES LIST

Water Conservation Analyst showed the Commissioners the draft native and drought tolerant tree list. This list will be finalized and brought to City Council in the near future.

15. PRIORITY LIST FOR COUNCIL TO CONSIDER AT STRATEGIC PLANNING MEETING AND DESIGNATE A LIAISON

Since Chair Hughes was absent, this item was not discussed.

16. CITY'S RESPONSE TO DROUGHT

The Commission suggested a variety of ways to use water more efficiently including reducing irrigation in public parks to the maximum amount possible without risking the health of our trees, keeping the grass longer to reduce evaporation, examining parks for grassy areas that can be removed and replaced with mulch and/or mulch and water wise plants, replacing turf in medians with water wise plants and modifying irrigation to properly water the trees. The Commission asked Water Conservation Analyst Figoni to find out what other cities are doing to conserve.

17. CHAIR COMMUNICATIONS – n/a

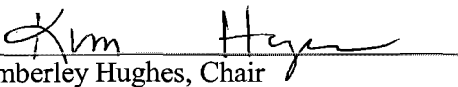
18. COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS – Commissioner Findley updated the Commission on the Alice Keck Park Memorial Garden in Santa Barbara that has upgraded their garden to be water wise. Commissioner Wilms suggested the Commission remove items 6, 12, and 14 from future agendas and add the HERO program to the February Agenda. She also suggested educating businesses along Fair Oaks to not use water to wash down the sidewalk, and wanted to review ways to reduce planting costs for the bikeway path along the Arroyo.

19. STAFF LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS – n/a

20. COUNCIL LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS – n/a

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m. approved by Commissioners Benzoni and Commissioner Puni, and all members were in favor, 6-0.

NEXT MEETING - The next regular meeting of the Natural Resources and Environmental Commission will be held on Tuesday, February 25, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in City Council Chambers.



Kimberley Hughes, Chair

MINUTES
NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
December 17, 2013

1. ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Present were Chair Kimberley Hughes and Commissioners Scott Kuhn, Kay Findley, Nancy Wilms, Al Benzoni, and John Silverthorn. Commissioner Diana Mahmud was absent due to her new position on City Council. Student Commissioner Thomas Kutzer was absent. Staff Liaison Debby Figoni was present. Councilmember Cacciotti was present.

2. MINUTES

Minutes from the November 19, 2013 meeting were approved by Commissioner Benzoni and Commissioner Kuhn, all members present were in favor, 6 – 0.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS

None.

4. CITY TREE REMOVALS

Water Conservation Analyst Debby Figoni stated that Arborist Maravilla had no tree work to report. The commission requested an update on the drought and public tree situation, including if the trees were getting any supplemental water. If so, by whom, when and where is the water coming from? They also wanted to know if we have we had to provide supplemental water to these trees in the past?

5. BEE POPULATION & IMPACT OF PESTICIDES

The commission reviewed the city's MSDS information from 2009 but believe there have been changes in the past four years and would like staff to update it. The members talked about working with, or contracting a, bee group (like Beekeepers) who could assist with bee hive removals.

6. AMENDMENT TO MUNICIPAL CODE CHAPTER 23

Water Conservation Analyst Debby Figoni stated Assistant Public Works Director Shin Furukawa said the new regulations to Chapter 23 of the City's Municipal Code (Stormwater and Urban Runoff Pollution Control) were more strict than the prior. Furthermore, the new regulations are additional, not in lieu of the old regulations. The Public Works and Planning Departments will monitor their own areas.

7. ELECTRIC CHARGING STATIONS

Water Conservation Analyst Figoni has received three estimates. The commission recommends the library as the prime location and the public parking lot across the street from City Hall as the second or back up location. This was approved by Commissioner Kuhn and Commissioner Wilms, and all members were in favor, 6 – 0. The commission would like this project to move forward. The cost of the needed power booster source was discussed. This is in addition to the cost of the chargers. Members are concerned about losing the initial AQMD grant funds, which only covers the costs of the charging stations, while waiting for future funds that apparently cover 50-percent of the entire project (i.e.: the stations, the power booster and the installation of the infrastructure). The balance of the funding was questioned and members suggested using energy efficiency reserve funds.

8. WATER CONSERVATION PROGRAMS & BUDGET REVIEW

Water Conservation Analyst Figoni will provide the guidelines on the turf removal program to the Commissioners. The commission discussed a budget of \$50,000 be allocated to the program. Figoni has been doing a lot of water audits including one at the San Pascual Stables. She has set up a water wise workshop through Metropolitan Water District. She is partnering with Community Services on audits and community events. Chair Hughes stated that Southern California is on track for the driest year in on record and discussed water rights and water wars around our state.

Figoni updated the commission on Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District's median turf replacement project on Huntington Drive and invited comments from the Commissioners. There will also be a follow-up on the issue of potential trees from Edison and the necessary care for those trees.

9. UPDATE ON ORDINANCES

The commission would like the Plastic Bag ordinance passed in January and have the ordinance start in July, 2014. To help support and promote the program, they would like to order reusable, canvas bags from a local vendor. The Water Conservation and Shortage ordinance is almost complete. Only a few more enforcement details need to be finalized. The issue of enforcement levels came up with the suggestion of only having four penalty levels instead of five. The conservation programs such as the turf removal and toilets retrofits are in progress. The Parkway ordinance is waiting for direction.

10. UPCOMING EVENTS

In 2014, Water Conservation Analyst Figoni will work with Athens Services and TruGreen Landcare to hold three Mulch and Compost Giveaway Events. In addition, she plans to host several water wise workshops. Finally, she is planning on partnering with Southern California Edison on a tree giveaway event and having Tree People there to educate the residents on tree care and maintenance. There are also opportunities to reach out at community events, such as Relay for Life, the Egg-stravaganza Event, Doggie Event, etc.

The water tour will be advertised to the public via an article in the review. Chair Hughes suggested using efficiency funds to run an appropriate ad in the Review providing information to the public on why rates are being raised and what they are paying for. This was approved by Chair Hughes and Commissioner Benzoni, and all members were in favor, 6 – 0.

11. COMMUNITY GARDEN

No new information.

12. LANDSCAPE REQUIREMENTS FOR FRONT YARDS

The group discussed what other local cities like Rosemead, Pasadena, Azusa and Arcadia are doing. They would like additional information from other cities and direction from City Council.

13. WATER USE AT THE CITY'S GOLF COURSE

The commission discussed the watering issue at the golf course and requested an update on the amount of water being used. Since the golf course is managed by an outside firm that does not pay for the water, the commission wondered if the course was being overwatered. The issue of the number of water meters at the golf course and clubhouse needs to be investigated. The members requested Commissioner Silverthorne and Figoni do a walk through audit at the golf course.

14. DEVELOPMENT OF TREE TRIMMERS LIST & NATIVE TREES LIST

Commissioner Findley spoke to Account Clerk Lauren Rubin regarding permits and found the information the City could provide would not be efficient enough to provide a viable list. The commission decided this was not worth moving forward on.

The Commission would like Arborist Maravilla to provide an updated Native Tree List. They would like to edit it one last time and have West Coast review it. Then, the list can be posted on the website and provided to the public.

Figoni brought up the upcoming issue of a resident who would like the tree trimming process reviewed. This will be discussed at the January meeting.

15. PRIORITY LIST FOR COUNCIL TO CONSIDER AT STRATEGIC PLANNING MEETING AND DESIGNATE A LIAISON

Last year, additional funds for tree trimming were requested and were granted. This year, the commission would like to continue tree trimming as well as continued outreach and programs for water conservation to the public and the schools. In addition, energy efficient pumps and upgrades at the reservoirs are a priority. Chair Hughes will update the list and send to the Commissioners for review.

16. GRAYWATER SYSTEMS

Commissioner Benzoni checked with South Pasadena on their greywater system requirements. They basically follow Los Angeles County's requirements. The Los Angeles County Board of Health is the agency that provides the permit for a fee of \$1,400. Plus, there is a permit fee of \$250 to South Pasadena. Benzoni questioned if the City could be the governing agency to provide the permit at a lower rate.

17. CHAIR COMMUNICATIONS – Chair Hughes provided an article on fracking - “Governor Brown releases draft regulations to cover fracking”.

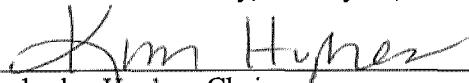
18. COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS – n/a

19. STAFF LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS – Updated he HERO program presentation. Nancy requested a copy of the terms.

20. COUNCIL LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS – Councilmember Cacciotti provide an update on AQMD's no burn alert, contacts for air quality programs, new electric vehicles, and the new expansion of the Metro Gold Line.

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned at 9:55 p.m. approved by Commissioners Kuhn and Commissioner Benzoni, and all members were in favor, 6-0.

NEXT MEETING - The next regular meeting of the Natural Resources and Environmental Commission will be held on Tuesday, January 28, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in City Council Chambers.



Kimberley Hughes, Chair

MINUTES
NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
November 19, 2013

1. ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m. Present were Chair Kimberly Hughes and Commissioners Scott Kuhn, Kay Findley, Nancy Wilms, Al Benzoni, Diana Mahmud and John Silverthorn. Student Commissioner Thomas Kutzer was present but left early. Staff Liaison Debby Figoni was present. Council Liaison Putnam was absent. Councilmember Cacciotti was present.

2. MINUTES

Minutes from the October 22, 2013 meeting were approved, with the minor edit of a Councilmember's name on page one, by Commissioner Mahmud and Commissioner Kuhn, all members present were in favor, 7 – 0.

3. MINUTES FROM SPECIAL MEETING

No action on this item. The Special Meeting was cancelled.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS

None.

5. CITY TREE REMOVALS

City Arborist Gonzalo Maravilla was not present. No update was provided.

6. BEE POPULATION & IMPACT OF PESTICIDES

The commission reviewed the city's MSDS information from 2009 but believe there have been changes in the past four years and would like staff to update it. The members talked about working with, or contracting a, bee group, like Beekeepers, that could assist with bee hive removals.

7. AMENDMENT TO MUNICIPAL CODE CHAPTER 23

The commission discussed their concerns to the changes in this amendment. They requested Water Conservation Analyst Figoni investigate the possibility of gaps in the new regulations versus the existing regulations. In addition, Figoni was tasked to find out who would be overseeing the required monitoring. Commissioners Hughes and Wilms discussed looking at the permit situation.

8. ELECTRIC CHARGING STATIONS

Water Conservation Analyst Figoni has received three estimates. She is now working with Grant Specialist Perkosky on obtaining new AQMD grant funds which will become available in 2014.

9. WATER CONSERVATION PROGRAMS & BUDGET REVIEW

Water Conservation Analyst Figoni held the second Mulch and Compost giveaway event. It was another huge success and participation doubled. The commission would like these events to continue.

Figoni discussed the direct installation toilet program. A budget of \$2,000 and additional outreach to seniors was requested and approved by Commissioner Mahmud and Commissioner Benzoni, and all members were in favor, 7 – 0. The commission also said that it was important to keep water conservation efforts moving.

Figoni discussed the turf removal program which would offer a \$1.00 rebate per square foot of grass removed. A budget of \$50,000 for fiscal year 2013/14, partnering with Metropolitan Water District's additional \$1.00 rebate, and following the city's code enforcement guidelines (Ordinance 2242; 9.80

inadequate landscape maintenance) was requested and approved by Commissioner Mahmud and Commissioner Kuhn, and all members were in favor, 7 – 0.

The group talked about water waste in our parks and that there has been a focus over the years to reduce water waste at Garfield Park. The group also discussed the water issue at the golf course and questioned ways to make it more efficient. They would like an update and presentation in the near future.

Figoni updated the commission on Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District's median turf replacement project on Huntington Drive and invited comments from the commission.

10. GREEN STREETS POLICY

The commission approved the Green Streets Policy. It can now be brought to City Council for approval.

11. UPCOMING EVENTS

In 2014, Water Conservation Analyst Figoni will work with Athens Services and TruGreen Landcare to hold three Mulch and Compost Giveaway Events. In addition, she plans to host several water wise workshops.

12. COMMUNITY GARDEN

No new information.

13. LANDSCAPE REQUIREMENTS FOR FRONT YARDS

The group discussed what other local cities like Rosemead, Pasadena, Azusa and Arcadia are doing. They would like additional information from other cities and direction from City Council.

14. TREES & WILDLIFE DRAFT WEB COPY

The commission read the copy and three modifications were made. A motion to approve was made by Commissioner Mahmud and Commissioner Wilms and all members were in favor, 7–0. The final copy will be forwarded to the Chair of the Animal Commission.

15. DEVELOPMENT OF TREE TRIMMERS LIST & NATIVE TREES LIST

The commission would like Arborist Maravilla to provide an updated Native Tree List at the December meeting. The commission voted on continuing to work on a tree trimmers list. The item passed 4 to 3 and was approved by Commissioner Findley and Commissioner Mahmud. Findley will investigate the city's permitting process to see if there is an effective and efficient way to organize and update this list.

Figoni shared that South Pasadena Beautiful will be funding the installation of 300 trees.

16. LOW IMPACT DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE

Water Conservation Analyst Figoni briefly discussed the ordinance. There were no prior or present comments from the commissioners. This ordinance will be brought to City Council for approval.

17. ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND SUSTAINABILITY LIST

Water Conservation Analyst Figoni provided a list of 60 energy efficient and sustainable initiatives completed, in progress or being considered for the future implementation in the city. The commission was asked to review the items and vote on the top priorities which were:

Electric Usage: (1) Energy Efficient Pumps & Upgrades, (2) Solar Panels and (3) Street Light Retrofits
Water Conservation: (4) Water Conservation Ordinance and (5) Water Conservation Programs

18. GRAYWATER SYSTEMS

Commissioner Benzoni did a comprehensive presentation to the commission on the process, procedures and costs to install a graywater in an existing home. The commission is interested in learning more and discussing it further. The commission would like to review current codes.

19. CHAIR COMMUNICATIONS – Chair Hughes provided an article on fracking - “Governor Brown releases draft regulations to cover fracking”.

20. COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS – n/a

21. STAFF LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS – n/a

22. COUNCIL LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS – n/a

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned at 10:25 p.m. approved by Commissioners Kuhn and Commissioner Benzoni, and all members were in favor, 7-0.

NEXT MEETING - The next regular meeting of the Natural Resources and Environmental Commission will be held on Tuesday, December 17, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. in City Council Chambers.


Kimberley Hughes, Chair

MINUTES
NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
October 22, 2013

1. ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Present were Chair Kimberly Hughes and Commissioners Scott Kuhn, Kay Findley, Nancy Wilms, Al Benzoni, Diana Mahmud and John Silverthorn. Student Commissioner Thomas Kutzer was present but left early. Staff Liaison Debby Figoni and Parks Supervisor Gonzalo Maravilla were present. Councilmember Philip Putnam was present for most of the meeting.

2. MINUTES

Minutes from the September 24, 2013 meeting were approved by Commissioner Wilms and Commissioner Findley, and all members present were in favor, 7 – 0.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS

Richard Helgeson discussed the topic of openness and transparency on issues affecting the NREC under the Brown Act.

4. PROPERTY TREE REMOVAL/REPLACEMENT – 1825 VIA DEL REY

The replacement tree fees were paid prior to the commission meeting, therefore, this item was not discussed.

5. ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND SUSTAINABILITY PRESENTATION BY HILARY STRAUS, ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER

At the January 26, 2013 Strategic Planning Meeting, City Council directed staff to look at the city's Energy Efficiency and Sustainability programs. Assistant City Manager Hilary Straus and Water Conservation Analyst Debby Figoni updated the NREC on sixty (60) of the city's Energy Efficiency and Sustainability programs, projects and policies that have been completed, are presenting being implemented or are being considered for the future. The NREC was requested to provide staff with the top five policies, programs or projects they would like the commission and staff to work on.

6. CITY TREE REMOVALS

City Arborist Gonzalo Maravilla provided an update on City trees and removals. He noted that the vandalized ginkgo trees on Mission Street will be replaced in November. The funds will be donated by South Pasadena Beautiful. A bottlebrush tree was removed at 1036 Brent due to termites. A black acacia tree was removed at 2015 Cambridge due to termites. A palm tree was removed at 1722 Morenga after it split in half. A silk floss tree died and was removed at 417 Flora Park Terrace. A carob tree with inner decay was removed at 2005 Main Crest. A liquid amber tree died suddenly and was removed at 1109 Montrose. He also reported that he was seeing a weakening of the city's tree due to the dryness of the soil making the trees for susceptible to disease and insects. The commission commented that there might come the need to water mature trees, due to lack of moisture in the soil.

7. DONATION OF HYDRANGEA (ENCHANTRESS) FROM MARC AND MARCY ULRICH

City Arborist Maravilla and Water Conservation Specialist Figoni will look for a location in the city where the Hydrangea Enchantress will thrive keeping in mind that this plant requires more water than the majority of other plants located on city property. One suggestion was made to consider Eddy Park.

8. BEE POPULATION & IMPACT OF PESTICIDES

The Commission would like city staff to relocate bee hives whenever feasibly possible. Maravilla to contact the County to get their expertise on doing this effectively and efficiently. The commission reminded Maravilla to obtain additional information, including the MSDS, from other chemicals used by city staff and the city's contractors, West Coast Arborist and TruGreen.

9. AMENDMENT TO MUNICIPAL CODE CHAPTER 23

Water Conservation Specialist Figoni informed the commission that the first draft of this item had already been brought to City Council due to time constraints. Chapter 23 is being amended due to the State's new municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) permit pertaining to storm water and urban runoff pollution control. This ties in with the city's new Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance and will be promoted accordingly to the public by Figoni. The commission suggested a special meeting for the City Council to help them understand all the complex and confusing issues with the new MS4 permit. The commission also talked about submitting recommendations to Ms. Figoni.

10. ELECTRIC CHARGING STATIONS

Ms. Figoni received an estimate from Southern California Edison on a booster station by the Library. She is awaiting her second charging station estimate. Furthermore, she is working with Grant Specialist Perkosky on obtaining grant funds to help fund this project. The main location being considered is near the Senior Center. Bristol Farms property is still looking into a charger.

11. WATER CONSERVATION PROGRAMS & BUDGET REVIEW

Water Conservation Analyst Figoni hosted the last of her three water wise landscaping workshops. All were well attended and residents have requested more for the future. She also organized the city's Dumpster and Donation Day event which was a huge success. She has done several water audits for residents and continues to get requests. The commission would like Figoni to look at how much water is being saved and the cost savings of not having to buy expensive supplemental water. She is working on a "Cash for Grass" rebate program for residents and a high efficiency toilet installation program for early 2014. It was also announced that there are \$75 rebates for rain barrels.

The commission also discussed the issue of artificial turf for general landscaping. Commissioner Findley will look into the issue with a sub-committee with Commissioner Wilms who has done a lot of research on artificial turf. The sub-committee will research this issue and come back with recommendations.

12. UPCOMING EVENTS

Water Conservation Analyst Figoni discussed the upcoming Mulch and Compost giveaway on November 9th. The Commission would like her to work with local sponsors on a large Earth Day event. They suggested combining this event with Arbor Day since they are around the same time in 2014. They would also like her to work on more water wise workshops.

13. COMMUNITY GARDEN

The community Garden Ad Hoc Committee continues to work on developing a garden. Concepts for a new site plan continue as do talk of using a CalTrans site. With the pending sale of CalTrans properties, there might be new site opportunities. A meeting was held with City Manager Sergio Gonzales to address all concerns. He will update and work with Council.

14. TREES & WILDLIFE DRAFT WEB COPY

Chair Hughes to modify and bring to the November meeting.

15. DEVELOPMENT OF TREE TRIMMERS LIST & NATIVE TREES LIST

The Commission would like Arborist Maravilla to provide an updated Native Tree List at the November meeting. The Commission would like staff to work with the City of Pasadena on their process, including local permits and state licenses, to promote tree trimmers. The commission discussed that perhaps a list could be created with the businesses that have taken out business licenses in the city and the date of the licenses.

16. LOW IMPACT DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE

Water Conservation Analyst Figoni explained how this ordinance mandating various low impact development regulations was also a product of the new MS4 permit. The ordinance is very similar to the same ordinance being used by all local cities in our watershed. Comments are due to Commissioner Wilms by October 29, 2013 by 5:00 p.m. for the November meeting.

17. GRAYWATER SYSTEMS

Commissioner Benzoni and Commissioner Silverthorn will look into more details pertaining to graywater systems and report back to the commission in November.

COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS – n/a

STAFF LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS – n/a

COUNCIL LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS – n/a

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned at 9:58 p.m. approved by Commissioners Kuhn and Commissioner Benzoni, and all members were in favor, 6-0.

NEXT MEETING - The next regular meeting of the Natural Resources and Environmental Commission will be held on Tuesday, November 19, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. in City Council Chambers.

 12/17/13
Kimberley Hughes, Chair

MINUTES
NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
September 24, 2013

1. ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. Present were Chair Kimberly Hughes, and Commissioners Scott Kuhn, Kay Findley, Nancy Wilms, Al Benzoni and Diana Mahmud. Commissioner John Silverthorn was absent. Staff Liaison Debby Figoni and Parks Supervisor Gonzalo Maravilla were present. Councilmember Philip Putnam joined later in the meeting.

2. MINUTES

Minutes from the August 27, 2013 meeting were approved by Commissioner Kuhn and Commissioner Benzoni, and all members present were in favor, 6 – 0.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS

None.

4. PROPERTY TREE REMOVAL/REPLACEMENT – 1825 VIA DEL REY

Neither homeowner, Pamela Cespon, or her daughter, Judith Cespon, show up at the meeting; therefore, there is no update on this item.

5. PRESENTATION BY UPPER SAN GABRIEL VALLEY MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT

Board Member Charles Travino and General Manager Shane Chapman updated the NREC on the state of the city's water supply. They explained where the city obtained their water and that future water supplies were in threatened due to drought and the unstable condition of the California Bay Delta. They discussed the water conservation programs they are offering their member agencies including rebates on water conservation devices, a water wise landscape demonstration transformation site and a cash for grass program. The Upper District would like to see South Pasadena reduce water use by 14%. The use is 152 gallons per day. The Upper District is holding U.S. Forestry planting events on October 19th and November 2nd.

6. CITY TREE REMOVALS

City Arborist Gonzalo Maravilla provided an update on City trees. He highlighted the issue of the Ginkgo trees on Mission Street that had been knocked down and vandalized. He informed the Commission that staff was hoping to work with South Pasadena Beautiful to replant new Ginkgo trees as soon as possible. The city's team has been conducting a number of tree inspections. A Carob tree was removed on El Centro and on at 1041 Foothill. There are 8 trees that are being removed, as they are dead and there was the sudden death of an Oak tree on Grand Ave.

7. BEE POPULATION & IMPACT OF PESTICIDES

City Arborist Gonzalo Maravilla provided Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) from the Wasp-Freeze product the city uses. The Commission requested additional information from Maravilla including the MSDS from other chemicals used by city staff and the city's contractors, West Coast Arborist and TruGreen.

8. ELECTRIC CHARGING STATIONS

Ms. Figoni has received one estimate and is waiting to get two others. She is also waiting to get an estimate from Southern California Edison on a booster station by the Library. Bristol Farms is moving forward with updating their charging station.

9. WATER CONSERVATION PROGRAMS & BUDGET REVIEW

Water Conservation Analyst Figoni has hosted two of the three water wise landscaping workshops. They were well attended and residents have requested more for the future. She continues to distribute the hose nozzles to residents that come into City Hall or attend the workshops. Residents are pleased with the potential water savings. She is working on a high efficiency toilet installation program for early 2014.

10. WATER BUDGET RATE STUDY

Chair Hughes and Commissioner Mahmud updated their fellow Commissioners on the study explaining that until the bugs have been worked out with the transition, the water budget rate study will be postponed. In the meantime, both Commissioners are participating in the city’s upcoming water rate increase.

11. UPCOMING EVENTS

Water Conservation Analyst Figoni announced the huge success of the Household Hazardous Waste event and the two water wise landscaping. She is still promoting the Dumpster and Donation Day event and has set a date for the Mulch and Compost giveaway – November 9th. She is working with Ben Wong at Southern California Edison for a free tree giveaway event. Other upcoming events include an Earth Day event, an Arbor Day event and more water wise workshops.

12. COMMUNITY GARDEN

Commissioner Mahmud reported that the community garden group had a beneficial meeting with City Manager Sergio Gonzalez. There is a possible selling issue with the potential garden site.

13. FRACKING ISSUE

Commissioner Mahmud reported that SB 4 has been approved by the Assembly and signed into law.

14. TREES & WILDLIFE DRAFT WEB COPY

The modifications have been put on hold until the October meeting.

15. DEVELOPMENT OF TREE TRIMMERS LIST & NATIVE TREES LIST

The Native Tree List is being reviewed for updates by city staff. It will be brought to the Commission for final approval before being sent to City Council. City staff is to work with South Pasadena Beautiful on a Tree Trimmers List.

16. HERO REBATE PROGRAM

The HERO (Home Energy Rebate Option) program is still in its initial phase. Members of the HERO Agency will attend the January 2014 NREC meeting to update the Commissioners on the program.

17. NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER 2013 MEETING DATES

The Commission requested to change the November 26th meeting to November 19th and the December 24th meeting to December 17th due to the winter holidays. These new meeting dates were approved by Commissioner Kuhn and Commissioner Benzoni, and all members were in favor, 6 – 0.

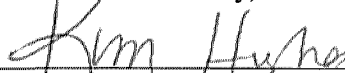
COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS – Commissioner Findley discussed allowing synthetic turf for front yards. Commissioner Benzoni would like to add grey water to the October Agenda. Commissioner Wilms commended Chair Hughes for her proactive approach to promoting water conservation outreach at the September 18th City Council meeting.

STAFF LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS – n/a

COUNCIL LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS – Council Liaison Putnam discussed the Center for Environmental Health and the concern for undisclosed lead and other toxic issues (Prop 65).

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned at 9:39 p.m. approved by Commissioners Mahmud and Commissioner Benzoni, and all members were in favor, 6-0.

NEXT MEETING - The next regular meeting of the Natural Resources and Environmental Commission will be held on Tuesday, October 22, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. in City Council Chambers.



Kimberley Hughes, Chair

MINUTES
NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
August 27, 2013

1. ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:08 p.m. Present were Chair Kimberly Hughes, and Commissioners Scott Kuhn, Kay Findley, Nancy Wilms, Al Benzoni, Diana Mahmud and John Silverthorn. Staff Liaison Debby Figoni and Parks Supervisor Gonzalo Maravilla were present. Councilmember Philip Putnam joined later in the meeting.

2. MINUTES

Minutes from the July 23, 2013 meeting were approved by Commissioner Mahmud and Commissioner Benzoni, and all members present were in favor, 7 – 0.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS

Jenna Latt, a South Pasadena resident, spoke to encourage the city to work on climate change issues. She was happy to learn that the city is working on a variety of environmental issues including reducing greenhouse gases. She shared that she is involved with Climate Reality Project and would be happy to make a presentation to the city.

4. PROPERTY TREE REMOVAL/REPLACEMENT – 1825 VIA DEL REY

Pamela Cespon, resident at 1825 Via del Rey, signed an agreement to replace her 20” in diameter pine tree with two 24” box trees on August 6, 2012. Pamela’s daughter, Judith Cespon, attended the meeting and claimed her mother was on a fixed income and the replacement trees would cost too much. The commission reviewed the tree ordinance to determine what latitude there was for waivers. The commission offered Judith options for the tree replacement situation at her mother’s residence. They included providing documentation from previous tree removal request forms, having Pamela Cespon attend the NREC meeting to personally explain the history of the tree and her discussions with city staff, showing proof of Pamela’s income to prove financial hardship, and/or placing a lien for the amount of the two replacement trees on the property which would be recovered upon the sale of the property. Due to the response time needed for the options above, the commission thought it best to table the item for the September 24, 2013 meeting.

5. CITY TREE REMOVALS

City Arborist Gonzalo Maravilla provided an update on City trees. In August, 447 trees were trimmed and 14 trees were planted on Rollin between Diamond and Fair Oaks. A tree was removed at 300 Fairview because of a cavity issue. A tree was removed at 1512 Milan because it’s health declined due to an unknown underground gas leak. It will be replaced with an Oak tree. Mulch has been added to the landscaping on Fair Oaks Avenue.

6. WATER SUPPLY & RESTRICTION IN WATER CONSERVATION ORDINANCE

Commissioner Mahmud updated the ordinance which is now ready to go to City Council.

7. PROPOSED REVISIONS TO PARKWAY ORDINANCE

The final changes will be provided by Commissioner Benzoni, then sent to the Planning and Building and Public Works Departments for final comment before the ordinance will be ready go to City Council for consideration.

8. ELECTRIC CHARGING STATIONS

Ms. Figoni is still getting estimates and working with Southern California Edison. She has received estimates and they are being reviewed.

9. WATER CONSERVATION PROGRAMS & BUDGET REVIEW

Water Conservation Analyst Figoni is hosting three water wise landscaping workshops,. She is distributing an environmental newsletter and is working on a high efficiency toilet installation program. Commissioner Mahmud discussed the revenue from the efficiency funds. Ms. Figoni also talked about the water nozzles that can be given out.

10. WATER BUDGET RATE STUDY

Chair Hughes and Commissioner Mahmud reported the inaccuracy of the irrigable area calculated by Global Water and the data issues. Until the bugs have been worked out with the transition, the water budget rate study will be postponed. There have also been problems with the billing by Global Water. Finance Director David Batte is working on the problems.

11. PLASTIC BAGS IN SOUTH PASADENA

Commissioner Mahmud will make the final change and then the ordinance will be ready to go to City Council for consideration.

12. SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

Chair Hughes reported the success of the environmental portion at the concert series and noted that we should make the green section larger and more successful in 2014.

13. UPCOMING EVENTS

Water Conservation Analyst Figoni announced the three upcoming water wise landscaping workshops, the Household Hazardous Waste event, the Dumpster and Donation Day event and the possible Mulch and Compost giveaway. She will also explore a free tree give away event with Southern California Edison.

14. COMMUNITY GARDEN

Commissioner Mahmud reported that there is nothing new with the community garden project.

15. FRACKING ISSUE

Commissioner Mahmud reported that SB 4 which would enact a comprehensive statutory scheme was passed out of the Senate and is now being considered by the Assembly.

16. BEE POPULATION & IMPACT OF PESTICIDES

Adding more information about the chemicals to avoid on the website was discussed. The Commission requested Arborist Maravilla look into the chemicals the city is using and the chemicals our landscape contractors (West Coast Arborists and TruGreen Landscaping) are using. We will work with local press to help educate our population about protecting bees.

17. TREES & WILDLIFE DRAFT WEB COPY

The modifications were made by Commissioner Findley. The new copy will be provided to the Animal Commission for final review.

18. DEVELOPMENT OF TREE TRIMMING LIST & NATIVE TREES LIST

The Native Tree List was approved by the Commission. They requested staff approve it and write a resolution updating the City's Native Tree list.

19. HERO REBATE PROGRAM

The Commission reviewed the HERO (Home Energy Rebate Option) program already approved by City Council. The concern about promoting this program are the unclear parameters and the high interest rate. While the program seems to be underway in Riverside County, the vendors and details are not yet set up for our local area. Further details and research are required to better understand this program.

Commissioner Hughes will check with Grants Analyst Tracey Perkosky about the program for South Pasadena.

COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS – Commissioner Hughes spoke again about concerns over water supply and our Global Water contract.

STAFF LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS – n/a

COUNCIL LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS – n/a

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned at 10:16 p.m. approved by Commissioners Benzoni and Findley, and all members were in favor, 7-0.

NEXT MEETING - The next regular meeting of the Natural Resources and Environmental Commission will be held on Tuesday, September 24, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. in City Council Chambers.



Kimberley Hughes, Chair

MINUTES
NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
July 23, 2013

1. ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. Present were Acting Chair Scott Kuhn and Commissioners Kay Findley, Nancy Wilms, Al Benzoni, Diana Mahmud and John Silverthorn. Also present was Parks Supervisor Gonzalo Maravilla. Councilmember Michael Cacciotti joined later in the meeting. Staff Liaison Debby Figoni was absent.

2. MINUTES

Minutes from the June 25, 2013 meeting were approved by Acting Chair Kuhn and Commissioner Wilms, and all members present were in favor, 5 – 0.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS

South Pasadena High School Senior Anneliese Sloss updated the Commission on her Girl Scout Gold Award project which she has now completed. Ms. Sloss went to classrooms to educate children on the benefits of minimizing the use of plastics and developed an illustrated story/coloring book entitled “A Day in the Life of a Plastic Bag.” She also developed a Public Service Announcement on the topic. Acting Chair Kuhn inquired as to whether the City can utilize these materials in the future. Ms. Sloss requested to be contacted regarding use of her materials.

4. CITY TREE REMOVALS

City Arborist Gonzalo Maravilla provided an update on City trees. No trees were removed this month, 227 trees were trimmed (mostly along Fair Oaks), 1 tree was dedicated in Garfield Park and another was planted on Fairview. In addition, Mr. Maravilla issued 25 oak tree trimming permits to individuals, and indicated that he coordinated the tree trimming with these homeowners, including offering to have one on one meetings as appropriate. Mr. Maravilla’s department recycled 28 tons of woodchips for use primarily in Garfield Park. Commissioner Mahmud suggested that this material be used for street medians, specifically those on State Street and Fair Oaks. Mr. Maravilla agreed and added Columbia as another location. The irrigation system at Garfield Park has been modified in an effort to avoid over-watering the oak trees and mulch will be added to a 10’ area around the truck of the oaks. Tree trimming is occurring on Fremont Avenue. The stump at the Farmer’s Market will be removed tomorrow per last month’s request of Scott Feldman. Mr. Maravilla met with a McDonald’s representative (Carlos); he will ask McDonald’s to replace an old magnolia on Brent because it is old and dying.

5. WATER SUPPLY & RESTRICTION IN WATER CONSERVATION ORDINANCE

Commissioner Mahmud noted the only substantive change is to delete a reference to removal of flow restrictors since we have none. Then, this ordinance is ready to go to City Council.

6. PROPOSED REVISIONS TO PARKWAY ORDINANCE

Need to change “adjacent” to “adjoining” property owner in B.3. Commissioner Benzoni will follow up with the staff to determine where the ordinance should go. He will review his deed to determine whether he or the city owns his parkway. Otherwise, this draft ordinance is ready to go to the City Council.

7. ELECTRIC CHARGING STATIONS

Ms. Figoni is still getting estimates, which are running high.

8. DEVELOPMENT OF TREE TRIMMING LIST & NATIVE TREE LIST

Neither Mr. Maravilla nor Commissioner Mahmud know if they have the list so Ms. Mahmud will ask Drew Ready for a copy of his list.

9. WATER CONSERVATION PROGRAMS & WATER BUDGET

Commissioner Mahmud shares an article that describes MWD’s renewal of a low flow toilet rebate of \$50 per toilet, and says Ms. Figoni is developing a toilet replacement program. Details provided next month.

10. WATER BUDGET RATE STUDY

Commissioner Mahmud reports that the accuracy of the irrigable area calculated by Global Water was questioned by our rate consultant, Global Water. As a result, we don’t have sufficient data to develop a proposed water budget rate model.

11. PLASTIC BAGS IN SOUTH PASADENA

Commissioner Mahmud identified the only substantive change, to identify a date certain in the Operative Date paragraph. This draft ordinance is now ready to go to City Council for consideration.

12. SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

Commissioner Wilms reported that Chair Hughes switched with her for the last concert; she thinks Chair Hughes will cover this next week.

13. COMMUNITY GARDEN

Commissioner Mahmud reported that the Planning Commission will consider proposed revision to the community garden ordinance at its meeting next Tuesday. The only development she knows is that they are trying to develop a cost estimate for the community garden.

14. FRACKING ISSUE

Commissioner Mahmud reported that SB 4 which would enact a comprehensive statutory scheme was passed out of the Senate and is now being considered by the Assembly.

15. BEE POPULATION & IMPACT OF PESTICIDES

Ms. Figoni distributed information via email regarding a company that relocates bees and provided a link to that organization on the City’s website.

16. TREES & WILDLIFE DRAFT WEB COPY

The NREC wants to make a modification to delete text regarding specific months.

COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS – Vice Chair Kuhn reported that he, his family, some neighbors and Chair Hughes walked in the 4th of July parade. Commissioner Wilms reported that she will attend an SCE tour at Shaver Lake.

STAFF LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS – n/a

COUNCIL LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS – n/a

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned at 9:08 p.m. approved by Commissioners Benzoni and Findley, and all members were in favor, 7-0.

NEXT MEETING - The next regular meeting of the Natural Resources and Environmental Commission will be held on Tuesday, August 27, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. in City Council Chambers.



Kimberley Hughes, Chair

MINUTES
NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
June 25, 2013

1. ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. Present were Chair Hughes and Commissioners Kay Findley, Nancy Wilms, Diana Mahmud, Al Benzoni, Scott Kuhn, John Silverthorn, Student Commissioner Thomas Kutzer, Council Liaison Phillip Putnam and Councilmember Michael Cacciotti. Also present were Staff Liaison Debby Figoni and Parks Supervisor Gonzalo Maravilla.

2. MINUTES

Minutes from the May 28, 2013 meeting were approved by Commissioner Kuhn and Commissioner Wilms, and all members were in favor, 7-0.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS

Barbara Eisenstein, founder of the Friends of the Nature Park, spoke about the recent fallen oak tree at Garfield Park. She believes the tree fell from overwatering the grass in the park and that other oak trees are susceptible to the same future unless the watering regimen is changed to deep and infrequent. She noted that younger trees require more water.

4. CITY TREE REMOVALS

City Arborist Gonzalo Maravilla provided an update on city trees starting with the oak tree at Garfield Park. He stated that since the tree fell he has modified the watering on the other oak trees. Maravilla and Water Conservation Analyst Figoni are to write an article for the e-newsletter about the proper watering for trees. Maravilla updated NREC on the newly planted trees at McDonalds and explained that he asked McDonalds to move a few of them. NREC requested Maravilla work with the Planning Department to review McDonalds' landscape plan. Scott Feldman, President of the South Pasadena Chamber, was present and requested Maravilla look at the oak tree stump in the Farmers Market area because he felt the stump could be a tripping hazard.

5. PARKWAY TREATMENT ORDINANCE REVISION

The Commission discussed and made modifications to the ordinance regarding its effective date. Commissioner Mahmud will revise and distribute the updated draft.

6. ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING STATION

Staff Liaison Figoni is continuing to work with several companies to obtain installation costs for electric vehicle charging stations for the library and for the Mission-Meridian and Mound/Hope parking lots. She is also looking at the cost benefit of a level 3 station. Student Commissioner Thomas Kutzer will assist with the station upgrade at Bristol Farms.

7. DEVELOPMENT OF TREE TRIMMING LIST

The tree trimming list was not discussed. NREC approved the Native Tree list and requested that staff modify the present Native Tree List Resolution and present it to City Council for approval. The Animal Commission requested modifications to the tree trimming section of their ordinance. Chair Hughes and Commissioner Findley to make changes and bring it back to the commission.

8. WATER CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

Water Conservation Analyst Figoni provided an update on programs, events and outreach pieces.

9. WATER RESTRICTIONS IN WATER CONSERVATION ORDINANCE

Staff reviewed the draft ordinance and is fine with it. Commissioner Mahmud to make one minor change and then send to Water Conservation Analyst Figoni to write a Staff Report for City Council approval.

10. WATER BUDGET RATE STUDY

Staff and consultants continue to work on obtaining and working with the data. The team is set to meet in early July to discuss the results. Commissioner Mahmud to review Global Water's contract to identify the services they have agreed to provide regarding the water budget.

11. PLASTIC BAGS IN SOUTH PASADENA

The draft ordinance did not go to City Council last month so NREC could work with the Chamber on the issue of plastic bags distributed at the Farmers Market. The goal of the NREC is to pass the Plastic Bag Ban by the end of the year and implement the ban by April of 2014. Based on meeting discussion, Commissioner Mahmud is to update ordinance in preparation for City Council approval. The revised ordinance was moved for approval by Commissioners Kuhn and Benzoni and all members were in favor, 7-0.

12. SUMMER CONCERT SERIES 2013 & GIVEAWAYS

The Public Works Department's free Mulch and Compost Giveaway Event on June 22nd was a huge success. Water Conservation Analyst Figoni is working on setting up an encore event in October. She is also working on the July 7th "Sustainability is The Answer" Summer Concert with a variety of vendors booths. Several Water Wise Landscape Workshops have been scheduled for late summer and early fall.

13. COMMUNITY GARDEN

There is still no set location for the Community Garden. New people have joined the Ad-hoc committee.

14. FRACKING ISSUE

Commissioner Mahmud provided another update. She explained that water agencies were not actively involved with this issue, most likely due to their focus on the State's water bond. She briefed the Commission on the most recent amendment to SB 4 which would establish comprehensive regulation of fracking. Student Commissioner Kutzer to provide an update at the August meeting.

15. 4th OF JULY PARADE

NREC will participate in the 4th of July Parade.

16. PESTICIDE-CAUSED DECLINE OF BEE POPULATION

NREC moved that the city's bee management policy be modified so that bees are not exterminated by the city but instead removed by a bee rescue organization. Commissioners Mahmud and Kuhn to look at relocating bee and other environmental information on the city's website to a more visible location. Commissioners Mahmud and Benzoni to review the City's Municipal Code 5.18 and 5.19. NREC requested Ms. Figoni link the environmental section of the website to the NREC's section.

CHAIR COMMUNICATIONS – Chair Hughes provided a study update by the EPA that mentioned California's water infrastructure was one of the worst in the country. She provided an update on the poor water and snow pack conditions and mentioned Sierra Madre's new regulation that requires residents to reduce water consumption by 20% or pay double. She notified the NREC that Student Commissioner Kutzer was staying on the Commission for another (school) year.


COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS – Commissioner Mahmud requested a copy of the FY 2012-13 Efficiency Funds budget and commented on the successful Mulch and Compost event. Commissioner Benzoni discussed the Wilson Reservoir update.

STAFF LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS – Update on conservation programs.

COUNCIL LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS – Councilmember Cacciotti discussed the million dollar grant submission for the Arroyo Seco bike path project.

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned at 10:12 p.m. approved by Commissioners Mahmud and Benzoni, and all members were in favor, 7-0.

NEXT MEETING - The next regular meeting of the Natural Resources and Environmental Commission will be held on Tuesday, July 23, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. in City Council Chambers.



Kimberley Hughes, Chair

MINUTES
NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
May 28, 2013

1. ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m. Present were Chair Hughes and Commissioners Kay Findley, Nancy Wilms, Diana Mahmud, Scott Kuhn, John Silverthorn, Student Commissioner Thomas Kutzer, Council Liaison Phillip Putnam and Councilmember Michael Cacciotti. Commissioner Al Benzoni was absent. Staff Liaison Debby Figoni and Parks Supervisor Gonzalo Maravilla were present.

2. MINUTES

Minutes from the meeting of April 23, 2013 were approved by Commissioner Kuhn and Student Commissioner Kutzer, and all members were in favor, 6-0.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS

Sonia Nicholson spoke about the desire to expand the Nature Park on Pasadena Avenue. The project is being discussed with the Parks & Recreation Commission. Sonia will keep the NREC updated on any activity.

4. CITY TREE REMOVALS

City Arborist Gonzalo Maravilla provided an update on city trees. He reminded the Commission that many of the city's tree replacements will be planted in the Fall when they will not be subject to summer stress. Mr. Maravilla reported that Southern California Edison's offer of free trees is limited to a few species, only 15 gallon specimens, and does not include delivery, planting, or warranty. When the additional costs are considered, Grant Analyst Tracey Perkosky's calculations showed that it is less costly for the city to purchase trees from its tree contractor, West Coast Arborists. Chair Hughes to work with Ben Wong at Southern California Edison to discuss Edison's offer of free trees.

5. PARKWAY TREATMENT ORDINANCE REVISION

The Commission discussed and made some modifications to the Ordinance. Commissioner Mahmud will revise and distribute the updated draft. Methods and staff to perform outreach and compliance need to be clarified. Whether the ordinance applies to new or existing landscapes also needs to be clarified.

6. ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING STATION

Staff Liaison Figoni is continuing to work with several companies to find locations and get installation costs for electric vehicle charging stations. She is awaiting cost estimates for locating the charging stations at the library and Mission Meridian. Student Commissioner Thomas Kutzer will assist with the station upgrade at Bristol Farms.

7. DEVELOPMENT OF TREE TRIMMING LIST

Approved trimmers must be licensed by the State and have a license to work in the city. Talk of using the City of Pasadena's list was discussed. Chair Hughes to work with South Pasadena Beautiful on hosting the list on their website. An updated and approved list of Native Trees was also discussed, with Mr. Maravilla stating that he agreed with changes recommended by former Commissioner Ready. NREC is fine with the Native Tree list and requested Staff Liaison Figoni do a Staff Report for City Council.

8. WATER CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

Water Conservation Analyst Figoni provided an update on programs, events and outreach pieces including the recent water conservation bill stuffer. She was asked to return to the Commission with a proposal to subsidize water conservation devices such as toilets, showerheads, hose nozzles, and weather based irrigation controllers.

9. WATER RESTRICTIONS IN WATER CONSERVATION ORDINANCE

The NREC would like staff to review and comment on the present draft, and then meet with Chair Hughes and Commissioner Mahmud.

10. WATER BUDGET STUDY

Staff and consultants have been working on the study. Data should be ready to review by late June or early July. The budget team is to meet and discuss the results which are to be provided to City Council. Commissioner Mahmud will review the Global Water contract to identify what services they have agreed to provide regarding a water budget.

11. POSTER CONTEST & FUNDING SUPPORT

The contest was a success with all entrants being acknowledged. NREC will participate again next year. Water Conservation Analyst Figoni was tasked with working with Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District on Metropolitan Water District's annual poster contest.

12. PLASTIC BAGS IN SOUTH PASADENA

Last month the Commission voted to recommend that the City Council adopt the draft ordinance it approved. Commissioner Mahmud will check the status of pending state legislation.

13. WORKSHOPS & SPECIAL EVENTS

The Public Works Department is hosting a free Mulch and Compost Giveaway Event on June 22nd. Water Conservation Analyst Figoni is working on the July 7th "Sustainability is The Answer" Summer Concert. Several Water Wise Landscape Workshops are being scheduled for late summer.

14. SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

Water Conservation Analyst Figoni will continue to work with local environmental agencies and Community Services on the July 7th "Sustainability is The Answer" Summer Concert.

15. COMMUNITY GARDEN

The Ad Hoc community garden group is still meeting and trying to secure a Cal Trans site for their Community Garden.

16. FRACKING ISSUE

Commissioner Mahmud explained how state regulations would impose more stringent requirements than exist in federal regulations in Fran Pavley's fracking bill, SB 4, which recently advanced from a key legislative committee. She also discussed a recent federal court ruling that found the U.S. Bureau of Land Management failed to consider potential harm to the environment when entering into leases for land upon which fracking occurred.

17. STORMWATER ISSUE AND TAX

Water Conservation Analyst Figoni is working on both the Low Impact Development Ordinance and Green Streets Policy. They will be provided to City Council well before their December deadlines.

18. ADOPT AN AREA

The Commission suggested working with South Pasadena Beautiful to assist with neighborhood clean-up parties. Based upon information provided by Ms. Figoni, the commission concluded it was too expensive to establish this program.

CHAIR COMMUNICATIONS – Chair Hughes requested that nests in trees language be revised. She stated that the High School was putting in new synthetic turf which will be covered by their warranty.

COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS – Commissioners Kuhn and Mahmud suggested looking into solar energy programs and upgrades for residents and businesses. Commissioner Mahmud offered to

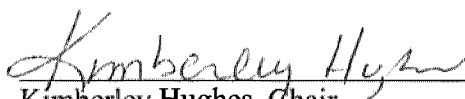
look into the feasibility of an ordinance that would require installation of solar panels on new construction or in the case of a major remodel affecting 75% or more of the existing structure. Mr. Maravilla was asked to report on recently planted trees on Brent behind the recently remodeled McDonalds.

STAFF LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS – Update on conservation programs.

COUNCIL LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS – Council Liaison Putnam suggested staff provide the city’s tree trimming schedule to residents.

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned at 10:24 p.m.

NEXT MEETING - The next regular meeting of the Natural Resources and Environmental Commission will be held on Tuesday, June 25, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. in City Council Chambers.



Kimberley Hughes, Chair

MINUTES
NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
April 23, 2013

1. ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:07 p.m. Present were Chair Hughes and Commissioners Kay Findley, Al Benzoni, Nancy Wilms, Diana Mahmud, Scott Kuhn, John Silverthorn, Student Commissioner Thomas Kutzer and Councilmember Michael Cacciotti. Council Liaison Phillip Putnam was absent. Staff Liaison Debby Figoni and Parks Supervisor Gonzalo Maravilla were present.

2. MINUTES

Minutes from the meeting of March 26, 2013 were approved with minor changes by Commissioner Benzoni and Commissioner Mahmud, and all members were in favor, 7-0.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS - None

4. CITY TREE REMOVALS

City Arborist Gonzalo Maravilla provided gopher abatement information from his meeting with Los Angeles County. Maravilla was tasked with reviewing a tree list created by prior NREC member Drew Ready and updating the city's existing approved tree list, both native and parkway tree selections, for City Council approval.

5. PARKWAY TREATMENT ORDINANCE REVISION

The Commission discussed the Ordinance and suggested several revisions. Commissioner Benzoni to update the Ordinance and send it to the subcommittee for discussion. Commissioner Silverthorne would like it known for the record that, "The decision to allow the installation of "plastic grass" (artificial turf) in South Pasadena will result in a reduction over time of the local tree inventory due to lack of water. The "Bark-mulch yard is an aesthetically superior and a more water-retentive alternative."

6. ELECTRIC CHARGING STATION

Staff Liaison Figoni will continue to work with several agencies to find locations that will accommodate a charging station. She will update the NREC next month. Student Commissioner Thomas Kutzer will assist with the station upgrade at Bristol Farms.

7. DEVELOPMENT OF TREE TRIMMING LIST

Commissioner Mahmud was finally able to contact the President of the South Pasadena Beautiful Board of Directors to request that it consider development of a list of approved trimmers as a convenience to South Pasadena residents and to improve the quality of tree trimming work.

8. WATER CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

Water Conservation Analyst Figoni provided an update on water audits, Earth Day events, new educational flyers, and partnerships with other government agencies. She will work on outreach with the local papers emphasizing the extremely dry year.

9. WATER RESTRICTIONS IN WATER CONSERVATION ORDINANCE

The NREC would like staff to review and comment on the present draft.

10. WATER BUDGET

Staff, consultants and Commissioners Mahmud and Hughes met on April 1, 2013 to set up a strategy for the Water Budget study. Commissioner Findley also attended the meeting.

11. POSTER CONTEST & FUNDING SUPPORT

The contest is next month.

12. PLASTIC BAGS IN SOUTH PASADENA

Commissioner Mahmud discussed SB 405 and SB 700, each of which may pre-empt any local ordinance if passed. The Commission nevertheless moved that a recommendation that City Council adopt the plastic bag ordinance as drafted with one minor change, to define a “single use plastic carryout bag” as having handles.

13. EARTH DAY, TREE WORKSHOP-APRIL 13, 2013 & AD SUPPORT

The April 13th Tree Maintenance and Composting workshops were a success. Other Earth Day activities included various flyers distributed around the city and an article in the e-newsletter. Water Conservation Analyst Figoni staffed a table at South Pasadena Beautiful’s Garden Tour and at Monterey Hills Elementary School.

14. SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

Water Conservation Analyst Figoni will work with local environmental agencies and Community Services on the Summer Concert Series.

15. COMMUNITY GARDEN

The Ad Hoc community garden group’s work is done and a presentation will be made to City Council in May. Proposed revisions to the community garden ordinance will be considered by the Planning Commission. A steering committee of interested gardeners has been formed and their next step is to meet with City Manager Sergio Gonzalez regarding one of the Cal Trans properties.

16. FRACKING ISSUE

Commissioner Mahmud provided discussion of a bill, SB 4, which would comprehensively address hydraulic fracturing. She explained that many other bills on fracking are pending and it would be helpful to see which ones have a serious chance of adoption before deciding whether to recommend to the City Council that it take a position.

17. STORMWATER ISSUE AND TAX

Water Conservation Analyst Figoni was requested to get up update on the deadlines for the Low Impact Development Ordinance and Green Streets Policy.

18. ADOPT AN AREA

NREC to review the various options for a Community or Clean-Up Day. Chair Hughes is to discuss any legal issues with City Attorney.

CHAIR COMMUNICATIONS – None.

COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS - None.

STAFF LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS – Update on conservation programs.

COUNCIL LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS – Councilmember Cacciotti demonstrated a green station lawn mower and highlighted the many benefits.

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned at 10:38 p.m.

NEXT MEETING - The next regular meeting of the Natural Resources and Environmental Commission will be held on Tuesday, May 28, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. in City Council Chambers.


Kimberley Hughes, Chair

MINUTES
NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
March 26, 2013

1. ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:11 p.m. Present were Chair Hughes and Commissioners Kay Findley, Al Benzoni, Nancy Wilms, Diana Mahmud, John Silverthorn, Student Commissioner Thomas Kutzer and Councilmember Michael Cacciotti. Council Liaison Phillip Putnam and Commissioner Scott Kuhn were absent. Staff Liaison Debby Figoni and Parks Supervisor Gonzalo Maravilla were present.

2. MINUTES

Minutes from the meeting of February 26, 2013 were approved by Commissioner Benzoni and Commissioner Mahmud, and all members were in favor, 6-0.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS - None

4. CITY TREE REMOVALS

City Arborist Gonzalo Maravilla provided an update on trees in the City that recently died, many of which were due to gophers. Commissioner Mahmud suggested contacting Pasadena and Los Angeles County to see how they handle gopher problems. She also requested staff look into grant funds and other ways to purchase trees for the City, including joining or forming a 501c3.

5. PARKWAY TREATMENT ORDINANCE REVISION

Staff Liaison Figoni provided the Commission with parkway ordinances from Long Beach and West Hollywood. The Commission reviewed the draft Ordinance created by the subcommittee. Items of discussion included allowing synthetic turf, percentage of greenery, acceptable plants, walkable access areas, irrigation guidelines and enforcement. The subcommittee will meet again to update the draft Ordinance with discussion suggestions. The Commission is looking for new and additional items for Tree City USA and Sierra Club's city rating.

6. ELECTRIC CHARGING STATION

The Commission revived the search for electric vehicle charging stations. Staff Liaison Figoni has been working with AQMD to find new charging stations and Adopt a Charger to upgrade old charging stations. Student Commissioner Thomas Kutzer is assisting Figoni with the upgrade at Bristol Farms. The Commission requested Staff Liaison Figoni contact Ben Wong at Southern California Edison to see if they have funding for new charging stations.

7. DEVELOPMENT OF TREE TRIMMING LIST

There is no update on this item.

8. WATER CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

Water Conservation Analyst Figoni informed the Commission about upcoming projects and programs including water audits at all the City parks, rebates on water saving devices, outreach at public events, educational flyers and directories, presentations to the schools and community, and partnerships with other government agencies. She also provided the Commissioners with several newly created outreach flyers.

9. WATER RESTRICTIONS IN WATER CONSERVATION ORDINANCE

Commissioner Mahmud explained that South Pasadena's water conservation ordinance was partially derived from the City of Pasadena's ordinance before being revised by the Water Council. The ordinance needs to be modified to include the benchmark of each stage and the accompanying restrictions. In

addition, it should address how violations will be enforced. Commissioners are to provide their comments to Staff Liaison Figoni who will compile the information and distribute it to the NREC.

10. POSTER CONTEST & FUNDING SUPPORT

Commissioner Findley reminded the Commissioners of the date of the Be Kind to Animals Week Contest and discussed acknowledgment badges for everyone that enters. No funding was needed for the contest.

11. WATER BUDGET

The Commission would like to get the Water Budget moving with the goal of having something ready to submit to Council before September of 2013. A meeting with staff, consultants and Commissioners Mahmud and Hughes has been set for April 1, 2013.

12. PLASTIC BAGS IN SOUTH PASADENA

Commissioner Mahmud met with Chamber President Scott Feldmann. Mr. Feldman said he would talk to his members about the impending bag ban, but only a couple of the stores potentially affected by this ban are Chamber members. The Commission is considering the banning of plastic bags and a fee for paper. This bag ban would apply to the Farmers Market. The City will consider ordering reusable bags that display environmental messages for distribution when the bag ban goes into effect.

13. EARTH DAY, TREE WORKSHOP-APRIL 13, 2013 & AD SUPPORT

Water Conservation Analyst Figoni has finalized all details for the April 13th workshops. Advertising for the event will include the e-newsletter, South Pasadena Review, South Pasadena Patch and other local sources. No funding will be necessary for any of these outlets.

14. SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

Commissioner Hughes suggested Water Conservation Analyst Figoni to consider the duty of setting up a booth at the event and securing other agencies to attend the Summer Concert Series. Commissioner Hughes will provide last year's vendor list to Water Conservation Analyst Figoni.

15. COMMUNITY GARDEN

Commissioner Mahmud stated that three locations were being considered. When the site has been chosen the next step will be to negotiate a sublease from Cal Trans for the property.

16. FRACKING ISSUE

Councilmember Cacciotti stated that the City Council would like NREC to advise them about the environmental impacts of fracking. NREC will analyze legislation and recommend whether the City should adopt a position.

17. STORMWATER ISSUE AND TAX

Water Conservation Analyst Figoni attended the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments' "Los Angeles County Clean Water Clean Beaches Measure Workshop" and informed the Commission of Los Angeles County Flood Control District's proposal which appears to have lost support. City staff will continue to stay updated on the new MS4 permit.

CHAIR COMMUNICATIONS - Chair Hughes provided an update of the present snow pack and emphasized the importance of promoting water efficiency.

COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS - None.

STAFF LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS - Water Conservation Analyst Figoni distributed more outreach flyers to the Commission including Every Day Earth Day Tips. She also brought a variety of reusable bags and other potential promotional items that will help the City promote water conservation.

COUNCIL LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS – Councilmember Cacciotti reminded the NREC of the urgency to use the AQMD funds and encouraged the NREC to keep the fracking issue in mind.

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned at 11:14 p.m.

NEXT MEETING - The next regular meeting of the Natural Resources and Environmental Commission will be held on Tuesday, April 23, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. in City Council Chambers.



Kimberley Hughes, Chair

MINUTES
NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
February 26, 2013

1. ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m. Present were Chair Hughes and Commissioners Kay Findley, Scott Kuhn, Al Benzoni, Nancy Wilms, Diana Mahmud and John Silverthorn. Student Commissioner Thomas Kutzer was absent. Council Liaison Phillip Putnam was present for first half of the meeting and Councilmember Michael Cacciotti was present for second half of the meeting. Staff Liaison Debby Figoni was present. Parks Supervisor Gonzalo Maravilla was present.

2. MINUTES

Minutes from the meeting of January 22, 2013 were approved, with one minor modification to Item #14, as motioned by Commissioner Mahmud, seconded by Commissioner Wilms, and all members were in favor, 7-0.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS

Woody McCauley of 1525 Santa Teresa (see Item #6 below).
Anneliese Sioos of 2071 Marengo Avenue (see Item #12 below).

4. STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE CITY

Kim Hughes discussed the outcome of the City's Strategic Plan public meeting focusing on the City's goal to enhance energy efficiency and sustainability.

5. LANDSCAPE WATER CONSERVATION ORDINANCE

The Landscape Water Conservation Ordinance is in effect. Water Conservation Analyst Figoni met with the Planning Department to create forms and a process that comply with the Ordinance.

6. PARKWAY TREATMENT ORDINANCE REVISION

Woody McCauley discussed his desire to install synthetic turf in the parkway in front of his house which contains a City tree and presently has no irrigation. Chair Hughes stated that the City's present Ordinance 31.48 does not allow synthetic turf. Staff Liaison Figoni was requested to look into other cities Ordinances to obtain ideas to update South Pasadena's present Ordinance. The subcommittee will continue to review the issue.

7. WILDLIFE COPY FOR CITY OF SOUTH PASADENA WEBSITE

A version of the verbiage was shared and Kim will work with the Animal Commission one more time to get a final draft. Chair Hughes asked the commission members for suggestions or changes for the draft copy that was circulated. The Animal Commission will meet and then see if they have any suggested changed or additions.

8. CITY TREE REMOVALS

City Arborist Gonzalo Maravilla provided an update on trees in the City. A tree lost a large branch on Stoney Drive on February 23rd. There were no injuries 11 trees were planted. Trees wer also trimmed on Indiana. The tree was not diseased. Commissioner Mahmud requested future information from Arborist Maravilla on the health of the trees at Arroyo Park and on the death rate and watering details of the trees received from recent grants.

9. DEVELOPMENT OF TREE TRIMMING LIST

Commissioner Silverthorn checked with South Pasadena Beautiful on this list and was informed that they were not working on such a list. Chair Hughes is going to check with Ms. Campbell.

10. WATER CONSERVATION BUDGET

Water Conservation Analyst Figoni provided the Commission with an estimate of the efficiency fees generated to date. Approximately \$400,000 in funds has been collected from the fees. In addition, Figoni provided an update on the projects, programs and events she has been working on. A focus will be on city properties, such as the golf course and parks.

Ms. Figoni met with the South Pasadena School District about water conservation. She also shared information about recycling opportunities in the City of South Pasadena, highlighting everything from batteries to used motor oil.

11. POSTER CONTEST

Commissioner Kuhn finalized the details for the May 5th – 11th “Be Kind to Animals Week” contest and showed the Commission the event flyer. Entries are due between March 25th and April 13th. At the next meeting the group will discuss funding options and support.

12. PLASTIC BAGS IN SOUTH PASADENA

Anneliese Sioss, a student at South Pasadena High School, argued her reasons for supporting a plastic bag ban in South Pasadena. She would like to see more if an incentive approach, such as recognize stores that support. Commissioner Mahmud will discuss the bag ban with Scott Feldmann, President of the City of South Pasadena’s Chamber of Commerce. It was mentioned that there are issues with health concerns from re-usable bags if they are not properly cared for.

13. EARTH DAY

Water Conservation Analyst Figoni finalized logistics for the April 13th Tree Planting & Maintenance workshop and added an additional Composting workshop. Attendees are welcome to attend either or both two hour workshops taking place in the Library community room. At the next meeting the group can talk about possibly funding an ad.

14. COMMUNITY GARDEN

Commissioner Mahmud provided an update on the Community Garden. Due to various constraints, including soil samples, she does not think the May planting goal is realistic. The group is considering joining Los Angeles County’s Community Garden in order to be eligible for their 501(c)3 status.

15. FRACKING ISSUE

Chair Hughes and Councilmember Cacciotti discussed the various negative environmental impacts of fracking. Commissioner Findley shared this month’s “National Geographic” article on the environmental costs of fracking. The Commission is to review any relevant bills in process.

16. STORMWATER ISSUE AND TAX

Chair Hughes and Commissioner Wilms explained the challenging new MS4 Permit and Los Angeles County’s Clean Water Clean Beaches Measure. They requested Water Conservation Analyst Figoni attend the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments’ upcoming workshop on how these unfunded mandates may affect residents, businesses and cities.

CHAIR COMMUNICATIONS - Chair Hughes provided a summary of the Stables tour and the value of the facility. She discussed ordering a promotional item to distribute at the Summer Concert events. Water Conservation Analyst Figoni to provide sample items at the March meeting.

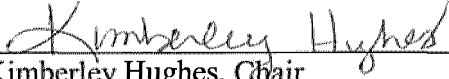
COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS - Commissioner Benzoni set up an electronic Dropbox and is waiting for City management approval before it can be utilized. Commissioner Mahmud would like staff to work on the City's water restrictions in our Water Conservation Ordinance and requested staff provide an update on the City's Water Budget Rate Study.

STAFF LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS - Water Conservation Analyst Figoni displayed several newly created flyers including Water Conservation Tips, Tree & Compost Workshop, Reuse & Recycling Directory and Hazardous Waste Disposal.

COUNCIL LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS - Council Liaison Putnam conveyed his pleasure to be working with the NREC and provided everyone with all of his contact information. Prior Council Liaison Cacciotti resurrected the Electric Vehicle Charging Station issue and informed the NREC of a recent demonstration of electric maintenance tools, including mowers, for possible use in the City's parks.

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned at 9:59 p.m.

NEXT MEETING - The next regular meeting of the Natural Resources and Environmental Commission will be held on Tuesday, March 26, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. in City Council Chambers.



Kimberley Hughes, Chair

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION, ANIMAL COMMISSION, CULTURAL
HERITGE COMMISSION, FINANCE COMMISSION, LIBRARY BOARD OF
TRUSTEES, NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIROMENTAL COMMISSION,
PLANNING COMMISSION, PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION, SENIOR CITIZENS
COMMISSION, YOUTH COMMISSION
OF THE CITY OF SOUTH PASADENA
CONVENED THIS 16TH DAY OF FEBRUARY 2013 10:00AM.
SAN PASCUAL STABLES
221 SAN PASCUAL DRIVE**

1. ROLL CALL

The special meeting of Commissions was convened at 10:13 AM. Commissioners present: Mark Langill, Art Salinas, Chair Mike Gin and Vice Chair Ron Rosen of Parks and Recreation, Gary Pia City Treasurer, Jim McLane of Cultural Heritage, Fred Rusk of Finance, Kim Hughes and Diana Mahmud of NREC, Beverly Biber and Cornelia Balogh of Animal Commission. Also present: City Council Member Michael Cacciotti, and Community Services Director Sheila Pautsch. Tour given by Lease holder Renato Corzo and Alex Bell.

2. PRESENTATIONS

Tour of the San Pascual Sables by Renato Corzo and Alex Bell. The meeting was called to order at 10:13 am by Chair Gin. CS Director Sheila Pautsch gave an introduction to the tour. Councilmember Cacciotti also gave a brief over view as to why the tour was called.


Corzo gave a tour of the stable and background information as the tour went on. The original lease started back in 1978. Since then they have restored the old barn and added barns and new arenas.

1. Insurance was discussed as to what coverage they held and what is asked for within the lease.
2. There are about 140 stalls on the facility and many are used as grooming stalls, tack rooms, and storage. There are about 120 boarding stalls with about 80 to 85 stalls filled with boarders and about 15 that house owner's horses for lessons.
3. The topic of water was brought up during the tour and the high cost.
4. There are two septic tanks on the facility.
5. The land to the north of the stables is owned by Pasadena which may be developed to extend the lower Arroyo.

ADJOURNMENT

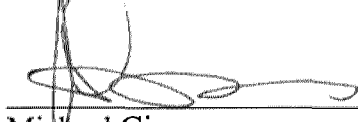
By consensus, the Commission adjourned at 11:42 am.

Respectfully Submitted:



Sheila Pautsch
Community Services Director

Approved By:



Michael Gin
Chair

MINUTES
NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
January 22, 2013

1. ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. Present were Chair Hughes and Commissioners Kay Findley, Scott Kuhn, Al Benzoni, Nancy Wilms, Diana Mahmud and John Silverthorn. Student Commissioner Thomas Kutzer was absent. Staff Liaison Marcelino Aguilar was present. Water Conservation Analyst Debby Figoni and Parks Supervisor Gonzalo Maravilla were present.

2. MINUTES

Minutes from the meeting of November 27, 2012 were approved as motioned by Commissioner Mahmud, seconded by Commissioner Wilms, and all members were in favor, 7-0.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS – None.

4. STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE CITY

NREC's three goals were discussed. The City's Strategic Plan public meeting on Saturday, January 26, 2013 was announced with Commissioners, and the public, welcome to attend. Key focus areas include:

- Economic vitality
- 710 Freeway
- Crime Uptick
- State Actions
- Traffic
- Infrastructure

5. LANDSCAPE WATER CONSERVATION ORDINANCE

The Landscape Water Conservation Ordinance was passed by City Council on January 16, 2013 and will be in effect on February 14, 2013. The Ordinance is locally appropriate and more comprehensive than the State's version. Commissioner Benzoni had some questions about the calculation definitions in the language of the ordinance and wondered if it might be simplified.

6. PARKWAY TREATMENT ORDINANCE REVISION

The issue of artificial grass at 1033 Indiana Avenue was discussed. The NREC would like to review the City's present Ordinance as well as investigate other cities' Ordinances. A subcommittee consisting of Commissioners Benzoni (chair), Findley and Mahmud was created. Feedback from Public Works, Code Enforcement and the City Attorney is required. Chair Hughes made a motion to establish the committee, the motion was seconded by Commissioner Mahmud, and all members were in favor, 7-0.

7. WILDLIFE COPY FOR CITY OF SOUTH PASADENA WEBSITE

The Animal Commission requested NREC add information to the City's website regarding considerations to avian and wildlife when trimming and caring for local trees. Chair Hughes to work with the Animal Commission to finalize verbiage that clearly covers the benefits to both animals and trees.

8. CITY TREE REMOVALS

City Arborist Gonzalo Maravilla informed the NREC about a hit and run tree issue at 1409 Morengo which destroyed the tree. Commissioner Mahmud complimented the City's clean up response to an Oak branch that was in the street after being hit by a filming van. A stump was also removed on Brent Street.

9. DEVELOPMENT OF TREE TRIMMING LIST

NREC concurred that they would work with South Pasadena Beautiful to develop a list of tree trimmers to promote on their website. Commissioner Silverthorn will be the contact for this item. South Pasadena Beautiful is also helping with the walkway near the bus stop on Pasadena Avenue. Porous paving stones are going to be utilized.

10. WATER CONSERVATION ANALYST & WATER RATES

Water Conservation Analyst Debby Figoni was hired on January 14, 2013. Chair Hughes discussed how Global Water will soon be handling the City's billing. Global Water will also have the ability to provide more detailed water reports. She also discussed how the water rates will in part help fund the upgrades and improvements to the City's three reservoirs. There was also mention how construction had started on the Wilson Reservoir. Garfield will follow and the City has acquired a back-up generator to have in the case of emergencies, so we do not lose the ability to pump water if power is disrupted.

11. POSTER CONTEST

Commissioner Kuhn informed the NREC about possibly partnering with the library and the Animal Commission on a dual theme Animal/Water Poster Contest. May (5th – 11th) is "Be Kind to Animals Week" and May is also Water Awareness Month. A Poster Contest for Arbor Day was requested to be added to the February Agenda.

12. PLASTIC BAGS IN SOUTH PASADENA

Commissioner Mahmud provided the committee with information pertaining to Los Angeles County and Pasadena's carryout bag bans. NREC discussed the stores that may fit the parameters of the ban specs. Commissioner Mahmud will work with Scott Feldmann, President of the City of South Pasadena's Chamber of Commerce, to gather more information.

13. EARTH DAY

Chair Hughes discussed an Earth Day event on April 13th with "Tree People" teaching a workshop on tree planting and maintenance. Water Conservation Analyst Figoni is to find a venue.

14. COMMUNITY GARDEN

The proposed site of the Community Garden is a Cal Trans property on Fairview and Columbia. The South Pasadena Community Garden ad hoc committee will host a town meeting February 9, 2013 at City Hall. The goal is to start planting in May of 2013.

CHAIR COMMUNICATIONS - Chair Hughes would like NREC or staff to have an educational booth at the Summer Concert Series again this year. She would like to highlight NREC's banner at the events along with new outreach materials.


COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS - Commissioner Benzoni offered to set up an electronic dropbox to store and easily obtain all NREC communications and documents. Commissioner Mahmud would like staff to provide information on the funds generated from the efficiency fee. She would also like Water Conservation Analyst Figoni to provide a list of conservation program ideas at the March meeting for her to look into partnering with Southern California Gas on programs.

STAFF LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS - Water Conservation Analyst Figoni provided a flyer promoting rebates, funded by Metropolitan Water District, on high efficiency clothes washers, high efficiency sprinkler nozzles and smart irrigation timers. The flyer will be available to City residents.

COUNCIL LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS - None.

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned at 9:48 p.m.

NEXT MEETING - The next regular meeting of the Natural Resources and Environmental Commission will be held on Tuesday, February 26, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. in City Council Chambers.



Kimberley Hughes, Chair

MINUTES
NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
November 27, 2012

Meeting called to order 7:01.

Motion to approve by D. Mahmud, second by S. Kuhn, for September and October meetings. Motion passed unanimously.

Attendees: John Silverthorn, Bill Kelly, Scott Kuhn, Chair Kim Hughes, Diana Mahmud, Thomas Kutzer.

8. Public Works Assistant Position. A job offer has been made and accepted, individual going through background check, currently works for City of Lynwood. Assuming everything goes ok it's not likely the individual would commence employment before January.

13. Water Conservation Analyst Position & Water Rates: Individual interviews held, a second round will be scheduled with 3-4 individuals. Interview panel unknown. Re water rates Marcelino doesn't know whether any objections to the water rates have yet been received by the city. Chair Hughes says she has sent several emails to the Finance Director offering to assist in presenting information to the public re the proposed water rates but has never received a response.

Global Water anticipates completing an audit of water meters by the end of this week. Very few meter abnormalities identified thus far.

12. Tree trimmer list. Marcelino still awaiting SP Beautiful's agreement to develop a tree trimming list. However, he reports that it will fund placement of pavers on Monterey Road near the Nature Park, site where a resident has complained about the grade. SP Beautiful is also considering landscaping on Fair Oaks near Columbia and replacement of light fixtures at pocket park of Monterey and Via del Rey. John suggests that tree trimmers that have appeared before the Commission be recommended to appear on the list. Chair Hughes recommends that John make his recommendation to SP Beautiful, who we hope undertakes development of the tree trimmer list.

9. Parkways Treatment Ordinance Revision. Marcelino indicates that Public Works received a complaint re placement of artificial turf on Indiana Avenue. Marcelino believes Shin Furukawa would like the NREC to review the existing parkway ordinance and suggested recommended changes. We ask Marcelino to speak with Shin re specifically what he wants.

6. Electric Charging Station. No further information.
4. City Tree Removal. No trees removed this month. Twenty four trees were planted city-wide.
11. Elderberry Tree on Mission. No further information on this issue. Diana recommended that NREC receive a copy of a report prepared by the city prosecutor re what actions are taken so that we know what city is doing.
14. Poster Contest. Scott spoke with Beverly Biber of SP Animal Commission but they have agreed to cooperate with us re a poster contest.
16. Earth Day. Chair Hughes said she spoke with NE Trees and they are willing to provide a speaker in March or April re tree care, trimming. We would like to sponsor on a Saturday so can use the Youth House. Chair Hughes will check with the City re availability of Youth House.

Motion to cancel the December meeting, unanimously passed. Next NREC meeting January 22.

Members sadly bade farewell to Bill Kelly, who has just completed his second full term on NREC. He hopes that some of the things the Commission has proposed will come to fruition.

City Council Strategic Planning Meeting tentatively scheduled January 28.



Kimberly Hughes, Chair

MINUTES
NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
May 22, 2012

ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 p.m. Present were Chair Hughes and Commissioners John Silverthorn, Diana Mahmud, Drew Ready, and Scott Kuhn. Commissioners Bill Kelly and Thomas Kutzer were absent. Staff Liaison Harder and Public Works Superintendent Aguilar and Park Supervisor Maravilla were present. Council Liaison Cacciotti was absent.

MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting of May 22, 2012 were approved as motioned by Commissioner Mahmud and seconded by Commissioner Kuhn and all members were in favor, 5-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS – Andrew Potnik, 925 Columbia, spoke regarding fallen branches from neighbor's Eucalyptus tree during windstorm and his concerns with public safety and awareness. He was given advice on how to handle the situation using arborist services and communications with his neighbor to maintain the tree.

PLANTINGS ON FAIR OAKS AVENUE

Amy Nettleton gave a powerpoint presentation on the plantings on Fair Oaks. By consensus the Commission recommended that the maintenance of these plantings be incorporated into TruGreen's contract for control of weeds. PW Super. Aguilar will report back on what transpired at the next regular meeting.

CITY TREE REMOVALS

Park Super. Maravilla explained that he removed a dead crepe myrtle at 224 Oaklawn, a structurally damaged brazilian pepper tree at 216 Oaklawn and an oak tree with buttress roots at 1138 Oak. He also planted 38 – 15 gal'n trees citywide and 4 were donated for Fremont & Huntington (Ginko Biloba trees). A canary island pine was planted at 1625 Spruce and a chinese elm at 2015 Stratford to match the existing. He recycled 5 tons of green waste this month. Chair Hughes explained that there is a dead tree at the front entrance to the Middle School and PW Super. Aguilar said he would contact the school maintenance department regarding that. Commissioner Mahmud informed us of the partially removed tree at 1400 blk. Wayne, west side (Amherst) that needs to be completed.

REVISED WATER CONSERVATION ORDINANCE

Commissioner Mahmud continues to work with City staff to get ordinances moving in both Building & Planning Dept. and Public Works. PW Super. Aguilar explained that he is going to City of Burbank to discuss development of the Water Conserv. Analyst position.

SIDEWALK ALONG NORTH SIDE OF PASADENA AVENUE

Staff Liaison Harder explained that there is an unimproved area between the bus stop and traffic signal near the nature park that has recently become an issue for a senior citizen who reported it to the City. The Commission is asked to make a recommendation. Commissioners explained that they had been to the site and that it is much better maintained now and they asked if the cost for a permanent improvement could be shared with the MTA. They plan to look into the situation more and report back at the next regular meeting.

COMMUNITY GARDEN

Commissioner Mahmud explained locations being discussed by Parks & Recreation Com. and a strategize meeting being planned.

DEVELOPMENT OF TREE TRIMMING LIST

Commissioner Mahmud plans to attend the June meeting of South Pasadena Beautiful and will report back at the next regular meeting.

CONSIDER L.A. AUDUBON'S GUIDE TO BIRD-FRIENDLY TREE TRIMMING & REMOVAL GUIDELINES

Commissioner Ready explained that the animal commission will address this at their June meeting and he will send a .pdf of the guidelines to staff and the Commission for the next regular meeting.

CITY LANDSCAPING OPTIONS

Commissioner Mahmud suggests that this matter may be tabled until a Water Cons. Analyst is hired to help develop a proposal for Council consideration to replace lawn areas with drought tolerant plantings.

COMMUNITY TREE CARE FORUM, 4TH OF JULY AND CLEAN AIR CAR SHOW

Chair Hughes continues to explore the Concerts in Park cooperative plan for this year's outreach and will report back at the next regular meeting further details on her progress.

CHAIR COMMUNICATIONS

- Chair Hughes shared various articles and other water issues that she is monitoring.

COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS

- Scott Kuhn reported overwatering on Pasadena Avenue and suggested a poster contest to put on the agenda. Commissioner Mahmud suggests MWD sponsorship for Water Conservation theme posters.

STAFF LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS

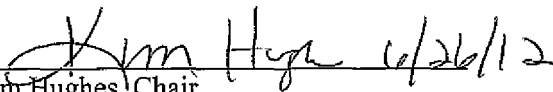
- Public Works Assistant Harder announced her notice to the City and expressed her pleasure working with the Commission.

COUNCIL LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS

- None.

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

NEXT MEETING - The next regular meeting of the Natural Resources and Environmental Commission will be held on Tuesday, June 26, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers.


Kim Hughes, Chair

MINUTES
NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
April 24, 2012

ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. Present were Chair Hughes and Commissioners John Silverthorn, Diana Mahmud, Drew Ready and Thomas Kutzer. Commissioners Scott Kuhn and Bill Kelly arrived shortly thereafter. Staff Liaison Harder and Public Works Superintendent Aguilar were present. Council Liaison Cacciotti arrived at approximately 9:00 p.m.

MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting of March 27, 2012 were approved as motioned by Commissioner Mahmud and seconded by Commissioner Ready and all members were in favor, 4-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS – None.

CITY TREE REMOVALS

Maint. Super. Aguilar explained that 43 trees had been removed in the last 30 days and distributed 3 tables with detailed information on the various tree removals. Commissioner Mahmud asked for removal of a stump at the SW corner of Wayne & Amherst. Aguilar announced structural changes in the department including bringing 2 arborists on board from West Coast Arborists. Chair Hughes asked that eucalyptus debris be removed across from the old Ginos restaurant near the nature park. Commissioner Ready reported that a canary island palm tree on El Centro between Fremont & Mound on the south side needs to be removed because the crown is dead. Commissioners asked about 3 trees removed on Court close to Huntington and how the department prioritizes replacements. Commissioner Ready asked that an agenda item be generated to update a 2002 Replacement Tree Table from the Tree Inventory and to discuss selection issues. Also Edison removals and issues with notification was discussed.

REVISED WATER CONSERVATION ORDINANCE

Commissioner Mahmud explained that she continues to work with Planning & Building staff to revise the Water Efficiency Landscape Ordinance and she is working with Paul Toor on the generic Water Ordinance to revise Articles I and II of Chapter 35. Chair Hughes asked for an update on the hiring of a Water Conservation Coordinator at the next regular meeting.

COMMUNITY GARDEN

Commissioner Mahmud explained that a subcommittee of members from the Parks & Recreation Commission including Evelyn Zneimer and Ron Rosen has been organized to consider a Community Garden and they are identifying areas. She will forward proposed revisions to them and a list of persons who have shown interest in the project.

DEVELOPMENT OF TREE TRIMMING LIST

Commissioner Mahmud explained that La Canada has an approved list of tree trimmers and also Pasadena Beautiful established a list. She recommends we follow Pasadena's model and contact South Pasadena Beautiful for assistance. Commissioner Kuhn made a motion to contact South Pasadena Beautiful to see if they are interested in a similar project to Pasadena Beautiful to regulate a list of approved tree contractors; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Kelly and all members were in favor, 6-0.

NOMINATE VICE CHAIR TO COMMISSION

Scott Kuhn was nominated for the position of Vice Chair to the Commission. He accepted the nomination and all members were in favor, 6-0.

COMMUNITY TREE CARE FORUM

Chair Hughes explained that she has been working with Community Services Director Pautsch on participation with the Summer Concert Series to include the California Energy Upgrade with good

messages on water conservation also. She thought of hosting a tree event prior to the concert at the stage area and may promote that as one of the activities and doing a tree planting demonstration at the first concert on July 8. Complete dates for summer concerts are: July 8, 15, 22, 29 and August 2. She has extra seed bookmarks to distribute at the event and other materials in the PW office. There was consensus in the good idea with a built-in audience. Staff shared application for 4th of July parade event. Thomas Kutzer suggested that the Commission place an announcement for help in the School Bulletin that is read to each class at 4pm daily and also in the school newspaper. Chair Hughes will report back on progress at the next regular meeting.

CHAIR COMMUNICATIONS - Chair Hughes shared various articles and asked Staff Liaison to scan and distribute via email. She is exploring various items for placement on the next agenda including promotion of water barrels.

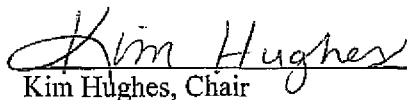
COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS - Commissioner Ready will email a survey he received from the MWD and asked Staff to forward it to Water staff and the Chamber of Commerce. Last October he submitted suggested changes to Resolution #6509 providing a list of Southern California Native trees for regulations and asked the status of its implementation. He plans to invite Amy Nettleton for a 15-minute presentation at the beginning of the May regular meeting and to set a date for the Commission to tour the Fair Oaks plantings. Commissioner Mahmud announced that the City Council elected not to expand the nature park and asked that an item be on the agenda next time to consider eradication of turf areas at certain locations and to plant drought friendly plantings. She also reported that on Camden Parkway at the west side of the parkway there is a leaking gate valve.

STAFF LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS - Public Works Superintendent explained the Hydrology Study and its implementation and training with various scenarios. He read the Overview section of the report to the Commission. Chair Hughes would like to see the Executive Summary and Aguilar explained that it was available in his office. A presentation is being planned for the City Council and will be announced to the NREC when it is scheduled. Staff Liaison Harder explained an issue that may be presented to the Commission at the next regular meeting involving the bus stop at Pasadena & Sycamore and the path that runs from the bus stop to the signalized intersection. She also reminded Commissioners to get agenda items and any materials to her by May 15 for the May regular meeting.

COUNCIL LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS - Council Liaison Cacciotti shared various issues including the installation of charging stations in parks as part of national park system improvements; the yearly AQMD retreat, and solicited Commissioner help to determine where City chargers will go. The Clean Air Car Show is coming in September and a commercial lawn mower exchange and demonstration is currently being planned. He explained that the Water Conservation Coordinator job description is being finalized and an interview schedule will follow with the selection of potential candidates.

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

NEXT MEETING - The next regular meeting of the Natural Resources and Environmental Commission will be held on Tuesday, May 22, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers.


Kim Hughes, Chair

MINUTES
NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
March 27, 2012

ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. Present were Commissioners John Silverthorn, Diana Mahmud, Scott Kuhn and Drew Ready. Chair Hughes and Commissioner Kelly were absent. Staff Liaison Harder and Park Supervisor Noe Cardenas were present. New Youth Member Thomas Kutzer was welcomed to the Commission and an Ordinance establishing the position on the Commission was distributed to all members. Public Works Superintendent Aguilar and Council Liaison Putnam were absent.

MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting of February 28, 2012 were approved as motioned by Commissioner Kuhn and seconded by Commissioner Ready and all members were in favor, 4-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS – Kay Findlay of 318 Arroyo Drive spoke regarding the windstorm and amount of trash and explained that the west side of Arroyo Drive is an area that needs public awareness due to maintenance concerns related to ivy in the sycamores and leaf litter. Beverly Biber of 1250 Oakhill spoke next regarding visual inspection of trees before they are trimmed or removed to check for nesting of birds and squirrels and delivered a letter of concern to the Commission. She invited a member of the NREC to attend the Animal Commission meeting on Monday at 6:30 p.m. in the Mayor's Conference Room. She also suggested that an equivalent of the dedication trees funding be used for maintenance rather than planting additional trees.

CITY TREE REMOVALS

Park Supervisor Cardenas will remove a carob tree at 919 Orange Grove (El Centro side) due to decay as well as a Chinese elm tree at 1961 Stratford that uprooted and fell.

REVISED WATER CONSERVATION ORDINANCE

Commissioner Mahmud explained that she met with Paul Garnett of Building & Planning and gave the status on the process of making some possible revisions to the Water Efficiency Landscape Ord. due to the Green Bldg. Code. The Water Conservation Ordinance is broader in scope and she will be meeting with PW Director Toor and will report more following that meeting.

COMMUNITY GARDEN

Commissioner Mahmud has sent out several emails to get updates and has not yet received a response. Staff Liaison Harder explained that the Community Garden item would go to the Parks & Recreation Commission next for review and she will let the Commission know when that will happen.

DEVELOPMENT OF TREE TRIMMING LIST

Commissioner Mahmud is continuing to work on this item and will report more at the next regular meeting.

NOMINATE VICE CHAIR TO COMMISSION

This matter is deferred until a full commission is present to vote on a new candidate.

COMMUNITY TREE CARE FORUM/EARTH DAY PLANNING

This matter is deferred until the next meeting as to what to do and where to go with this event in that the Youth House is not available on the selected date for the event of April 29 and other matters including budget need to be worked out.

CHAIR COMMUNICATIONS

- None.

COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS - Commissioner Mahmud announced that there will be a budget meeting on Thursday at the War Memorial building from 5-9p.m. Commissioner Ready would like to invite Amy Nettleton to present a powerpoint and would like to include a tour of the landscaping. He also explained that the March 18 event was a great success. Commissioner Kutzer suggested alternative locations for an earth day event like Eddie Park or Orange Grove.

STAFF LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS - Staff Liaison Harder explained that a Hydrology Study presentation will be made before the commission at its April regular meeting.

COUNCIL LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS - none.

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

NEXT MEETING - The next regular meeting of the Natural Resources and Environmental Commission will be held on Tuesday, April 24, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers.



Diana Mahmud, Acting Chair

MINUTES
NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
February 28, 2012

ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. Present were Chair Hughes and Commissioners John Silverthorn, Diana Mahmud, Scott Kuhn, Bill Kelly and Drew Ready. Staff Liaison Harder and Park Supervisor Noe Cardenas were present. Public Works Superintendent Aguilar and Council Liaison Putnam were absent. Councilman Michael Cacciotti arrived at 7:45 p.m.

MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting of January 24, 2012 were approved as motioned by Commissioner Mahmud and seconded by Commissioner Kelly and all members were in favor, 6-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS – None.

PRIVATE PROPERTY TREE REMOVAL – 338 CAMINO DEL CIELO

Simonetta May presented her case regarding removal of two Pine trees on her property. Commissioner Kelly made a motion to table the matter for 30-60 days subject to the submittal by the applicant of an independent arborist report supporting removal of the trees based on arboricultural practices; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Mahmud and all members were in favor, 6-0.

REVISED WATER CONSERVATION ORDINANCE

Associate Planner Paul Garnett shared his memo and revisions to various ordinances. Chair Hughes appointed Commissioners Diana Mahmud and Scott Kuhn to a subcommittee to review and recommend changes so that the ordinances can proceed to City Council for approval.

WATER/SEWER RATES

Chair Hughes explained that the public hearing for water rates will be at the March 7th City Council meeting. Staff Liaison Harder gave an update to the hydrology study and Wilson Reservoir project as they relate to water/sewer rates.

CITY TREE REMOVALS

Park Super. Cardenas provided an update to the wind storm and explained that he removed a silver maple tree mostly dead at 1215 Brunswick, a coast live oak with deadwood and in decline at 245 Fair Oaks and a coast live oak hatracked and declining at 1138 Oak Street.

DEVELOPMENT OF TREE TRIMMING LIST

Commissioner Mahmud is researching Pasadena and La Canada lists of approved tree trimmers as those allowed to obtain permits in those cities and the criteria allowed for that. South Pasadena Beautiful might administer the list.

COMMUNITY GARDEN

Commissioner Mahmud explained various changes to the Community Garden Ordinance and accepted further changes from members. Commissioner Kelly made a motion to send the amended document to Planning & Building Department to review and submit to Planning Commission as appropriate, the motion was seconded by Commissioner Mahmud and all members were in favor, 6-0.

COMMUNITY TREE CARE FORUM/EARTH DAY PLANNING

Commissioner Ready explained promotional aspects of March 18 Watershed Event. Staff Liaison Harder will post on City website and press releases are being prepared. Discussion ensued regarding an earth day event possibly at Garfield Park Youth House with tree planting demonstration and who the target audience will be, etc. Commissioners Hughes, Kelly and Ready will be on a subcommittee to make preparations.

CHAIR COMMUNICATIONS - Chair Hughes explained that the snow pack report is 23% of normal explaining that water conservation is a critical issue on-going. She will have election of a Vice Chair to the Commission on the next agenda.

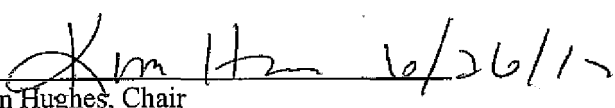
COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS - Commissioner Mahmud asked status of student appointment to Commission, Commissioner Kuhn asked about filling vacancy, Commissioner Kelly explained project to turn park into "food forest", Commissioner Ready would like to have Amy Nettleman make a presentation before the Commission, Commissioner Silverthorn would like a meeting with Park Supervisor and Edison regarding tree care.

STAFF LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS - Staff Liaison Harder shared an Earth Day Event flyer from USGVMWD, and a Generation Water Irrigation Survey done at Arroyo Park by USGVMWD and asked that the Chair accept the Arbor Day Proclamation at the March 7 CC meeting.

COUNCIL LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS - none.

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned at 10:15 p.m.

NEXT MEETING - The next regular meeting of the Natural Resources and Environmental Commission will be held on Tuesday, March 27, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers.



Kim Hughes, Chair

MINUTES
NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
January 24, 2012

ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. Present were Chair Hughes and Commissioners John Silverthorn, Diana Mahmud, Scott Kuhn, Bill Kelly and Drew Ready. Staff Liaison Harder, Public Works Superintendent Aguilar and Park Supervisor Noe Cardenas were present as well as Associate Civil Engineer Alex Chou and Grants Analyst Tracey Perkosky. Council Liaison Putnam was absent. Councilman Dr. Schneider was present and Fire Chief Jerry Wallace.

MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting of December 20, 2011 were approved as motioned by Commissioner Mahmud and seconded by Commissioner Kuhn and all members were in favor, 6-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS – None.

WATER/SEWER RATES

Chair Hughes gave a brief update and informed the Commission that the Public Hearing on water and sewer rates will be held on March 7. She would like to see more public meetings on the subject prior to the public hearing to help educate the public on the issues.

CITY TREE REMOVALS

Chair Hughes asked the status of wind storm recovery. Park Super. Cardenas explained that temporary workers are still providing clean up and he expects total tree losses to be in the neighborhood of 100 trees, plus 30 that will require removal because of structural issues resulting from the storm. Park Super. Cardenas removed a black acacia tree at 303 Grand due to a split trunk and a coast live oak tree at 2057 Amherst on the Wayne side of the property due to its poor condition with buttress roots rotten at the sidewalk.

CALFIRE GRANT

Associate Civil Engineer, Alex Chou, and Grants Analyst Tracey Perkosky, presented a plan to plant 36-15 gallon trees in city parkways and/or parks as part of the Cal Fire Grant. Commissioner Ready expressed his concern with the size of tree wells on Fair Oaks. Commissioners asked whether the planting plan took into consideration the loss of trees in the windstorm. Chair Hughes said that Fremont could use replacement trees due to wind storm losses. Commissioner Kuhn made a motion to approve the planting plan with an extension as needed to consider wind storm losses; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Kelly and all members were in favor, 6-0. Commissioner Silverthorn expressed his concern with the care of the trees by the adjacent property owners following planting.

2012-2013 CITY BUDGET

Staff Liaison Harder introduced the item to ask for Commissioner input in the 2012-2013 City Budget. Discussion ensued. The Commission desires that the City make sure it has back-up generators for critical tasks, such as the water tower pump. Commissioner Kelly provided a summary of recommendations as follows:

- Hire one experienced tree trimmer/arborist;
- Augment money for tree trimming contract services by \$50,000;
- Budget and hire a Water Conservation Coordinator using Water surcharge fees established for water conservation;
- Use same funds to upgrade the irrigation systems, controls and sensors at parks to manage water better;
- Fund the purchase of trucks as needed by the Public Works Department including a valve turn off truck, an asphalt truck and other smaller vehicles. If CNG is a hurdle to that then consider reassessing the policy for heavy duty trucks to take another look at today's diesels.

The motion was seconded with an amendment by Commissioner Mahmud to ask that the Water Conservation Coordinator be hired as soon as possible and not to wait until next fiscal year. All members were in favor of the motion, 6-0.

COMMUNITY GARDEN

Commissioner Mahmud provided a red line version of Vice Chair Margrave's recommendations for changes to the Community Garden Zoning Code. Discussion ensued. Commissioner Mahmud will re-vamp the document and provide a clean and red line version of the Code for continued discussions at the next regular meeting.

GENERAL PLAN – FOCUS AREA 8

Commissioner Kelly suggested that this item is not something to pursue at this time due to many issues including the costs for improvements. Discussion ensued. Commissioner Mahmud made a motion to forward the item to Grants Analyst Perkosky to put on her radar to consider park development at the site at a future date should grant funds become available. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kelly and all members were in favor, 6-0.

COMMUNITY TREE CARE FORUM/EARTH DAY PLANNING

Commissioner Mahmud suggested an event be coordinated with So. Pas. Beautiful to educate the public on trees. Chair Hughes formed a subcommittee including herself and Commissioner Silverthorn to outline a program for consideration at the next meeting. Other suggested speakers included Barbara Eisenstein and Amy Nettleton.

FIRE PREPAREDNESS IN THE MONTEREY HILLS

Councilman Dr. Schneider introduced the subject of fire preparedness in the Monterey Hills as brought to light following the wind storm and loss of power to water supplies in the area outlining the need for emergency back up power and better fire preparedness. Katie Ziemann, Grantee Support Coordinator with the California Fire Safe Council, and Jay Lopez, Deputy Forester with the L.A. County Fire Department provided handouts and explained their program to establish community groups to help protect homes in fire prone areas. These Fire Safe Council groups would be similar to Neighborhood Watch Groups in their configuration. They ask that the Commission elect a member to work with them to help identify community leaders and set a first meeting. Commissioner Ready made a motion to recommend the City Council approve the formation of a Fire Safe Council; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Kuhn and all members were in favor, 6-0.

CHAIR COMMUNICATIONS - Chair Hughes explained that the snow pack report is 5% of normal explaining that water conservation is a critical issue on-going.

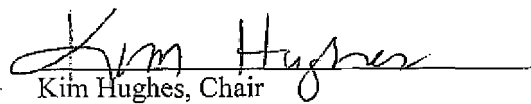
COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS - Commissioner Mahmud would like the Commission to consider a change to City Municipal Code related to approved contractors for tree permits and plans to attend a meeting with South Pasadena Beautiful to discuss a Tree Dedication Subcommittee. Commissioner Kelly plans to attend the SCE and PUC meeting on Thursday to discuss the aging urban canopy and correct ways to trim trees and will report back. Commissioner Ready will provide information as available on the March 18 Tree Care Forum and announced a 7:30 a.m. Arroyo Seco Foundation Watershed Breakfast meeting tomorrow focusing on a study of the watershed ecosystem; more information is available on the Arroyo Seco Foundation's website.

STAFF LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS - Staff Liaison Harder provided an update on the Water Conservation Landscape Ordinance as provided by Paul Garnett of Building & Planning; further updates are coming in February.

COUNCIL LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS - none.

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned at 10:15 p.m.

NEXT MEETING - The next regular meeting of the Natural Resources and Environmental Commission will be held on Tuesday, February 28, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers.


Kim Hughes, Chair

MINUTES
NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
December 20, 2011

ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Present were Chair Hughes, Vice Chair Margrave and Commissioners John Silverthorn and Diana Mahmud. Commissioners Scott Kuhn, Bill Kelly and Drew Ready arrived shortly thereafter. Staff Liaison Harder and Park Supervisor Noe Cardenas were present. Council Liaison Putnam was absent.

MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting of November 22, 2011 were approved as motioned by Commissioner Ready with a change to the motion made in Proposed Tree Trimming Fee so that the motion was made by Vice Chair Margrave; the motion was seconded by Vice Chair Margrave and all were in favor, 7-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS – None.

WATER/SEWER RATES

Finance Director Thai provided a handout titled: "Personalized Water Budget Implementation" and explained various slides as well as status of Water Conserv. Coord. Position and Public Works capital improvement projects and timing of events to implement new water and sewer rates for South Pasadena. Fin. Dir. Thai received feedback and helpful suggestions from the Commission.

CITY TREE REMOVALS

Chair Hughes asked the status of approval for a Press Release and Web update that she provided. Staff Liaison Harder explained that it had been reviewed by PW staff and forwarded to City Manager for approvals. She shared a survey to ask residents about tree losses and heard that 25 trees had been lost at the Golf Course. She will send the survey out electronically for Commissioner feedback and asked about posting the release on the website as well as water bills. Com. Mahmud asked for the Park Supervisor job description. Park Super. Cardenas explained that he removed a Coast Live Oak tree on Grand just no. of Mission because of stability issues.

DPEIR FOR DELTA PLAN

No further comment was made on this item.

COMMUNITY GARDEN

Vice Chair Margrave prepared a document for Commissioner consideration revising Zoning Code 36.350.230 Community Gardens to make the City of South Pasadena the operator as well as other changes to facilitate its implementation. The suggested site for a Community Garden is property that the City could lease from Caltrans on Grevelia Street. Com. Mahmud asked for the document electronically so that she may prepare a "redline" version for the next regular meeting.

GENERAL PLAN – FOCUS AREA 8

Vice Chair Margrave shared the 1998 General Plan and focus area 8 so the Commission can discuss various access issues and potential uses for the site. Com. Mahmud suggested that the NREC partner with the Animal Com. and/or Parks and Recreation. This matter will remain on the agenda to generate ideas and so that a visit of the site can be made by Commissioners to better understand logistics.

COMMUNITY TREE CARE FORUM/EARTH DAY PLANNING

Commissioner Ready suggested that an event at the Arboretum hosted by the Council for Watershed Health may substitute for the Tree Care Forum and is inexpensive to the public. The proposed event will take place on Sunday, March 18 from noon to 4pm and the Com. would need to publicize the event and possibly the City could provide bus service to and from the site. The Com. could advertise the event in the Review, include public access television and a link on the City website.

CHAIR COMMUNICATIONS - Chair Hughes explained that the COG may provide a mechanism to buy trees at reduced rates to cities; is coordinating with Com. Services Dir. Pautsch for summer concert series participation; and, wants to help promote neighborhood connections for emergency situations and safety.

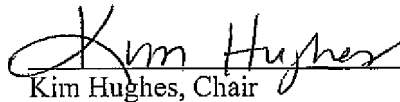
COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS - Vice Chair Margrave shared information on a day long event to be hosted at UCLA titled "Future of Water" on Jan. 27. Com. Ready asked for the status of the Alternate Fuel Policy and Ad Hoc Com. set up. Com. Mahmud shared an article on funding for new trees and will follow up with South Pasadena Beautiful. She also updated the Com. on the status of the Water Efficient Land. Ord. going to City Council on Dec. 21.

STAFF LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS - None.

COUNCIL LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS - none.

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned at 10:15 p.m.

NEXT MEETING - The next regular meeting of the Natural Resources and Environmental Commission will be held on Tuesday, January 24, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers.



Kim Hughes, Chair

MINUTES
NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
November 23, 2011

ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. Present were Chair Hughes and Commissioners John Silverthorn, Drew Ready, Diana Mahmud. Vice Chair Margrave arrived shortly thereafter. Commissioner Scott Kuhn arrived at 7:35 p.m. Commissioner Bill Kelly was absent. Staff Liaison Harder, Public Works Director Paul Toor, Public Works Superintendent Marcelino Aguilar and Park Supervisor Noe Cardenas were present. Council Liaison Putnam was absent.

MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting of October 25, 2011 were approved as motioned by Commissioner Mahmud and seconded by Commissioner Ready and all were in favor, 4-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS – Councilman Dr. Richard Schneider presented the City Scores on Water Conservation Measures for commissioner comment showing South Pasadena's rating as a "7" or poor rating. The Commission will look into the matter, but generally believed that the rating was done prior to the implementation of various improvements by the City.

TREE ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS

Senior Planner John Mayer presented an updated version of Tree Ordinance amendments that included comments received during Commission review. Commissioner Mahmud made a motion to recommend approval of the Tree Ordinance Amendments to the City Council; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Ready and all members were in favor, 5-0.

CITY TREE REMOVALS

Park Supervisor Noe Cardenas gave a tree removal report explaining the need to remove 3 City trees. Various concerns were brought up regarding the Urban Forest for follow up and interest in planting lists and guidance to residents as well as Park Super. participation in the Community Tree Care Forum.

DPEIR FOR DELTA PLAN

The Commission accepted the document as an information item, but generally felt the topic was complex and that they would defer their comments to experts in the field like MWD and USGVMWD. This matter will be on the agenda in December since comments are still being accepted should anyone wish to formalize comments.

WATER RATES

Commissioner Margrave gave an update and provided handouts on the subject that the Main San Gabriel Basin is recovering. Finance Director Chu Thai is on vacation and will be asked to provide an update at the next regular meeting.

COMMUNITY GARDEN

Vice Chair Margrave indicated this is a work in progress and will have an update at the next regular meeting.

COMMUNITY TREE CARE FORUM/EARTH DAY PLANNING

Chair Hughes expressed her interest in having a Tree Care Forum for Earth Day or Arbor Day in 2012. She appointed Commissioner Ready and herself to a subcommittee to make arrangements for the event. Park Super. Cardenas offered his support for event planning.

PROPOSED TREE TRIMMING FEE

Staff Liaison Harder explained the need to add an urgent item to the agenda to discuss and make a recommendation regarding the City's Tree Trimming Permit fees. Commissioner Ready made a motion to add the urgent item to the agenda; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Mahmud and all members were in favor, 5-0. Commissioner Ready made a motion to establish a \$35 Permit Fee and a \$25 per tree Inspection Fee; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Mahmud and all members were in favor, 6-0. Commissioner Mahmud further recommended that future costs consider how fees compare to other cities; that methodology be extended to consider how many single tree versus multiple tree permits are issued; that public outreach on trees be improved as it relates to permit requirements as well as tree care.

CHAIR COMMUNICATIONS - Chair Hughes shared various articles and asked that the Sewer Issue be put on the agenda as appropriate for next meeting and well as a report on the Hydrology Study.

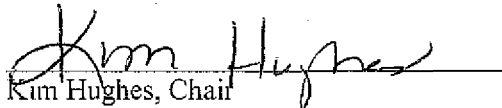
COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS - Vice Chair Margrave expressed his interest in property on the west side of the City that is land-locked between the wash and freeway and asked that use of the property be on the agenda next time. Chair Hughes seconded the motion and all members were in favor, 6-0.

STAFF LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS - Staff Liaison Harder shared the results of Dumpster Day that show a 30% decline in large item disposal as compared to last year. She also handed out the HHW event flyer for Pasadena Rose Bowl annual event taking place on December 3rd.

COUNCIL LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS - none.

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

NEXT MEETING - The next regular meeting of the Natural Resources and Environmental Commission will be held on Tuesday, December 20, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers.


Kim Hughes, Chair

MINUTES
NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
October 25, 2011

ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m. Present were Chair Hughes, Vice Chair Margrave and Commissioners Bill Kelly, John Silverthorn, Drew Ready, Scott Kuhn and Diana Mahmud. Staff Liaison Harder and Park Supervisor Noe Cardenas were present. Council Liaison Putnam was absent.

MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting of September 27, 2011 were approved as motioned by Commissioner Mahmud and seconded by Commissioner Kelly and all were in favor, 7-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS – Chris Glaeser introduced himself and thanked the Commission for its participation in Festival of Balloons and distribution of bookmarks.

CITY TREE REMOVALS

Acting Park Supervisor Maravilla was absent so no report was given. New Park Supervisor Noe Cardenas was welcomed by the Commission.

TREE ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS

This matter has been deferred to the next regular meeting.

PRESENTATION ON CALRECYCLE GRANT

Susan Collins with California Product Stewardship made a power point presentation on the CalRecycle grant to promote Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR). Commissioner Ready made a motion to refer adoption of a Resolution in support of EPR to staff; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Mahmud and the vote passed 6-1.

FEASIBILITY OF WATER BUDGETS

Finance Director Chu Thai presented an update and handout on water budget rate models and asked that the Commission consider setting a date for a Community Forum in November. The Commission considered calling it personalized water rates and said that would be more easily understood. Finance Director Thai is moving forward with the proposed rate increases. Commissioners generally requested a slower process.

In continued discussion on the matter during commissioner comments they requested that a special meeting be arranged with Finance Director Thai and the NREC first part of December to continue discussion on the matter.

COMMUNITY GARDEN

Commissioners reviewed the ordinance and suggested changes to various sections. Vice Chair Margrave, Commissioner Silverthorn and Ready were appointed to a subcommittee to bring back a recommendation to be adopted by City Council at the next regular meeting.

RESOLUTION OF NATIVE SPECIES

Commissioner Ready presented a Resolution of Native Species for City Council adoption. Commissioner Mahmud made a motion that the proposed Resolution be reviewed by the new Park Supervisor; the motion was seconded by Chair Hughes and all members were in favor, 7-0.

COMMUNITY TREE CARE FORUM

Chair Hughes had nothing additional to report at this time and requested this matter continue on the agenda for future discussions.

TREE CITY USA AND GROWTH AWARD

Staff Liaison Harder asked for Commissioner recommendations for points the City may earn towards this year's Growth Award. Discussion ensued with recommendations for Concerts participation (A2), use of horticulture experts for CIP projects (Fair Oaks Project) and for school projects and for furthering tree education with programs at the Library this year.

CHAIR COMMUNICATIONS - Chair Hughes shared Delta Plan News and updated the Commission on various items of interest.

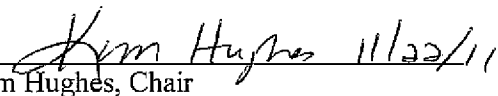
COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS - Commissioner Mahmud requested that the Hydrology Study be on the agenda next time with Marcelino Aguilar reporting. Commissioner Ready expressed his concern for plantings at Fair Oaks project and continued maintenance once contractor finishes its required maintenance of new plantings.

STAFF LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS - Staff Liaison Harder explained that the next 2 meetings are scheduled on holiday weeks and asked for Commission interest in re-scheduling. The Commission will re-schedule its December meeting to one-week prior, or December 20. Staff Liaison Harder shared a letter requesting fruit trees be planted in City parkways.

COUNCIL LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS - Councilman Cacciotti gave brief updates.

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned at 10:45 p.m.

NEXT MEETING - The next regular meeting of the Natural Resources and Environmental Commission will be held on Tuesday, November 22, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers.


Kim Hughes, Chair

MINUTES
NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
September 27, 2011

ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. Present were Chair Hughes and Commissioners Bill Kelly, John Silverthorn, Drew Ready and Diana Mahmud. Vice Chair Margrave and Commissioner Kuhn arrived shortly thereafter. Public Works Superintendent Marcelino Aguilar, Staff Liaison Harder and Acting Park Supervisor Gonzalo Maravilla were present. Council Liaison Putnam was absent.

MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting of August 23, 2011 were approved as motioned by Commissioner Kelly and seconded by Commissioner Ready with a vote of 3-2 (Chair Hughes & Commissioner Mahmud abstaining).

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS – Finance Director Thai made a presentation on the Utility Users Tax.

TREE ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS

Joan Jenkins presented an ordinance for the Commission to consider adopting. Various suggestions for edits were requested by the commission. Changes will be made and the item brought back to the Commission for continued review at the next regular meeting. The Commission requests the Tree Ordinance in its entirety as part of this review.

PRIVATE PROPERTY TREE REMOVAL – 1723 ROLLIN STREET

Grace Kwan, property owner, explained reasons for requesting tree removal including an expansive and shallow root system and its location 4 feet from neighbor's property. She feels that she meets the first criteria of the ordinance that there is a reasonable potential risk and the tree is too far gone to mitigate interferences. She also plans to plant trees that will provide greater benefits to the property thereby meeting a second criteria. Commissioner Mahmud made a motion to approve removal of the tree with the planting of two 24" box replacement trees, the motion was seconded by Commissioner Silverthorn and all members were in favor, 7-0.

PRIVATE PROPERTY TREE REMOVAL – 1040 GARFIELD AVENUE

Jay Martinez, applicant, shared plans and explained reasons for requesting the removal of a tree in the footprint of construction on his property, as well as planting plans for tree replacements including a native species in the front of the property. Vice Chair Margrave made a motion to approve removal of the tree with the planting of three 24" box replacement trees as described, the motion was seconded by Commissioner Kuhn and all members were in favor, 7-0.

SINGLE-USE CARRYOUT BAG REGULATION

Yoko Igawa, Professional Intern, presented a memo requesting the Commission consider adopting an ordinance to charge for use of plastic bags at retail establishments modeling it after the City of Pasadena's Ordinance. Discussion ensued and resulted in a request for more outreach, chamber comments, consideration of what stores would be impacted, etc.

DRIVING RANGE EXPANSION

Staff Liaison Harder is asked to provide an update from Sheila P. on this item at the next regular meeting.

CITY TREE REMOVALS

Acting Park Super. Maravilla explained that five (5) crepe myrtle trees had to be removed in the 1700 blk. of Court Avenue as a result of damage by weed wackers and overwatering.

FEASIBILITY OF WATER BUDGETS

Finance Director Thai gave an update on this item explaining that an 18% rather than 30% increase is being reviewed by Raftelis including an analysis on whether that will be sufficient or be a short term solution. He plans a community meeting in October to evaluate a water budget model. Commissioner Mahmud requested that a report be presented next time that includes consumption data.

LOW EMISSION VEHICLE POLICY

Commissioner Ready made a motion that an ad hoc committee be formed including members of the Transportation & Freeway Commission, Finance Commission, City Staff and Council Liaison Cacciotti to discuss a stronger policy and purchase review process for low emission vehicles, the motion was seconded by Commissioner Mahmud and all members were in favor, 7-0.

COMMUNITY GARDEN

Vice Chair Margrave gave an update on community outreach on this item. The Commission asks that the Ordinance be brought back for discussion and to recommend changes to reduce costs. Chair Hughes shared an article on skid row community gardens.

WATER CONSERVATION COORDINATOR

A subcommittee including Chair Hughes and Commissioners Mahmud and Ready prepared a job description that is now being passed on for staff review and comment.

RESOLUTION OF NATIVE SPECIES

Commissioner Ready explained his interest in updating the Resolution that establishes native species for Tree Ordinance regulations. He plans to use resources provided by Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden as well as Cal Poly Pomona to create a lists of natives for regulations as well as a list of suggested species that the community may wish to plant as replacement trees.

COMMUNITY TREE CARE FORUM

Chair Hughes expressed her interest due to the recent loss of an Engelmann Oak tree, to educate the public in a community forum of experts to plant the right tree in the right location and to discuss water issues related to trees possibly as part of an Earth Day or Arbor Day event. Chair Hughes and Commissioners Ready and Mahmud will be a subcommittee to plan the event.

ANNUAL REPORT TO CITY COUNCIL

Chair Hughes plans to write the annual report to highlight concerts, literature distribution and water conservation messages this past year and requests feedback from the Commission on accomplishments that she should mention in the report to City Council that is due next month.

CHAIR COMMUNICATIONS - Chair Hughes shared various articles including an editorial in the Wall Street Journal. Chair Hughes asked that the November agenda include Earth Day Event Planning.

COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS - Vice Chair Margrave expressed his concern with the purchase of goods and material from overseas that violate local environmental rules and regulations that he feels must meet our manufacturer guidelines and would like to see an ordinance adopted to require that.

STAFF LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS - Staff Liaison Harder announced the toilet exchange event and Watershed Restoration events coming up in October.

COUNCIL LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS - none

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned at 10:45 p.m.

NEXT MEETING - The next regular meeting of the Natural Resources and Environmental Commission will be held on Tuesday, October 25, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. in City Council Chambers.

Kim Hughes 11/22/11
Kim Hughes, Chair

MINUTES OF JULY 26 NREC MEETING

Meeting called to order at 7:02. Members present: Chair Hughes, Drew Ready, Scott Kuhn, Bill Kelly and Diana Mahmud. Member Margrave joined the meeting at 7:05. Member Silverthorn excused due for health reasons.

Scott Kuhn made motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Commissioner Kelly and all were in favor, 6-0.

No public comment.

4. *Private Property Tree Removal: 2120 Monterey Rd.* Steve Tepe spoke and said he believes he's satisfied all prior concerns expressed by the NREC members. Hands out photos showing the trunk of one tree (#3) leaning over the adjacent ditch, deforming the wire fence separating applicant's property from the ditch. He is proposing installation of 25 trees which goes above and beyond code replacement requirements. Only six are required as replacements under the ordinance. Photos show rotting wood but doesn't identify how close to either tree that condition exists.

Mr. Tepe said the root system of trees endanger persons and property. Commissioner Margrave said whoever built driveway constructed it on fill. Margrave says the roots don't have sufficient support. He says he went to site and agrees there's a danger to health. More discussion: Commission members don't feel sufficient evidence has been presented to warrant approval of tree removal. During the discussion there was considerable confusion regarding which of the four trees had been previously approved by the city for removal, and which two were before the NREC Commission. There was a great deal of discussion as to the photos and what was being presented, as the photos were not numbered or were there captions to clearly identify the trees that are being considered for approved removal. Margrave moves to continue consideration of this application; Scott seconds, vote is unanimous. The presented is again requested to amend the original application to clearly state the rationale for removal – one which is identified in the applicable tree removal ordinance. He says he's through appearing before NREC, will leave to homeowner to pursue.

5. *Private Property Tree Removal: 1220 Via Del Rey.* Wayne Hegedus, homeowner presents his application. Says roots of both trees obstruct proper drainage. Gonzalo says he didn't see any damage to tree or to the garage door. However, he acknowledges that the Pine tree is causing damage to driveway. Pine tree root was close to but not damaging foundation. Pepper tree is causing damage to driveway. The homeowner submits additional documentation in support of removal, including a letter from an insurance company threatening cancellation unless the two trees are addressed. Bill Kelly moves approval of application, Scott seconds, subject to owner compliance with tree replacement policy. Motion unanimously approved. Owner is told to consult with Diana Harder regarding requirements of tree replacement policy.

6. *Private Property Tree Removal* : 1327 Indiana Avenue. Felix Obamogie, designer for homeowner Jeanette Broussard made the presentation. Commissioner Margrave requests that if the application is approved, that the oak tree not be removed until the owner has secured a building permit. Applicant agrees. Other trees on the lot have been numbered, but it's unclear by whom. Commission requests that the City arborist to take a tree inventory of the parcel prior to removal of the tree. Margrave moves approval, subject to delay in removal until building permit secured, inventory completion, maintenance of oak trees and protection during construction. Kim seconds. Drew encourages applicant to consider location of replacement tree on-site. Motion unanimously approved as conditioned. Drew notes that there were some signs on some trees that requested that trees not be removed during construction. Mahmud suggests that Diana Harder be requested to bring a copy of the notice that is supposed to go to nearby homeowners so that we know whether they have sufficient notice of our meeting to voice opposition to the tree removal.

Commissioner Drew and Margrave spoke about the issue of wildlife protection as an important consideration.

7. *City tree removal. Removal of Arroyo Seco Park-California Sycamore.* Commissioner Mahmud moves approval, Margrave seconds. Motion unanimously passes. Drew suggests that a replacement tree be located in the general vicinity. Mahmud mentions this report is excellent, very clearly describes the basis for removal with clearly identified and depicted conditions warranting removal, suggests that Diana provide this as an example of a well-prepared request for a tree removal. *Removal of Deodar Cedar at 454 Mission Street.* Gonzalo notes that this tree has already been removed due to concern re the significant and increasing lean of tree and potential threat to public welfare.

8. *PACE.* Kelly explains PACE program, distributes his draft letter to Representative Schiff. Mahmud moves that NREC recommend to City Council that it support HR 2599 (Thompson-Lungren) and append the draft letter to Rep. Schiff in support of PACE. Margrave seconds, motion unanimously passes.

9. *Replacement tree for 342 Camino del Sol.* Commissioner Ready recommended smaller liquid amber with a root barrier be explored. Mahmud moves his recommendation, with the understanding that staff would only return to NREC in the event that suitable replacement liquid amber cannot be found, otherwise staff need not return to NREC. Chair Hughes seconds. Motion unanimously passes.

10. *Low Emission Vehicle Policy.* Some discussion ensues regarding the pending vehicle purchase request which triggered Mayor Pro Tem Cacciotti's request that motor vehicle purchase requests first go to NREC prior to City Council approval to ensure compliance with city's low emission vehicle policy. Mahmud suggests it might be more appropriate for such screening to go before the Transportation Commission rather than this one, asks that be explored. In light of Mr. Cacciotti's absence from the meeting, Chair Hughes moves that the matter be tabled and Mahmud seconds. The motion passes unanimously.

11. *Community Garden.* Discussion of the results of the community garden survey, which demonstrates that there is at least support for establishment of same, and willingness to pay between

\$50 and \$100 annually for use of a plot. Chair Hughes will speak to Chair Trevino of the Parks and Recreation Commission to ascertain whether it has an interest in spearheading establishment of a community garden, as PRC Commissioner Zneimer had earlier expressed interest in a community garden. Chair Hughes also suggests that Kristen Lepore of Patch interview Margrave whenever an article is done on the subject.


12. *Water Conservation Coordinator.* Commissioner Ready distributed his recent edit to the proposed duties of a water conservation coordinator. Mahmud explained that she, Chair Hughes and Ready all reviewed water conservation coordinator positions received from a number of Metropolitan Water District agencies and sub-agencies to identify an appropriate description for our position which has recently been approved by the City Manager. Mahmud suggests some tweaking of the distributed position description might occur, suggests that NREC delegate to the subcommittee of Hughes, Ready and herself the authority to consider such tweaks in submitting a final draft position description to the City Manager. Commissioner Margrave makes that motion, seconded by Kuhn, which passes unanimously.

13. *Leaf Blower Ordinance.* Mahmud explains that the ordinance, which prohibits operation of leaf blowers that are not certified by the California Air Resources Board, is unenforceable on its face because CARB does not certify the blowers, only the engines that operate them. She further explains that CARB's is designed in such a way as to make it very difficult for individuals to identify whether their blower's engine is CARB-approved. Further, all leaf blowers sold in the state for some time have required CARB approval. Commissioner Kelly further explains that CARB averages the emissions of a manufacturer's range of engines, meaning some may exceed state requirements while others may not meet them; the average of the manufacturer's engine emissions need only comply with CARB requirements. Chair Hughes moves that the NREC recommend City Council rescission of the ordinance, Margrave seconds. Kuhn that points out that certain sections of the ordinance need not be rescinded, recommends that only paragraphs (a), (b) and (c) be rescinded. Hughes and Margrave accept the friendly amendment. The motion is passed unanimously. Mahmud suggests that the city explore a carrot for gardeners licensed to work in the city, i.e., that its business license fee be waived if the gardener can submit evidence of a recently purchased low emission, low noise leaf blower.

14. *Parkway ordinance.* Mahmud explains she had been working on the water conservation coordinator position, hopes to have a draft ready shortly.

Commissioner Communications

- Mahmud requests that staff report on the status of the hydraulic study.
- Commissioner Margrave passed out an article about water supply and voiced concerns if the water conservation requirements might be reviewed, as he voiced that there is adequate water supply.
- Commissioner Mahmud shared a cake in honor of Chair Hughes' birthday which was enjoyed by all.


The meeting was adjourned around 10:35 p.m.

MINUTES
NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
June 28, 2011

ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. Present were Chair Hughes and Commissioners Bill Kelly, Diana Mahmud, John Silverthorn and Scott Kuhn. Vice Chair Margrave was absent and Commissioner Drew Ready. Public Works Superintendent Marcelino Aguilar, Acting Park Supervisor Maravilla and Staff Liaison Harder were present. Council Liaison Putnam was absent. Mayor Pro Tem Cacciotti arrived around 8:30 p.m.

MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting of May 24, 2011 were approved as motioned by Commissioner Mahmud and seconded by Commissioner Kelly and all were in favor, 5-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS – Kristen Lepore, Editor of South Pasadena Patch, spoke regarding the Patch news and opportunities to get the news out at “local voices” for blogging by entering a username and password; they are also on facebook, twitter and have 14,000 visitors per month currently on the new website: www.southpasadena.patch.com.

Robert Metcalf, a mechanical engineer with Solar Mosaic, has created a new model for financing solar that is a community-owned/non-profit that will operate a revolving, renewable energy fund with time to put solar panels on appropriate roofs in town; like schools, industrial buildings, etc.

TREE ORDINANCE

This item has been cancelled.

CITY TREE REMOVALS

Acting Park Supervisor Maravilla has no tree removals to report at this time. He is overseeing Fair Oaks project planting and everything is going well.

PACE RESOLUTION

Commissioner Kelly explained that he will work on this item for the next regular meeting.

4TH OF JULY PARADE/CONCERTS IN THE PARK PLANNING

Chair Hughes registered the NREC for the parade; #42 in line up. She has 150 seeded bookmarks to distribute at the event at a cost of \$268 as well as a 2' x 6' banner to carry in the parade (\$118). Concerts start on July 10 and other dates are 17, 24, 31 and August 7. USGVMWD and COG will have booths with promotions for the public at all events. Commissioner Kuhn asked that contact info. be on all advertising (www.bewaterwise.com) Chair Hughes invited commissioners to attend and assist in the booths.

LANDSCAPE ORDINANCE

Commissioner Mahmud explained that Paul Garnett in Building & Planning Dept. prepared 2 documents to summarize revisions and explained changes from the Model City Ordinance as it applies to the recommended ordinance. Commissioner Ready and Mahmud spoke with Paul G. yesterday to incorporate changes. Com. Mahmud explained that the item will be submitted to City Council as a suggestion for adoption. Chair Hughes made a motion to recommend approval of the Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Kelly and all members were in favor, 5-0.

LEAF BLOWER ORDINANCE

Commissioner Mahmud received an email from AQMD explaining how to read certain documents to determine what is a carb-approved engine, but the process is not user-friendly. Chair Hughes established a subcommittee to include Commissioners Bill Kelly and Diana Mahmud to discuss how to implement the ordinance including obtaining better communication from AQMD on events.

PARKWAY ORDINANCE

Commissioner Mahmud will present on this item at the next regular meeting.

WATER CONSERVATION/SHORTAGE ORDINANCE

A subcommittee consisting of Commissioners Mahmud and Kelly as well as Water Council Member Don Nichols patterned the draft ordinance after the City of Pasadena. Commissioner Kelly made a motion to forward the document to staff for review and then approval by the City Council as appropriate; the motion was seconded by Commissioners Mahmud and Kuhn and all members were in favor, 5-0.

ACROSS FROM 1115 GREVELIA – WEED CLEARANCE

Commissioner Silverthorn explained that the dead tree has been removed from the lot and weeds cleared. He wants to know what a citizen can do to get Caltrans to respond to property maintenance issues. Staff Liaison Harder said he could ask for City assistance as we have contact numbers that are not available to the general public.

CHAIR COMMUNICATIONS - Chair Hughes explained that there is a water budget issue to discuss and Finance Director Thai has requested a community meeting in August; she would like to do a preview meeting earlier. Various articles were shared on water issues. Chair Hughes dedicated the meeting to the passing of her ex-husband and commissioners offered their condolences.

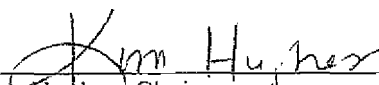
COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS - Commissioner Mahmud expressed her concern with cars idling on Hope westbound to Fair Oaks due to Fair Oaks project bulb-outs creating delays; she would like to have Community Gardens on the agenda next time for an update and asked for status of the Water Conservation Coordinator position.. Commissioner Kuhn asked the status of Low Emission Policy that was announced as an agenda item; Staff Liaison Harder explained that it will be on the agenda at the July meeting.

STAFF LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS - Staff Liaison Harder explained that 2120 Monterey Road appeal of denial of oak tree removals will be on the agenda in July as well as a request to remove an oak tree for construction; also the process of Water Wastage Notification was shared. Discussion for suggested replacement tree species at 342 Camino del Sol will be on the agenda in July as well as a discussion on whether the NREC feels qualified to consider review of all future City vehicles purchases in accordance with the Low Emission Policy. Harder explained that she will be on vacation for the next meeting and asked that someone take minutes in her absence.

COUNCIL LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS - Mayor Pro Tem Cacciotti gave various updates to the Commission

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

NEXT MEETING - The next regular meeting of the Natural Resources and Environmental Commission will be held on Tuesday, July 26, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. in City Council Chambers.



Kim Hughes, Chair

MINUTES
NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
May 24, 2011

ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. Present were Chair Hughes and Commissioners Bill Kelly, Diana Mahmud, John Silverthorn and Drew Ready. Vice Chair Margrave arrived at 7:20 p.m. and Commissioner Scott Kuhn arrived at 7:45 p.m. Public Works Superintendent Marcelino Aguilar, Acting Park Supervisor Maravilla and Staff Liaison Harder were present. Council Liaison Putnam was absent. Mayor Pro Tem Cacciotti arrived at 8:10 p.m.

MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting of April 26, 2011 were approved as motioned by Commissioner Mahmud and seconded by Commissioner Kelly and all were in favor, 7-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS – None

PRIVATE PROPERTY TREE REMOVAL – 2120 MONTEREY ROAD

Steve Tepe did not show up to present his item.

CITY TREE REMOVALS

Acting Park Supervisor Maravilla explained that extra soil was removed from tree wells on Fair Oaks Avenue, he added mulch to those tree wells and 3 dead trees have been removed. He has also removed a dead parkway pepper tree at Huntington & Marengo. He announced that he passed his ISA Certified Arborist exam and everyone congratulated him on his accomplishment. Discussion ensued regarding status of tree violations, how notifications are made and records maintained.

PACE RESOLUTION

Commissioner Kelly explained that he will work on this item for the next regular meeting.

4TH OF JULY PARADE/EVENT PLANNING

Chair Hughes explained the status of a COG program that will be coordinated with the Concerts in the Park series. She is working with Community Services Director Sheila P. on details. Staff Liaison Harder announced that she received the 4th of July Parade Registration form and will complete the form when the Commission is ready to participate. Chair Hughes asked about distributing seed bookmarks at the event and Staff Liaison Harder will report back on what is allowed.

LANDSCAPE ORDINANCE

This matter will be discussed at the next regular meeting when revisions are ready according to Commissioner Mahmud. She plans to meet with Paul Garnet of Building and Planning Department prior to the next meeting to fine tune the edits.

LEAF BLOWERS

Commissioner Mahmud announced that the Leaf Blower Ordinance is not enforceable as it stands. She explained that the AQMD certifies carb-approved engines not carb-approved leaf blowers as related in the language of the ordinance. She is exploring whether there is a user-friendly list of manufacturer's leaf blowers that have carb-certified engines. Commissioner Kelly suggested that proof of purchase after a certain date when all engines are carb-approved might be a good mechanism for enforcement.

PARKWAY ORDINANCE

Commissioner Mahmud has been working with Subcommittee members Ready and Kuhn to prepare a document to consider at the next regular meeting.

CHAIR COMMUNICATIONS

- Chair Hughes announced that an issue related to parkway tree removal on Camino Del Sol will be on the City Council agenda at its June 15 meeting; also the first

Summer Concert with a booth from COG offering free Water Upgrades for residents will start July 10, and the Urban Water Mgt. Plan will be presented for approval at a public hearing scheduled for June 1 City Council meeting. Chair Hughes explained that she received 47 responses to the Community Garden Survey and asked Staff Liaison Harder to email the responses directly to all members.

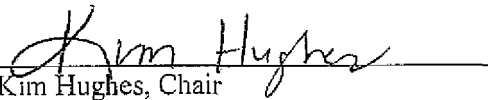
COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS - Commissioner Mahmud explained that she will have a Water Conservation and Shortage Ordinance on the agenda next time for an update with edits for everyone to review. Commissioner Ready explained an issue related to black top that the City plans to install on Fair Oaks he feels is much hotter and an environmental concern for which he wrote a letter to the City and is anticipating a response from Acting Public Works Director Furukawa. He also would like to invite a representative from the City of Glendale who is on the Sustainable Task Force on Community Gardens to make a presentation at the July meeting. Commissioner Silverthorn expressed concerns related to Water Council Member Margraves comments related to water shortage issues and feels that his thoughts should be supported in a written format. He also asks that a matter related to Caltrans property across from 1115 Grevelia maintenance and weed abatement be on the agenda for discussion next time.

STAFF LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS - Staff Liaison Harder announced that Senior Planner John Mayer will put the Tree Ordinance on the agenda for more changes next month, and that an item related to Low Emission Vehicles will be on the agenda with a recommendation next month.

COUNCIL LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS - Mayor Pro Tem Cacciotti announced that a new janitorial contract is on the agenda for the June 1st meeting that uses only Green Seal Products in its operations; he also announced that a fast-fill CNG Station in Arroyo is being funded.

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

NEXT MEETING - The next regular meeting of the Natural Resources and Environmental Commission will be held on Tuesday, June 28, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. in City Council Chambers.


Kim Hughes, Chair

MINUTES
NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
April 26, 2011

ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:07 p.m. Present were Chair Hughes and Commissioners Bill Kelly, Drew Ready, Diana Mahmud, John Silverthorn and Scott Kuhn. Vice Chair Margrave was absent. City Prosecutor Joan Jenkins, Park Supervisor Maravilla and Staff Liaison Harder were present. Council Liaison Putnam arrived at 7:20 p.m.

MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting of March 22, 2011 were approved as motioned by Commissioner Mahmud and seconded by Commissioner Kelly and all were in favor, 6-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS – Steve Tepe, Arborist representing 2120 Monterey Road, plans to be on the agenda at the next meeting. He suggested the City allow mitigation of tree replacements by accepting existing trees on a lot as replacement trees.

PRIVATE PROPERTY TREE REMOVAL – 1327 INDIANA AVENUE

Staff Liaison Harder announced that this matter is cancelled as the project is on hold. Commissioners suggested a more clear case prior to attending next month's meeting to include a clear request for removal due to being in the footprint of construction, not structural interference

TREE ORDINANCE REVISIONS

City Prosecutor Joan Jenkins explained reasons for requesting changes to CMC Chapter 34 including a formula for determining the number of replacement trees, a definition of "intentional violation" and additional penalties to help with enforcement. Discussion ensued with corrections made to provide clarification. Commissioner Mahmud made a motion to approve the Tree Ordinance revisions with corrections; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Kuhn and all members were in favor, 6-0.

CITY TREE REMOVALS

Acting Park Supervisor Maravilla reported that he removed a Carob tree at 2012 LeDroit due to decay and a Holly Oak at 2047 Crestlake for the same reasons. Commissioner Ready asked him to investigate concrete in tree wells on Fair Oaks Project, and reported 2 dead crepe myrtle trees on Fair Oaks at McDonald's and across the street.

PACE RESOLUTION

Commissioner Kelly explained City Council interest in the Property Assessed Clean Energy financing program a couple years ago. He provided a Resolution and Report providing background information. Commissioner Mahmud made a motion that Commissioner Kelly draft a letter of support for the Palm Desert Accord and Resolution for City Council's approval; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Kuhn and all members were in favor, 6-0.

ENERGY UPGRADE WORKSHOP

Staff Liaison Harder explained that the San Gabriel Valley COG is offering Energy Upgrade Workshops, presentations or booths geared toward education of the public for energy rebates and energy conservation upgrades to make to homes. They are going to attend the May 4 City Council meeting for a presentation. Chair Hughes will look into the possibility of including a booth or workshop with the 4th of July event or the Concerts in the Park series as they are the next events coming up for the NREC. She also plans to attend the May 4 CC meeting to obtain more information on the program.

CONSIDER FUNDING FOR TREE PLANTING

Staff Liaison Harder introduced an item for Grants Analyst Perkosky to support the use of councilmember discretionary funds in the amount of \$2,500 as a grant match. Commissioner Mahmud made a motion to support the use of discretionary funds in the amount of \$2,500 as a grant match, the motion was seconded

by Chair Hughes and all members were in favor, 6-0. The NREC would like to see the item return when species and locations are being selected and to help develop the brochure on trees.

LANDSCAPE ORDINANCE

Commissioner Mahmud gave an update on the process for the Landscape Ordinance. She asks that Staff Liaison Harder submit a reminder to the Water Council to request comments on the draft ordinance by Tuesday, May 3; one week prior to the next Water Council meeting. Commissioner Ready suggested that the subcommittee meet once more with Associate Planner Garnett to get more input and fine tune the draft.

LEAF BLOWERS

Commissioner Mahmud provided an update on the status of the Leaf Blower Ordinance and thanked Staff Liaison Harder for getting advertising out on the AQMD Leaf Blower Exchange. Staff is asked to provide an update on implementation of the Leaf Blower Ordinance at the next regular meeting.

PARKWAY ORDINANCE

Commissioner Mahmud explained the use of Long Beach as a basis for developing a parkway ordinance. Chair Hughes appointed members of the Tree Ordinance Subcommittee (Commissioners Mahmud, Ready and Kuhn) to also develop the Parkway Ordinance for commission consideration.

CHAIR COMMUNICATIONS

- Chair Hughes announced that Public Works Director Sweeney is retiring on May 6 and asked if any special plans were in the works for a reception in his honor that she may attend. She also shared an article from the Daily News on the water shortage that is still a continuing issue.

COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS

- Commissioner Kuhn expressed his concerns with Asplundh and the trimming of City parkway trees for line clearance. Commissioner Ready reminded the Commission of the field trip to Elmer Avenue Site Visit to Sun Valley for Saturday, May 14 at 2pm.

STAFF LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS

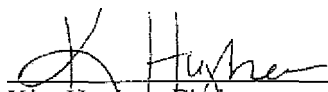
- Staff Liaison Harder announced that she will be on vacation May 4-10 and will not be attending the next Water Council meeting; she asks that someone on the Water Council take minutes in her absence. She also provided a Tree City Bulletin titled "How to Save Trees During Construction" provided by Councilman Schneider for their interest.

COUNCIL LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS

- None

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

NEXT MEETING - The next regular meeting of the Natural Resources and Environmental Commission will be held on Tuesday, May 24, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. in City Council Chambers.

 5/24/11

Kim Hughes, Chair

MINUTES
NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
March 22, 2011

ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m. Present were Chair Hughes, Vice Chair Margrave and Commissioners Bill Kelly, Drew Ready, Diana Mahmud and Scott Kuhn. Commissioner Silverthorn was absent. Park Supervisor Maravilla and Staff Liaison Harder were present. Council Liaison Putnam arrived at 7:55 p.m.

MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting of February 22, 2011 were approved as motioned by Commissioner Mahmud and seconded by Commissioner Kuhn and all were in favor, 6-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS – Barbara Eisenstein, 1852 Monterey Road, spoke regarding land by the Nature Park and Golf Course Driving Range that is at issue and her concerns with loosing habitat, the impact on trees, run-off, pollution, etc. She also suggested a walk and clean-up project at the Nature Park in April for Earth Day. She suggested Saturday, April 16 and can advertise the event. She also announced that as a board member of the California Native Plant Society the 3rd week in April is designated as California Native Plant Week and she will be distributing information on that.

PRIVATE PROPERTY TREE REMOVAL – 2120 MONTEREY ROAD

Steve Tepe, Trim Rite Tree Service, spoke for the owner of 2120 Monterey Road regarding 2 oak trees that he wishes to remove due to property damage to the driveway and excessive lean. He shared illustrations and photos showing various views of trees and retaining walls. He offered to re-forest the lot with oaks to compensate for the loss. Commissioner Margrave made a motion to request that Steve Tepe return to the Commission with a report stating intentions and provide better evidence for his client prior to requesting oak tree removals at this time. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kuhn and the vote passed 5-1.

COMMUNITY GARDENS

Chair Hughes prepared a survey to solicit interest in Community Gardens. She asked that Commissioners comment with any recommended changes and then asks that the survey be posted to the City Website in a format that will allow residents to complete it and submit it electronically. She will also share it with the Chamber of Commerce.

CITY TREE REMOVALS

Acting Park Supervisor Maravilla reported that he removed a Magnolia tree at Mission & Milan; that 2 Chinese Elms were lost due to rain in 2000 block of Stratford Avenue as well as several large branches of trees at Meridian & El Centro and at Beacon & Meridian and on Mountain View. An oak tree failed at 117 Peterson on private property, but it has not yet been determined if construction at the site contributed to the loss and he will report back on his findings.

REPLACEMENT TREE POLICY

Staff Liaison Harder answered questions relative to origins of some of the Replacement Tree Policies. Some questions have been deferred to Acting Park Supervisor Maravilla so the matter will be on the next agenda when he is present. The Tree Ordinance will be added to this item for review. The Tree Ordinance Subcommittee (Drew Ready and John Silverthorn) is expanded to include Commissioner Mahmud.

EARTH DAY EVENT PLANNING

Chair Hughes explained that Earth Day was celebrated last year with a bicycle tour and introduced ideas as well as dovetailing with Barbara Eisenstein's Nature Park event. Discussion ensued regarding an event that may include a nature park clean up and speakers or a presentation.

SOUTH PASADENA BEAUTIFUL

Staff Liaison Harder announced that South Pasadena Beautiful will not be dissolving. According to Mr. Crawford, they were able to attain 7 new members as a result of their announcement and decided to continue. Commissioner Ready plans to attend the next SPB meeting and report back.

GOLDLINE EXTENSION

Commissioner Margrave has not yet received the environmental study regarding the Gold Line Extension, but asked if a subcommittee could assist him in commenting on the plan after it is received.

CYCLE-FRIENDLY INFRASTRUCTURE

Chair Hughes announced that Transportation Manager Dennis Woods would be providing a report on the topic to share at the next regular meeting.

LANDSCAPE ORDINANCE

Commissioner Mahmud explained the Water Council decision and staff's latest recommendation and spoke with Paul Garnett this afternoon on the matter. She has a slightly different recommendation than that proposed and suggested the revised ordinance be submitted to Paul Garnett for review and comment. Commissioner Mahmud will make recommended changes and submit electronically for staff review.

CHAIR COMMUNICATIONS - Chair Hughes shared 2 articles from the Los Angeles Times.

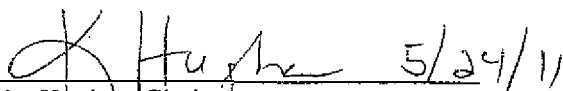
COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS - Commissioner Mahmud announced that the Leaf Blower Ordinance takes effect on May 1 and that SCAQMD has no exchange events planned at this time as she monitors the situation. Commissioners Ready and Mahmud are working on a parkway ordinance. Commissioner Kelly asked that a Clean Energy Program and support of a resolution be on the agenda next month. Commissioner Ready scheduled the Elmer Avenue Site Visit to Sun Valley for Saturday, May 14 at 2pm.

STAFF LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS - None.

COUNCIL LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS - Councilman Putnam explained that proposals have been sent out to bidders to expand the lease at the Golf Course for recreational use and the question before the City Council at its meeting of April 6 will be how far it could or should be expanded.

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned at 11:30 p.m.

NEXT MEETING - The next regular meeting of the Natural Resources and Environmental Commission will be held on Tuesday, April 26, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. in City Council Chambers.


Kim Hughes, Chair

MINUTES
NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
February 22, 2011

ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 p.m. Present were Chair Hughes and Commissioners John Silverthorn, Drew Ready, Diana Mahmud and Scott Kuhn. Vice Chair Margrave and Commissioner Kelly were absent. Public Works Director Matt Sweeney, Acting Park Supervisor Maravilla and Staff Liaison Harder were present. Council Liaison Putnam arrived shortly thereafter.

MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting of January 25, 2011 were approved as motioned by Commissioner Mahmud and seconded by Commissioner Ready and all were in favor, 5-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS – None.

CRITERIA TO REMOVE CITY PARKWAY TREES – 342 CAMINO DEL SOL

Chair Hughes shared a Pasadena Star News Article on Troublesome trees in Arcadia in support of arguments on the subject. Commissioner Mahmud made a motion to recommend to City Council that a policy be established for parkway tree removals that is consistent with Tree Ordinance criteria, cost effective to the City and that takes underlying soil conditions as well as appropriate location for trees of a particular species into consideration; based on this criteria it is recommended that the liquid ambar tree at 342 Camino del Sol be approved for removal; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Ready and the recommendation passed with a vote of 4-0 (Scott Kuhn abstaining).

COMMUNITY GARDENS

Evelyn Zneimer, Chair of the Parks and Recreation Commission, approached the NREC to suggest a joint effort to establish community gardens and asked to be updated on the issues. Chair Hughes explained recent efforts to solicit interest and gave an update on progress on the item.

CITY TREE REMOVALS

None.

REPLACEMENT TREE POLICY

Staff Liaison Harder provided a handout that included the Resident's Guide to Tree Removals as well as the Tree Ordinance and other materials to help in discussions on the matter. Commissioners are asked to bring comments to the next regular meeting. Chair Hughes asked that the matter of Parkway Tree Planting be on the agenda next time with an example of City correspondence on the matter.

CALIFORNIA URBAN WATER CONSERVATION COUNCIL

Chair Hughes made a motion to urge the City Council to join the California Urban Water Conservation Council; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Kuhn and all members were in favor, 5-0.

HYDRAULIC STUDY OF SOUTH PASADENA WATER SYSTEM

Public Works Director Sweeney explained that an RFP has already been sent out for water modeling analysis. Chair Hughes requested that the RFP be sent to Water Council Member Granath for comment. By consensus the NREC supports the hydraulic study as an important element for our water system maintenance.

SOUTH PASADENA BEAUTIFUL

Commissioner Mahmud requested that this item be placed back on the Water Council agenda to consider a meeting time change.

GOLDLINE EXTENSION

This matter is deferred until Vice Chair Margrave is present.

CYCLE-FRIENDLY INFRASTRUCTURE

Chair Hughes will contact Transportation Manager Dennis Woods to discuss improvements for cyclists in town.

LANDSCAPE ORDINANCE

Paul Garnett provided a memo to update the Commission on this item. This matter will be on the Water Council agenda in March for further discussion.

CHAIR COMMUNICATIONS - Chair Hughes shared 2 handouts from Yvonne Savio regarding community gardens.

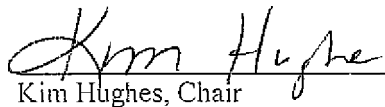
COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS - Commissioner Mahmud asked about rocks on base of oak trees in town; Commissioner Ready gave an update to a field trip; Commissioner Kuhn asked about solar panels and incentives.

STAFF LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS - Earth Day Event Planning will be on the agenda next month for discussion.

COUNCIL LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS - None.

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

NEXT MEETING - The next regular meeting of the Natural Resources and Environmental Commission will be held on Tuesday, March 22, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. in City Council Chambers.



Kim Hughes, Chair

MINUTES
NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
January 25, 2011

ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 p.m. Present were Chair Hughes, Vice Chair Margrave and Commissioners John Silverthorn, Drew Ready, Bill Kelly and Diana Mahmud. Commissioner Mike Fox was absent. Public Works Director Matt Sweeney and Staff Liaison Diana Harder were present as well as Building & Planning Department Staff: John Mayer, Senior Planner. Acting Park Supervisor Gonzalo Maravilla was absent. Council Liaison Putnam was present.

MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting of December 28, 2010 were approved as motioned by Commissioner Mahmud and seconded by Vice Chair Kelly and all were in favor, 6-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS – None.

818 MONTROSE – REQUEST FOR TREE REMOVAL

Dave Aviram of Thrifty Tree Service explained reasons for requesting the removal of a 26" diameter oak tree from the backyard of 818 Montrose due to foundation damage to the residence and explained that due to lack of a root system the tree could not be transplanted. Robert Wallace prepared the Arborist Report, shared the property site plan and explained the location of foundation damage at the rear of the property. Discussion ensued. Commissioner Silverthorn made a motion to approve removal of the oak tree due to foundation damage with the planting of a 36" box native species tree in the front yard, a 36" box native species tree in the backyard and four (4) 24" box native species as replacement trees; the motion was seconded by Vice Chair Margrave and the motion passed 5-1 (Commissioner Mahmud abstained from voting).

TREE AND ZONING ORDINANCE REVISIONS RELATED TO TREE VIOLATIONS

John Mayer, Senior Planner with the Building & Planning Department, provided a draft tree ordinance and explained revisions that allow for additional penalties. Commissioner Mahmud made a motion to accept the revised ordinance with the removal of the cap of \$20,000 for additional penalties; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Ready and the motion passed 5-1 (Vice Chair Margrave voted against the item and further explained that he does not support regulations of tree removals in the side and backyards on private property).

2100 HANSCOM - PENALTIES

Staff Liaison Harder provided a brief status of penalties imposed on the Hanscom Property. Public Works Director Sweeney explained pending litigation in the case.

CITY TREE REMOVALS

Acting Park Supervisor Maravilla was absent.

COMMUNITY GARDENS

Vice Chair Margrave is in receipt of a list of interested parties as provided by Paul Garnett of the Building & Planning Department. He is awaiting response from those interested and explained that without public interest that the project could not move forward. Chair Hughes explained she would like to prepare a questionnaire and get it distributed at the local Farmer's Market to solicit more interest.

VEHICLES/GENERATORS AT FILM LOCATIONS

Commissioner Mahmud asked for Commissioner interest in the subject and said she would check with other cities to see what environmental language or policies were in place to regulate film companies. Chair Hughes suggested language to encourage film companies to be more environmentally friendly and that further research was needed.

GOLDLINE EXTENSION

Vice Chair Margrave asked for Commission support to request the environmental package on the gold line extension. Commissioner Mahmud agreed to help.

CYCLE-FRIENDLY INFRASTRUCTURE

The Commission would like to see bike racks more available at local businesses and require new bike racks possibly with the renewal of business license process. Public Works Director Sweeney explained that Dennis Woods, Transportation Manager is working on a bicycle plan.

LANDSCAPE ORDINANCE

Commissioner Mahmud explained that she has set up a meeting between herself, Commissioner Ready, Paul Garnett, Building and Planning, and Public Works Director Matthew Sweeney to review the ordinance on Friday, January 28.

STORM WATER AND LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

Public Works Director Sweeney provided an update explaining that the City Council decided not to participate in the Gateway Cities Coalition related to storm water/legal requirements.

CHAIR COMMUNICATIONS - Chair Hughes welcomed newest Commissioner Scott Kuhn and thanked Commissioner Ready for coordinating a field trip.

COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS - Commissioner Mahmud asked to review the Replacement Tree Policy to consider amending it to include a provision that replacement trees remain to extent possible on the site of removal. Commissioner Ready asked that the California Urban Water Conservation Council be on the agenda next time to consider City membership in the organization. Chair Hughes requested that Item #9 regarding Vehicles/Generators be taken off the February agenda; and that item #6 2100 Hanscom - penalties be removed until further information is available.

STAFF LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS - None.

COUNCIL LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS - Council Liaison Cacciotti made a few brief comments as his last day as liaison to the Commission.

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

NEXT MEETING - The next regular meeting of the Natural Resources and Environmental Commission will be held on Tuesday, February 22, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. in City Council Chambers.



Kim Hughes, Chair

MINUTES
NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
December 28, 2010

ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:08 p.m. Present were Chair Hughes and Commissioners John Silverthorn, Mike Fox, Drew Ready and Bill Kelly. Commissioner Diana Mahmud arrived shortly thereafter. Vice Chair David Margrave was absent. Staff Liaison Diana Harder, Public Works Director Matt Sweeney and Acting Park Supervisor Gonzalo Maravilla were present as well as Building & Planning Department Staff: John Mayer, Senior Planner, and Paul Garnett, Associate Planner. Council Liaison Cacciotti arrived at 7:50 p.m.

Staff Liaison Harder explained the need to reorganize the agenda items to accommodate Planning & Building Department staff so that items #5, #6, #8 and #12 would be moved to top of the agenda. Commissioner Kelly made a motion to approve the agenda re-order; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Silverthorn and all members were in favor, 5-0.

MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting of November 23, 2010 were approved as motioned by Commissioner Kelly and seconded by Commissioner Ready and all were in favor, 5-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS – None.

FAIR OAKS AVENUE CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

Commissioner Ready asked for the time frame for recommendations on plants and irrigation for the project. Public Works Director explained that it would be 8 or 9 months before that phase of the project was implemented. Chair Hughes appointed Commissioner Ready to follow up with a memo to both the City Manager and Public Works Director on recommendations.

TREE AND ZONING ORDINANCE REVISIONS RELATED TO TREE VIOLATIONS

John Mayer, Senior Planner with the Building & Planning Department, explained revisions to zoning code prepared to deter people from violating the tree ordinance for construction; answered questions generated from the NREC meeting of October 26 and provided a table with other cities violations processes. Commissioner Ready expressed a desire that penalties be based on the value of the tree(s) removed. Senior Planner Mayer will come back with recommendations on fines.

2100 HANSCOM - PENALTIES

Senior Planner Mayer explained that erosion control measures are holding up at the site. Staff plans to meet with the City Prosecutor for an update on January 10 and will provide further updates at that time.

CITY TREE REMOVALS

Acting Park Supervisor Maravilla explained that 2 trees were lost in the recent storms including an Oak on Grand and a Jacaranda at Oxley and Montrose. Several private oaks were also lost to his knowledge.

COMMUNITY GARDENS

Chair Hughes gave a brief update on the status of Caltrans property available on Grevelia and the cost of \$100 for the site. Commissioner Mahmud expressed her concerns relative to costs being too high for community groups to comprehend or participate. Paul Garnett, Associate Planner in the Building & Planning Department, explained that regulations for community gardens have been designed so that the City is not involved in their implementation or operation. He explained processes required by zoning code and the process by which a group may request a waiver of fees. Associate Planner Garnett will provide a list of interested parties that he has to Commissioner Margrave to continue to solicit interest. Commissioners will explore costs associated with implementing a community garden and report back on any groups that may show interest in the start-up project.

Megan Lynch 1635 Laurel, asked about the origins of community gardens and expressed her concerns with the onerous process and costs associated with implementation.

VEHICLES/GENERATORS AT FILM LOCATIONS

Commissioner Mahmud explained that she will look into other policies on filming and bring recommendations to the next regular meeting.

GOLDLINE EXTENSION

This matter is deferred.

CYCLE-FRIENDLY INFRASTRUTURE

This matter is deferred.

LANDSCAPE ORDINANCE

Associate Planner Garnett explained that the State model ordinance is being applied as written, but that no projects in So. Pas. have qualified to date. Discussion ensued. Chair Hughes appointed Commissioners Ready and Mahmud to a subcommittee to meet with Associate Planner Garnett to discuss details of the ordinance and consider its interpretation as it relates to their primary purpose of water conservation.

STORM WATER AND LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

Public Works Director Sweeney explained that the matter is going before the City Council at its meeting of January 5 (Gateway Cities Coalition). This matter is deferred.

CHAIR COMMUNICATIONS - Chair Hughes wished everyone a Happy New Year.

COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS - Commissioner Ready shared the Watershed Institute magazine.

STAFF LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS - None.

COUNCIL LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS - Council Liaison Cacciotti invited everyone to drive the new plug-in hybrid at City Hall.

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned at 10:30 p.m.

NEXT MEETING - The next regular meeting of the Natural Resources and Environmental Commission will be held on Tuesday, January 25, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. in City Council Chambers.

Kim Hughes, Chair

MINUTES
NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
November 23, 2010

ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m. Present were Chair Hughes and Commissioners John Silverthorn, Drew Ready, and Bill Kelly. Vice Chair David Margrave arrived at 7:20 p.m. Commissioner Mahmud was out of town and Commissioner Fox had a family emergency. Staff Liaison Diana Harder was out of town. Acting Park Supervisor Gonzalo Maravilla was present. Council Liaison Cacciotti arrived at 7:45 p.m.

MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting of October 26, 2010 were approved as motioned by Commissioner Silverhorn and seconded by Commissioner Kelly and all were in favor, 5-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS – There were not any public comments on general issues.

TREE AND ZONING ORDINANCE REVISIONS RELATED TO TREE VIOLATIONS

There was not a representative from the Building & Planning Department or other city department to address the issue. The item was tabled and will move to the next scheduled meeting.

PARKWAY TREE at 342 CAMINO DEL SOL

Ms. Jane Schirmesista from the public spoke on behalf of the removal of the parkway tree near her home because of the root damage that was causing sidewalk damage adjacent to the tree. There was discussion on replacing the tree with a younger tree, perhaps with an Oak variety tree. Commissioner Ready was concerned that the tree was mature and had a good canopy.

There was concern that if the approval is given to remove the tree due to the root damage to the sidewalk and possible liability issues, in the future residents will ask for trees to be removed in the same fashion. There needs to be a clear definition for "hazard trees."

The commission voted to approve the removal of the tree and the replacement of the tree with a younger and perhaps oak species with a unanimous vote 5-0.

2100 HANSCOM - PENALTIES

There was not a Public Works representative or other city representative present to discuss the issue, so it will move to the December meeting for update and discussion.

CITY TREE REMOVALS

Acting Park Supervisor Maravilla explained that two trees were removed on Oxley. The recent storm also caused a tree on Oak and Garfield to fall and had to be cut up and removed. The tree was a Coastal Oak.

Commissioner Ready asked about the timeline for removing tree stumps and it was reported that it takes about a month to have tree stumps removed. Commissioner Ready also asked that the tree on Oak & Garfield be looked at so they can be replaced with Coastal Oaks, where possible.

It was requested that at the next meeting that the list of tree replacement species be available for review. We need to see the WCA inventory list.

WATER MONITORING AND MOWING AT PUBLIC PARKS

Acting Park Supervisor Maravilla shared that the watering had been suspended in the parks, due to the recent rains. The timers and valves were adjusted. Gonzalo Maravilla met with Commissioner Silverhorn to review the height for lawn mowers for grass heights. Commissioner Silverthorn shared an article about the benefits of raising the height of lawn mower to support water retention.

Commission Margrave asked about the impact on uneven areas. The mowers can take into consideration the surface. Gonzalo Maravilla said that the height for the lawn mowers was going to be increased from 2 ½ inches to 3 inches. The grass will be monitored to review the impacts of the change.

Commissioner Silverhorn made a motion to make the change in the height in lawn mowers by ½ inch that would be implemented within the next two weeks. This was seconded by Commissioner Ready. The vote to approve was 5-0.

COMMUNITY GARDENS

Vice Chair Margrave reported that he had met with a city representative about the property at Gravelle and Fremont to see about a lease as a possible community garden site. Commissioner Margrave shared that a meeting needs to take place with CalTrans about the property.

Next steps would be to reach out to the community to see if there is interest. There also needs to be a meeting with the City of South Pasadena Planning Commission.

Councilmember Cacciotti shared that we understood that CalTrans would lease land for \$100 a year.

VEHICLES/GENERATORS AT FILM LOCATIONS

Due to not having anyone from the City or Commissioner Mahmud present, the item will be moved to the next meeting's agenda.

LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE FOR WATER RETENTION: NATURAL GARDENS, MANICURED MEADOWS, MULCH YARD, AERATION, HAND-WATERING

Commissioner Silverthorn asked that this be moved to the Water Council agenda. Commissioner Ready will continue to work on the field trip to Elmer Avenue in Sun Valley for the Elmer Avenue Green Street Demonstration Project.

GOLD LINE EXTENSION

Commissioner Margrave mentioned that a report by the City Attorney and the City Manager from April 4, 2005 outlines issues related to the City and the Gold Line. Commissioner Margrave said he was working on the approval to distribute the document to the NREC.

Commissioner Margrave spoke about Phase 2A for the Gold Line, which will run east towards Ontario. The Azusa Maintenance Building and bridge will be the first part of the project. The question was raised about if the federal overview of the project would help with other mediation measures for the City of South Pasadena.

A 2004 report speaks to the increase of the trains through South Pasadena when the other phases expand. Trains right now run approximately every 15 minutes and this will increase to every 10 minutes. The speed might also increase from the current 50-60 miles per hour to 75 miles per hour. We need to also consider the increase to the City of increased vehicle traffic and idling cars.

Commissioner Kelly said there are many unanswered questions such as how long will the gates be down, what can be done to make the signals not go down so early? Commissioner Ready suggested that a traffic study is needed. Commissioner Margrave will ask the Traffic Manager about a study.

The impacted areas are Fremont, Mission, Huntington, Monterey Road and Pasadena Avenue, etc.

We will keep this on the agenda for the next meeting.

CYCLE-FRIENDLY INFRASTRUCTURE

There was no one from the City to speak on the issue. Commissioner Margrave asked the question if bike racks are part of a business license for the City's businesses. Perhaps there will be a requirement for all new businesses to be required to provide bike racks. The question also came up if the new condos on Mission have bike racks. What are the City's requirements for bike racks? Commissioner Ready will draft a letter to support more bike racks throughout the City. Perhaps working with the City of South Pasadena Chamber of Commerce can assist in promoting the addition of bike racks in the City. The suggestion of more bike racks at the Gold Line Station was also recommended.

This will be kept on the agenda for the next meeting.

LANDSCAPE ORDINANCE

Councilmember Cacciotti will take the issue up at the next City Council meeting.

STORM WATER AND LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

As there was no City representative present, the issues will continue to the next meeting. Commissioner Margrave invited everyone to review his cistern project.

CHAIR COMMUNICATIONS - Chair Hughes shared copies of articles from the "Pasadena Star News" that would be distributed and wished everyone a happy Thanksgiving. She also thanked Commissioners Kelly and Mahmud for their work on the publicity for the Water Council and the issue of tiered water rates. She also announced that the next Water Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 30 at 7:00 p.m. in the Fire EOC Room and all members are encouraged to attend.

COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS - Commissioner Ready shared that he would continue to organize the Green Street field trip.

STAFF LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS - No representative was present for a report.

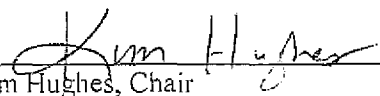
COUNCIL LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS - Council Liaison Cacciotti provided an update on the Fair Oaks Improvement Project and that there was still time to impact the landscaping plan. The next planning meeting is planned for December 14, 2010. Commissioner Ready volunteered to draft a letter with recommendations, similar to what he drafted for the Middle School project.

Councilmember Cacciotti also reported that the City has 3 plug-in hybrids and that the LA County Sheriff is testing a natural gas vehicles. He also reported that there is a grant to help with an Arroyo bike path.

Commissioner Ready asked that the Commission be sent the City Council agendas, so the commission can monitor agenda items that might impact the commission.

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

NEXT MEETING - The next regular meeting of the Natural Resources and Environmental Commission will be held on Tuesday, December 28, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. in City Council Chambers.



Kim Hughes, Chair

MINUTES
NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
October 26, 2010

ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:08 p.m. Present were Chair Hughes and Commissioners John Silverthorn, Mike Fox, Drew Ready, Bill Kelly and Diana Mahmud. Vice Chair David Margrave arrived at 7:12 p.m. Staff Liaison Diana Harder, Public Works Director Matt Sweeney and Acting Park Supervisor Gonzalo Maravilla were present. Council Liaison Cacciotti arrived at 7:35 p.m.

MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting of September 28, 2010 were approved as motioned by Commissioner Ready and seconded by Commissioner Mahmud and all were in favor, 6-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS – Megan Lynch, 1635 Laurel, requested the Commission create cycle-friendly infrastructure in town (bike racks). Chair Hughes asked that this item be placed on the agenda for recommendation or referral to another commission.

TREE AND ZONING ORDINANCE REVISIONS RELATED TO TREE VIOLATIONS

John Mayer, Senior Planner with the Building & Planning Department, explained revisions to zoning code prepared to deter people from violating the tree ordinance for construction. The changes will delay or prohibit building permits up to five years for tree violations. Changes require that the property owner take care of the tree permit before a building permit is issued and it provides advance notice to applicants of penalties for violating the tree ordinance. The ordinance was approved by Planning Commission last night with a change that allows the City Manager to refer tree violations to the NREC to decide punishment. Discussion ensued regarding lack of judicial review, fines versus moratoriums, desire that written methods of appeal as well as criteria be established to determine who would be subject to a moratorium (concern with discretions), etc. Senior Planner Mayer thanked the Commission for its comments and will provide an update on the status of proposed changes at the next meeting.

Susan Shapiro, 2106 Hanscom, spoke in favor of the ordinance because it targets unscrupulous parties for illegal activity; she shared a photo and supports enforcement of illegal destruction of trees.

2100 HANSCOM - PENALTIES

Public Works Director Sweeney explained the status of 2100 Hanscom penalties. Acting Park Supervisor Maravilla provided the arborist report on the tree. The Commission is interested in how to retract the City Business License for the contractor who did the work.

Megan Lynch, 1635 Laurel, shared concerns with development, erosion control and destruction of trees.

Susan Shapiro, 2106 Hanscom, explained that the West Coast Arborist report has some provisions to save the tree that she feels should be imposed on the developer; as well as an erosion control plan.

Jim Fenske, 111 Peterson, explained that his property is directly below 2100 Hanscom and expressed his concern with erosion control as well as status of the oak tree and building permit so that safety concerns are addressed and the lot is maintained in a safe manner.

Chair Hughes asked that this matter be kept on the agenda for future update/status.

CITY TREE REMOVALS

Acting Park Supervisor Maravilla explained that two bottle trees will be removed due to root rot at the N.E. corner of Oxley and Brent. He also shared an arborist report on Magnolia trees on Milan and announced that 500 parkway trees have been trimmed in the City this year.

WATER MONITORING AND MOWING AT PUBLIC PARKS

Commissioner Silverthorn requested that this matter be deferred to the next regular meeting. He plans to discuss concepts with Acting Park Supervisor Maravilla on mowing and aeration in parks. Park Supervisor Maravilla explained that timers have been adjusted since 10/18 for the Fall season to reduce water seasonally.

RECOGNITION PROGRAM FOR DROUGHT TOLERANT LANDSCAPING

Commissioner Kelly believes this matter is more appropriate to the Water Council and asked that it be removed from the NREC agenda. Commissioner Ready mentioned the Theodore Payne Garden Tour and will get information out on that event that includes properties in South Pasadena.

COMMUNITY GARDENS

Megan Lynch, 1635 Laurel, provided handouts on development of community gardens and expressed her interest in the project and that she is frustrated with all the zoning code requirements. Vice Chair Margrave explained that there are many issues to be ironed out and while he has solicited interest from individuals and groups to participate, he is not getting much interest. Commissioner Kelly suggested that the commission simplify zoning code and include a copy of the zoning code for next time to review and recommend changes.

MIDDLE SCHOOL LANDSCAPE RETROFIT

Commissioner Ready explained that he met with parents of the Middle School who are revising landscape plans to implement one-for-one changes like low to moderate plantings, for example. He has prepared a letter in support of changes. Commissioner Ready made a motion to establish a subcommittee to review the letter to Middle School; Vice Chair Margrave seconded the motion and all members were in favor, 7-0. Staff Liaison Harder is asked to e-mail the letter to the subcommittee for approval. The subcommittee will consist of Chair Hughes and Commissioners Mahmud and Ready.

VEHICLES/GENERATORS AT FILM LOCATIONS

Commissioner Mahmud requests that the Filming Ordinance be on the agenda next time with a recommendation to consider environmental updates and requirements.

LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE FOR WATER RETENTION: NATURAL GARDENS, MANICURED MEADOWS, MULCH YARD, AERATION, HAND-WATERING

Commissioner Silverthorn explained that the event on Saturday, October 23rd was attended by Chair Hughes and Commissioner Mahmud and Margrave and discussions centered around landscape maintenance strategies to conserve water. He asked that the next agenda reflect a recommendation to discuss alternate landscape maintenance strategies to help residents conserve water and that it be promoted following the implementation of tiered water rates. Commissioner Ready made a motion for a field trip to Elmer Avenue in Sun Valley for the Elmer Avenue Green Street Demonstration Project; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Silverthorn and all members were in favor, 7-0. Staff Liaison Harder is asked to reserve natural gas vehicle(s) for the field trip if possible.

TRIMMING SPECIMEN TREES

Commissioner Ready asked that this matter be pulled from the agenda at this time. He asks that the City consider establishing a joint task force to include members of the Planning & Building department as well as a City Arborist to revise the Tree Ordinance in its entirety.

CHAIR COMMUNICATIONS - Chair Hughes announced that the next Water Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 9 at 7:00 p.m. in the Fire EOC Room and all members are encouraged to attend. She shared articles regarding: City to Focus on Cutting Water Use; MWD News Release; The New Article; Water Utility Bonds; and asked Staff Liaison Harder to e-mail to all members.

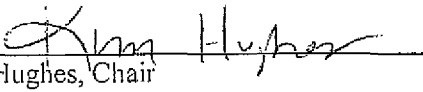
COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS - Commissioner Ready explained that the City of Los Angeles is developing residential landscape guidelines and gave an update on status of Lot #117 fire breaks. Commissioner Margrave asked for an item on the agenda to address the Goldline Extension and environmental concerns.

STAFF LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS - Staff Liaison Harder distributed copies of the next HHW round up that will be in Monterey Park on December 4.

COUNCIL LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS - Council Liaison Cacciotti gave an AQMD grant update and status of Fair Oaks Corridor Improvement Project.

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned at 10:50 p.m.

NEXT MEETING - The next regular meeting of the Natural Resources and Environmental Commission will be held on Tuesday, November 23, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. in City Council Chambers.



Kim Hughes, Chair

MINUTES
NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
September 28, 2010

ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m. Present were Chair Hughes and Commissioners John Silverthorn, Mike Fox, Drew Ready and Diana Mahmud. Vice Chair David Margrave arrived at 7:25 p.m. Commissioner Kelly was absent. Staff Liaison Diana Harder, Public Works Director Matt Sweeney and Acting Park Supervisor Gonzalo Maravilla were present. Council Liaison Cacciotti arrived at 8:48 p.m.

MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting of August 24, 2010 were approved as motioned by Commissioner Mahmud and seconded by Commissioner Ready and all were in favor, 5-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS – None.

230 HILLSIDE APPLICATION FOR TREE REMOVAL

Ron Ettinger, Architect, and Rick Button, Landscape Designer, for the project at 230 Hillside explained reasons for requesting the removal of 4 Significant trees on the property. Applicant representatives were asked to check with Building & Planning Department on the latest regulations of the Landscape Ordinance. Discussion ensued. Commissioner Fox make a motion to approve the removal of 4 trees with the planting of 25, 24" box replacement trees (native species preferred); the motion was seconded by Commissioner Silverthorn and all members were in favor, 6-0.

FIRE BREAK AT LOT #117 UPDATE

Public Works Director Sweeney explained reasons behind the installation of fire breaks at Lot #117 as directed by the Fire Marshall. Commissioner Ready provided a Fire & Invasive Plants publication and expressed concerns with the fire breaks meeting Best Practices and other agency recommendations in the fire industry. Director Sweeney explained maintenance of fire breaks to be required every 3-5 years. Chair Hughes made a motion to appoint Commissioners Margrave, Ready and Silverthorn to a subcommittee to meet at the site with fire safety and an expert as recommended by Commissioner Ready. The motion passed 5-1.

WATER MONITORING AND MOWING AT PUBLIC PARKS

Acting Park Supervisor Maravilla explained that seasonal changes are being implemented on the water system to water less frequently with the change from summer to fall. He also explained the process by which auto controllers and timers are changed out as the budget allows. Commissioner Mahmud requested he check water system for overwatering on Camden Parkway as water is running down the curb to westbound on Oak Street. Commissioner Silverthorn expressed his desire to discuss mowing and possibly improve mowing at the park by adjusting the height that the lawn is mowed.

CITY TREE REMOVALS

Acting Park Supervisor Maravilla explained that an Engelmann Oak is being removed at 1918 Marengo because of decline based on an arborist report. He further explained that there are 2 Magnolias that are dying on Milan south of Mission and he is monitoring them. Commissioner Ready said there are a couple Bottle trees that are dead at the northeast corner of Brent and Oxley.

RECOGNITION PROGRAM FOR DROUGHT TOLERANT LANDSCAPING

This matter is deferred until Commissioner Kelly is present.

CLEAN AIR CAR SHOW & ENVIRONMENTAL EXPO

Chair Hughes explained that the NREC will share a booth with the City. She plans to man the booth all day and asked staff to follow up with Public Works Director Sweeney for posters to place at the booth; as well as consolidation of handouts and materials stored in the Public Works office.

COMMUNITY GARDENS

Vice Chair Margrave expressed his interest in creating a community garden at a location on Grevelia that is owned by Caltrans. Next steps are to contact residents in the area to see if they are interested. Vice Chair Margrave and Commissioner Silverthorn will plan outreach to see if they can garner support for the project. Vice Chair Margrave will check with Planning & Building Department on next steps to get the project off the ground.

LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE FOR WATER RETENTION: NATURAL GARDENS, MANICURED MEADOWS, MULCH YARD, AERATION, HAND-WATERING

Commissioner Silverthorn set a date of Saturday, October 23 to meet at his house at 1:00 p.m. for a potluck and discussion on his recommendations for gardens. Staff Liaison Harder will prepare and mail an agenda for the meeting.

TRIMMING SPECIMEN TREES

Lorrie Dieckmann, 111 Peterson Avenue, explained that an oak tree was trimmed at 2100 Hanscom Drive and she is concerned with fines that she believes may not be an adequate deterrent for damage to oak trees. Chair Hughes requested that 2100 Hanscom be on the agenda for the October regular meeting.

Detailed minutes provided by Commissioner Ready include:

John and Drew are continuing to discuss potential updates to the city tree protection ordinance. John, has suggested that although there are a few bad examples many specimen trees are not being mismanaged and that licensing pruning of these trees would not benefit the city. John would like the commission to consider awarding excellent examples of tree care to incentivize best tree care practices and to bring proper tree care to the public's attention. Drew suggested that the specimen tree list with photos and stronger language against tree topping, could be added to the ordinance and that the fine schedule for illicit tree removals could be added to the tree ordinance. Diana, suggested a regular tree care column for the e-newsletter (something our eventual staff arborist could write?). There was additional discussion that those responsible illicit tree removals where a permit has been applied for should not be able to do tree work in the city after that date. Drew and John will continue to work on the specimen tree definition and list for future inclusion in the Tree Protection Ordinance.

CHAIR COMMUNICATIONS - Chair Hughes updated the commission on status of tiered water rates and plans to investigate possible ordinances to require water efficient fixtures when properties change ownership.

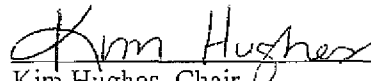
COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS - Commissioner Mahmud met with Paul Garnett of Planning & Building Department to discuss the recommended Landscape Ordinance. She also asked for an agenda item regarding Filming Vehicles and Generators that are Idling at Film Sites. Vice Chair Margrave invited commissioners to see his cistern system. An agenda item next time is requested to provide an update on how the City is responding to Heal the Bay issues with storm water run-off. Commissioner Ready asked for an agenda item on the Middle School Landscape Retrofit for next month.

STAFF LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS - Staff Liaison Harder distributed copies of the Smart Gardening Residential Workshop, a webpage for the So Cal Water Smart program, including a turf removal rebate program, she solicited ideas for how to achieve the Tree City Growth Award for this calendar year; explained the Commission Annual Report is due on November 23 for presentation to the City Council on December 1st and, the Building & Planning Department will be presenting a recommendation for additional penalties in the Tree Ordinance next month.

COUNCIL LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS - Council Liaison Cacciotti provided updates on the Santa Monica Conservancy and passed out the Car Show flyer to everyone.

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

NEXT MEETING - The next regular meeting of the Natural Resources and Environmental Commission will be held on Tuesday, October 26, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. in City Council Chambers.



Kim Hughes, Chair

Minutes from Natural Resources and Environmental Commission, August 24, 2010

Margrave called meeting to order at 7:04 pm.

Attendees: Michael Fox, David Margrave, Diana Mahmud, John Silverthorn.

Minutes of prior motion were approved upon motion of Silverthorn, seconded by Mahmud, Margrave abstained, balance of commissioners voted aye.

Public Comment: Megan Lynch reiterated interest in having Commission support for establishment of community gardens in South Pasadena. She's also interested in seeing other city's ordinances re community garden. Cites difficulty she has heard that YMCA experienced in establishing its community garden.

Gretchen Robinette. She has tremendous interest in community garden; is a member of South Pasadena Beautiful and cites it support for same. She participated in YMCA community garden, notes great community effort. There's a national organization of community gardeners that has a checklist for how to form community gardens.

Item 12 re Community garden [taken out of order in light of interested public]. Planning Commission has prepared SP muni ordinance 36.350.230. There is a potential location, property owned by Caltrans on Grevelia. There is water available, a meter would have to be installed. Plenty of street parking there. This location is by the freeway, on north side of Grevelia and west of Fremont. There's another possible location on Caltrans property on the south side of Grevelia, one or two lots further west. Margrave reports that Diana Harder did check with Caltrans who said it would lease the property to SP for a nominal fee, and that he met with Diana Harder briefly re soil sample. Lynch notes typical site concerns are heavy metals and toxics. Margrave moves that a community garden be placed at Grevelia north of Fremont, that Silverthorn be Commission liaison. Fox seconds. Robinette suggests that Andrea Demian be involved as she was heavily involved in YMCA community garden and would be a good resource. Margrave asks Silverthorn to ascertain cost of undertaking Phase I environmental review. Robinette notes that she understands that council funds have been appropriated to facilitate establishment of community garden this year. Margrave asks that be confirmed, and that a name be established for the community garden. He encourages Lynch and Robinette to work with Silverthorn in obtaining the required information quickly so that the garden can be established ASAP.

Item 4. Water Update. Status of Water Crisis. Tesfaye indicates he wasn't asked to brief Commission on specific topics so is happy to respond to questions. Margrave asks if today's rates are sufficient to cover cost of SP water? Tesfaye does not think so. Margrave inquires if tiered rates were implemented, would any excess revenue would go to general fund? Mahmud responds that Water Council has been mindful of the requirements of Proposition 218 and has recommended that the proceeds of the revenue generated from the tiered rates be used solely for water purposes. Margrave inquires if the tiered rate consultant will be asked to consider the condition of water infrastructure, saying he believes some needs replacement. Mahmud replies that analyzing condition of water infrastructure facilities is beyond the scope of the consultant's work, which is primarily financial.

Margrave asks how much city's consumers have reduced water consumption? Tesfaye says that City consumers have reduced consumption by 20%. Margrave asks how much water we are importing this year as compared to last year? Tesfaye said goal is to purchase zero water from MWD, and the City is doing better than last year. He cautions that if we withdraw more than 3500 AF from the watershed then we pay a penalty. We are not staying within 3500 AF; last year we pumped 4700 AF. Cacciotti notes that City's electric bill for Wilson reservoir to pump water was \$50,000. Some of the pumps are new. Some of the pumps are up to 350 hp. So a lot of energy is required to operate them, more than can be supplied from on-site solar energy facility.

Item 12 Leaf Blower Ordinance [taken out of order] Motion to Suspend Enforcement of Ordinance No. 2192. Mahmud moved that Council be asked to suspend enforcement of ordinance indefinitely since SCAQMD has not commenced the exchange program. Fox seconds. Motion unanimously passes. Cacciotti notes that he's San Gabriel representative to SCAQMD, that the schedule for leaf blower exchange has slipped and is not anticipated to occur until next year. Mahmud volunteers to follow this issue for NREC.

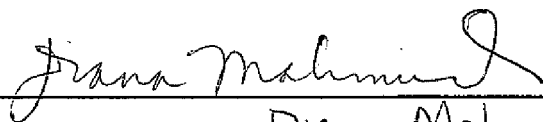
Item 10. Landscape Maintenance for Water Retention. Margrave suggests that the NREC see John's natural meadow. He asks that our visit occur in October. We'll discuss date at September meeting.

Item 11. Trimming Specimen Trees. Silverthorn drove around with Ready and realized there's a large number of signature trees. He's not sure how to proceed. Mahmud raises concern that responsible people are going to have their trees pruned responsibly; we don't want to discourage owners from having trees pruned by imposition of a pruning permit. Silverthorn noted that most trees in the City are well maintained. Margrave succeeds in persuading Silverthorn to remove this item from future agendas. Commission will ask South Pasadena Beautiful to conduct public outreach on proper trimming of trees.

Council Liaison Comment. Cacciotti reported on meeting from Santa Monica Conservancy. He would like to invite the NREC members to attend a meeting when it's near this part of town. Margrave inquires re bike path, one that ends near Wash. Cacciotti replied he's working with Conservancy; it's still viable. Fox inquires what's happening in the Arroyo? Cacciotti doesn't know.

Commissioner Communications. Mahmud suggests that a Water Council report be included on next month's agenda.

Meeting adjourned: 8:45 pm.



David Margrave, Vice Chair

Diana Mahmud

AGENDA
NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING
TUESDAY, JULY 27, 2010
7:00 p.m.
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
1424 Mission Street, South Pasadena, CA

1. Roll Call
2. Approval of Minutes: June 22, 2010

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS

3. Time reserved for those in attendance who wish to address the Commission. All attendees should be aware that the Commission may not discuss details or vote on non-agenda items. Your concerns may be referred to staff or placed on a future agenda. Note: public input will also be taken during all agenda items.

BUSINESS ITEMS

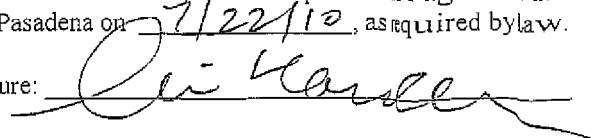
4. Recognition Program for Drought Tolerant Landscaping.....B. Kelly, Commissioner
Recommendation: Create recognition program for drought tolerant landscaping
5. Brush Clearing at City Lot 117D. Harder, Staff Liaison
Recommendation: Consider development of fire breaks at Lot 117 near Illinois Drive
6. City Tree Removals G. Maravilla, Acting Parks Supervisor
Recommendation: Hear City Tree Removal Report
7. Irrigation at Parks K Hughes, Chair
Recommendation: Discuss irrigation at parks
8. 4th of July After Action Report/Clean Air Car Show & Environmental Expo..... K. Hughes, Chair
Recommendation: Report on 4th of July Event; Plan for this year's events/activities
9. Community GardensDavid Margrave, Vice Chair
Recommendation: Consider plan for establishing a community garden
10. L.A. County Request Support of AB 222 D. Harder, Staff Liaison
Recommendation: Consider support of AB 222
11. Chair Communications
12. Commissioner Communications
13. Staff Liaison Communications
14. Council Liaison Communications

ADJOURNMENT - Next Regular Meeting - August 24, 2010

STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
CITY OF SOUTH PASADENA)
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES)

I declare under penalty of perjury, that I am an employee of the City of South Pasadena, and that I posted this Agenda on the bulletin board in the courtyard of the City Hall at 1414 Mission Street, South Pasadena on 7/22/10, as required by law.

Date: 7/22/10

Signature: 

MINUTES
NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
July 27, 2010

ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:07 p.m. Present were Chair Hughes and Commissioners John Silverthorn, Mike Fox, Drew Ready and Diana Mahmud. Vice Chair David Margrave and Commissioner Kelly were absent. Staff Liaison Diana Harder and Acting Park Supervisor Gonzalo Maravilla were present. Council Liaison Cacciotti was absent.

MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting of June 22, 2010 were approved as motioned by Commissioner Ready and seconded by Commissioner Silverthorn with a vote of 4-1 (Diana M. abstaining).

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS – Don Nichols, 1507 Santa Teresa, expressed his concern to get notice out to public on the water crisis; he provided a handout from the Main San Gabriel Basin Watermaster titled: “San Gabriel Valley Water Supply: A Growing Crisis”, and updated the Commission on the RFQ for tiered water rates as well as the current status of the water crisis. Chair Hughes explained that the Water Council Report is scheduled for presentation before the City Council at its meeting of August 4 and that she has held several meeting with Public Works Director Sweeney and has an appointment with Pasadena Advertising to establish a water conservation outreach program. She asked that an item be on the agenda “Water Update – Status of the Water Crisis” and be presented by Public Works staff.

Megan Lynch, 1635 Laurel, expressed her interest in Community Gardens and the City’s recycling program. Commissioner Mahmud explained that the City’s recycling program is such that all recyclables are separated by Athens Services.

RECOGNITION PROGRAM FOR DROUGHT TOLERANT LANDSCAPING

Commissioner Mahmud suggested contacting South Pasadena Beautiful as they have a program in place for recognizing landscaping efforts by homeowners (Golden Arrow Awards), Chair Hughes suggested the Chamber of Commerce, and Commissioner Ready, MWD, as allies in the effort to develop a program. This matter is postponed until Commissioner Kelly can be present.

BRUSH CLEARING AT CITY LOT 117

Staff Liaison Harder shared photos of workers creating fire breaks and introduced the item before the Commission. Commissioner Ready has concerns with the long term maintenance of the fire breaks including the application of herbicides where needed. Other concerns included the gullies and washes that might create water drainage issues as well as the installation of signs to keep trespassers away when the area becomes more accessible. Commissioner Fox made a motion to support the installation of fire breaks on Lot #117, the motion was seconded by Commissioner Mahmud and all members were in favor, 5-0.

CITY TREE REMOVALS

Acting Park Supervisor Maravilla explained that he is removing two oak trees: one at 1961 Oak Street due to bark beetle infestation and another at 1923 Edgewood due to loss of the full canopy in the heat. Magnolia trees on Milan may be removed in the near future and are being monitored for fungus issues. Commissioner Ready will send out an e-mail notice soon on a Watershed Workshop regarding oak tree care. Commissioner Mahmud reports that a property owner planted a parkway oak tree improperly at the 2nd house from the intersection of Oak & Camden Parkway (on Oak Street, south side).

IRRIGATION AT PARKS

Chair Hughes asked that staff place a notice on the web site explaining how residents can report irrigation problems to the Public Works Department. The Commission requests an update from Public Works Director on “Water Monitoring at Parks” for the next regular agenda including the status of upgrading the

system. Commissioner Ready explained that there is an organization currently being trained by the MWD to provide City's with audits of water landscape irrigation systems that may be available next year. Also the City should explore rebate programs offered by MWD for retrofitting sprinkler systems as well as controllers, sensors, etc. Commissioner Silverthorn requested that an item be added for discussion at the August meeting for "Mowing at Public Parks".

4TH OF JULY AFTER ACTION REPORT/CLEAN AIR CAR SHOW & ENVIRONMENTAL EXPO

Chair Hughes said the parade was fun with the Grow Native theme this year. She would like to work on something for next year with a "Water" message. She spoke with Jeannie Chiu regarding the Car Show and has reserved an exhibit table at the event to distribute water conservation materials. Commissioner Ready explained that October 10, 2010 is also the International Climate Day of Action and asked what might be done to support that. Chair Hughes appointed herself, Commissioners Ready and Mahmud to a subcommittee to continue to explore Car Show participation.

COMMUNITY GARDENS

This matter is carried over until Vice Chair Margrave is present. Commissioner Ready attended a meeting of the American Horticultural Society and discovered that they have support networks that provide an umbrella organization to provide money as well as other assistance in the development and operation of community gardens. Staff Liaison Harder is asked to bring the Planning & Building Department adopted regulations for Community Gardens and to ask that a member of that Department attend to answer questions on the application process.

L.A. COUNTY REQUEST SUPPORT OF AB 222

Staff Liaison Harder explained that L.A. County Public Works has requested support of AB 222. Commissioner Fox made a motion to remain neutral on the bill and to focus on issues more directly affecting South Pasadena that are more vital or critical to the City of South Pasadena; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Mahmud and all members were in favor, 5-0.

CHAIR COMMUNICATIONS - Chair Hughes announced that the Water Council Report will be presented to City Council at its meeting of August 4 and provided members with a copy of her PowerPoint presentation for that meeting; a meeting with Pasadena Advertising is scheduled to further the water conservation campaign, and she explained the status of RFQs on tiered water rates.

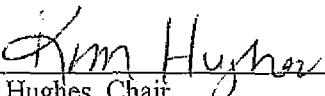
COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS - Commissioner Silverthorn explained that he is developing one extreme manicured meadow demonstration garden as well as another on the opposite extreme - a mulch yard. When the gardens are ready he will agendize a field trip to his home. He asked that "Landscape Maintenance for Water Retention: Natural Gardens, Manicured Meadows, Mulch Yard, Aeration, Hand-Watering" be on the agenda next time for his report. Commissioner Mahmud explained the "PACE" program that will allow public financing of renewable energy improvements for property owners; and asked that the Leaf Blower Ordinance be on the next agenda to discuss the timing of regulations as it relates to the SCAQMD exchange program. Commissioner Ready asked the "Trimming Specimen Trees" be on the agenda for an update next time.

STAFF LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS - Staff Liaison Harder distributed the Public Works Organizational Chart to all members, announced the Water Fest event for 2010, and a program to educate homeowners as well as professionals in the California Friendly Landscape Training program (CFLT) offered by WaterWise Consulting, Inc. (www.waterwise-consulting.com). She also distributed flyers for the local HHW satellite event coming up on 9/11 this year. She announced that she will be on vacation at the August regular meeting and asked that someone on the Commission take minutes in her absence.

COUNCIL LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS - None.

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

NEXT MEETING - The next regular meeting of the Natural Resources and Environmental Commission will be held on Tuesday, August 24, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. in City Council Chambers.



Kim Hughes, Chair

MINUTES
NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
June 22, 2010

ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. Present were Chair Hughes and Commissioners Bill Kelly, John Silverthorn, Mike Fox and Drew Ready. Vice Chair David Margrave arrived shortly thereafter. Staff Liaison Diana Harder, Public Works Director Matthew Sweeney and Acting Park Supervisor Gonzalo Maravilla were present. Council Liaison Cacciotti arrived shortly thereafter.

MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting of May 25, 2010 were approved with corrections as motioned by Commissioner Silverthorn and seconded by Commissioner Mike Fox and all members were in favor, 5-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS – None.

APPLICATION FOR TREE REMOVAL PERMIT – 1742 MONTEREY ROAD

Applicants, Rich and Claire Roche, explained reasons for requesting the removal of a 65" dbh Shamel Ash tree in their front yard including root damages to foundation and crowding of existing trees in the parkway. They provided photos showing the damages and 4 letters of support from neighbors. Cliff Douglas, a masonry contractor, spoke in support of the tree removal. Discussion ensued. Vice Chair Margrave made a motion to approve removal of the Ash tree with the planting of seven (7) 24" box shade trees; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Silverthorn and all members were in favor, 6-0.

LETTER OF SUPPORT – RENEWABLE ENERGY BILL

Chair Hughes shared her letter of support and asked for comments. Some changes were recommended including adding the Library and City yard to the letter; buildings that may accommodate solar panels. Commissioner Kelly offered to re-work the letter. Chair Hughes made a motion to accept the letter with amendments, the motion was seconded by Vice Chair Margrave and all members were in favor, 6-0.

WATER COUNCIL REPORT

Commissioner Kelly presented his Water Council Report for adoption by the Commission. Chair Hughes would like to help prepare for its presentation to City Council by putting together a power point presentation of the important issues and key facts. Commissioner Kelly made a motion to approve the Water Council Report and forward it to City Council; the motion was seconded by Chair Hughes and all members were in favor, 6-0. Chair Hughes said Bill did an amazing job and congratulated him.

CITY TREE REMOVALS

Acting Park Supervisor Gonzalo Maravilla explained that he has no parkway trees scheduled for removal at this time. He added that they lost ½ of an Engelmann Oak tree at 1916 Marengo and they are waiting for an arborist report to see if the remainder of the tree must be removed. The City planted 60 Engelmann Oak trees and 62 Sycamore trees as part of an AQMD grant recently in the vicinity of Arroyo/Hermosa and Monterey/Pasadena Avenue as well as the Nature Park.

IRRIGATION AT PARKS

Acting Park Supervisor Maravilla reported on the watering system at Garfield Park. The park at this time is in good condition. Public Works Director Sweeney submitted a report of the water schedule as prepared by the Water System Supervisor Darren Milner. Council Liaison Cacciotti asked Staff to provide a Public Works Organization Chart at the next regular meeting. Chair Hughes asked that the matter remain on the agenda for further monitoring of the situation as the Park Supervisor becomes familiar with the watering program and Commissioner Ready explores other options.

PLANTING PLAN FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL

Commissioner Ready shared planting plans provided by the Middle School. He expressed his desire to encourage the Middle School to plant more native, low-water plantings. Chair Hughes offered her

assistance to draft a letter to the school. Commissioner Ready made a motion that a letter be sent to the Middle School; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Kelly and all members were in favor, 6-0.

TRIMMING SPECIMEN TREES

Commissioners Silverthorn and Ready met and brainstormed educational aspects and emboldening the ordinance. They expect to have a recommendation for adoption by the November/December meeting. They will solicit experts to help with the draft.

LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE, CITY OF TREES, MANICURED MEADOWS, NATURAL GARDENING & HAND-WATERING

Commissioner Silverthorn's meadow is ready to be viewed. He will provide several dates to Staff so that a field trip can be arranged on a weekend. He would like to see residents replace their mowed lawns with natural gardens or manicured meadows.

4TH OF JULY/CLEAN AIR CAR SHOW & ENVIRONMENTAL EXPO

Chair Hughes asked for Staff assistance since she hasn't heard from the 4th of July Committee to confirm the Commission's registration form and request to distribute candy/seed packages at the event. Staff Liaison Harder provided Jeannie Chiu's phone number to follow up with Commission participation in the Clean Air Car Show.

RECOGNITION PROGRAM FOR DROUGHT TOLERANT LANDSCAPING

This matter is deferred to the next regular meeting.

CHAIR COMMUNICATIONS

- Chair Hughes announced that there is a San Gabriel Valley Watershed meeting next Wednesday and passed around an announcement regarding the event. She asked about \$10,000 that was mentioned by the Mayor at the last CC meeting that may be used for Water Conservation outreach and would like to know the status of funding.

COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS

- Commissioner Margrave asked that Community Gardens be placed on the agenda next time. He and Commissioner Kelly will work on a plan.

STAFF LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS

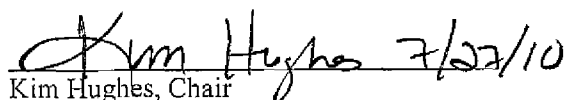
- Staff Liaison Harder shared a Notice of Availability of a Draft Environmental Impact Report from L.A. County soliciting 45-day public review to July 16, 2010 on the ban of plastic bags. She will scan and e-mail to all members. L.A. County has requested the City send a letter of support of AB222 and that will be on the agenda next month. She also reminded members that the Water Council will meet on Tuesday, June 29 to review the Request for Proposals for Tiered Water Rates at 7:00 p.m. in the Fire Department E.O.C. Room.

COUNCIL LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS

- None.

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

NEXT MEETING - The next regular meeting of the Natural Resources and Environmental Commission will be held on Tuesday, July 27, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. in City Council Chambers.


Kim Hughes, Chair

MINUTES
NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
May 25, 2010

ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m. Present were Chair Hughes, Vice Chair Margrave and Commissioners Bill Kelly, John Silverthorn, Mike Fox, David Beadle and Drew Ready. Staff Liaison Diana Harder was present. Council Liaison Cacciotti arrived shortly thereafter.

MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting of April 27, 2010 were approved as motioned by Commissioner Fox and seconded by Commissioner Kelly with a vote of 4-0. (3 abstaining)

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS – None.

LETTER OF SUPPORT – RENEWABLE ENERGY BILL

Chair Hughes shared a letter of support to Edison that she proposes be sent by the City Council regarding renewable energy. She will re-draft the letter to incorporate comments and distribute to all.

TRIMMING SIGNATURE TREES

Commissioners Silverthorn and Ready met to discuss changes to the tree ordinance. Commissioner Ready gave a summary on that research using protocol from City of Pasadena. Commissioner Silverthorn suggests further discussion regarding definition of terms e.g. signature, specimen and significant trees. City of Pasadena has an extensive list of tree species and appropriate dbh establishing “specimen” trees. It is his desire to incorporate Pasadena’s code into So. Pasadena and he will continue to work on it and ask questions to Gonzalo Maravilla, Acting Park Supervisor, at the next meeting. Staff Liaison Harder submitted a memo to the Commission to consider changes to CMC that will assist the City Prosecutor.

LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE, CITY OF TREES, MANICURED MEADOWS, NATURAL GARDENING & HAND WATERING

Chair Hughes sent flowers to thank Barbara Eisenstein for her help with Natural Gardening element of Commissioner Silverthorn’s proposal. He plans to get his meadow ready to show members before moving forward on this item.

4TH OF JULY/CLEAN AIR CAR SHOW & ENVIRONMENTAL EXPO

Commissioner Beadle asked commissioners to pick up the banner and other materials from his home for 4th of July parade if they are interested. Chair Hughes and Commissioner Kelly will take a lead on this item. The Car Show will take place on October 10, 2010. Council Liaison Cacciotti directed the Commission to question Jeannie Chiu for further information on its participation in the event.

RECOGNITION PROGRAM FOR DROUGHT TOLERANT LANDSCAPING

Commissioner Kelly will prepare further information on this item for the next regular meeting.

CHAIR COMMUNICATIONS - Chair Hughes reminded everyone of a Sanitation Round Table on June 9; shared articles on sediment affecting water reservoirs and on MWD increasing its rates. Staff Liaison Harder is asked to scan the articles and send to members.

COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS -

Commissioner Margrave explained that all water in season was reclaimed using his cistern system. Commissioner Kelly asked members to come to the Water Council meeting to conclude business on June 1st. Commissioner Beadle announced that it is his last day and thanked everyone. Commissioner Ready asked that planting plans for the Middle School be on the agenda next time.

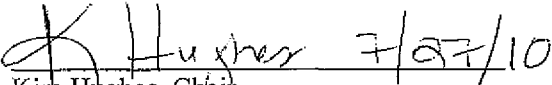
STAFF LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS - Staff Liaison Harder explained the over watering in Garfield Park. She encouraged better public outreach program including twitter and e-mail; answers to

Mr. English' questions are being made and a response will be sent out soon. Commissioner Beadle asked that an item be placed on the next agenda to discuss irrigation of parks.

COUNCIL LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS - Council Liaison Cacciotti reported his experience exploring over watering of parks and provided other updates.

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

NEXT MEETING - The next regular meeting of the Natural Resources and Environmental Commission will be held on Tuesday, June 22, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. in City Council Chambers.


Kim Hughes, Chair

MINUTES
NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
April 27, 2010

ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m. Present were Chair Hughes and Commissioners Bill Kelly, John Silverthorn and Mike Fox. Vice Chair Margrave and Commissioners David Beadle and Drew Ready were absent. Staff Liaison Diana Harder was present. Council Liaison Cacciotti arrived shortly thereafter.

MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting of March 23, 2010 were approved as motioned by Commissioner Kelly and seconded by Chair Hughes and all members were in favor, 4-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS – None.

LETTER OF SUPPORT – RENEWABLE ENERGY BILL

Chair Hughes shared a letter of support to Edison that she proposes be sent by the City Council regarding renewable energy. She asks that the matter be deferred to the next regular meeting when more commissioners may be present to comment. Commissioners ask the status of the yard rehabilitation and if costs for damages to the garages have been recovered. The Commission may consider a recommendation that solar panels be installed at a rehabilitated yard facility.

TRIMMING SIGNATURE TREES

Commissioner Silverthorn explained that he and Drew Ready continue to get organized and are in the gathering information stage. The next step is to review and make a recommendation.

LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE, CITY OF TREES, MEADOWS, NATURAL GARDENING & HAND WATERING

Staff Liaison Harder shared the letter that went out recently soliciting interest from experts in the field on water saving techniques and alternatives to lawn maintenance. Commissioner Silverthorn continues to develop his yard as a meadow, practicing low water maintenance techniques. In the future he would like to give lessons to the public. Chair Hughes suggests soliciting student interest to do film projects to help demonstrate such projects as the cisterns introduced by Vice Chair Margrave and Silverthorn's natural garden.

EARTH DAY AFTER ACTION REPORT/4TH OF JULY/CLEAN AIR CAR SHOW & ENVIRONMENTAL EXPO

Commissioner Kelly led the bicycle tour and explained that very few people turned out for the event. He believes the event needs more outreach to specific groups. The route was too long and took over 2 hours to complete one-third of the route. A smaller route of 4 or 5 house in the same neighborhood would be better and easier for more people to participate in. Discussion ensued regarding a tour and possible public forum to demonstrate Xeriscape gardening. Chair Hughes will prepare an article for the E-Newsletter to share successful aspects of Xeriscape homes tour. Commissioner Kelly requested an agenda item to create a recognition program for drought tolerant landscaping.

CHAIR COMMUNICATIONS - None.

COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS -

Commissioner Kelly explained that the bill to set up a clean energy program that offers incentives for homes that add energy efficiency measures has been enacted into law and publicity can now be generated in the County program. Commissioner Silverthorn asked what happened to the crepe myrtle trees next to Rite Aide. Commissioners opened a letter from Robert English regarding overwatering in parks and referred it to staff for a response. Staff Liaison Harder will provide a response at the next regular meeting. Commissioner Silverthorn commended Barbara Eisenstein for her help with the bicycle tour

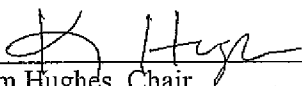
and for natural gardens item; she offered to provide handouts for public counters from NorthEast Trees and some that she has produced. Chair Hughes will send her a special thank you from the Commission.

STAFF LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS - Staff Liaison Harder shared a handout on a Habitat Conservation Fund Program and Workshops available in May.

COUNCIL LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS - Council Liaison Cacciotti reported on the lawn mower exchange program as well as other programs and projects underway. He suggested commissioners bicycle along Arroyo to tour project areas.

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

NEXT MEETING - The next regular meeting of the Natural Resources and Environmental Commission will be held on Tuesday, May 25, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. in City Council Chambers.

 5/25/10

Kim Hughes, Chair

MINUTES
NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
March 23, 2010

ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. Present were Chair Kelly and Commissioners John Silverthorn, Drew Ready, David Beadle and Kim Hughes. Commissioner Mike Fox arrived shortly thereafter. Vice Chair Margrave was absent. Staff Liaison Diana Harder was present. Council Liaison Cacciotti was present.

MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting of February 23, 2010 were approved as motioned by Commissioner Hughes and seconded by Commissioner Ready and all members were in favor, 5-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS – None.

XERISCAPE BICYCLE TOUR

Commissioner Beadle shared an ad and press release in preparation for the event to tour approximately 15 homes on a ~5 mile bike tour on mostly flat ground. Discussion and suggestions ensued. Staff Liaison Harder asked that all changes be made and final documents be submitted by end of next week. Distribution materials will be gathered by Staff Liaison as the event approaches.

UPDATE ON AB 811

Chair Kelly will continue to watch this and will make a recommendation how to participate or get communication out at a future meeting.

TRIMMING SIGNATURE TREES

Commissioner Silverthorn explained that he and Commissioner Ready are still defining what a signature tree is and researching municipal code to protect more trees and will present findings at a future meeting. He asked that the order of name on the agenda be reversed so that Commissioner Ready is named first and also that the CMC proposed changes come before considering public outreach on the item as it is recommended on the agenda. Staff Liaison will make those changes.

COMMUNITY GARDENS

Chair Kelly explained that zoning code regulations now allow community gardens so a process has been established and he has identified potential locations for community gardens as well as the availability of \$20,000 in park impact fees that can help the start up of a garden. Chair Kelly made a recommendation that the City Council:

- Initiate action to lease a Caltrans property on Magnolia for a community garden;
- Allocate the \$20,000 in park impact fees to build the necessary infrastructure for the garden, including fencing, a water line and faucets, soil testing, etc.
- Issue a request for proposals or qualifications to solicit organizations interested in planning and operating the garden, for a term of at least two years, with extension of the agreement up to five years if operated successfully.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Beadle and all members were in favor, 6-0.

LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE, CITY OF TREES, MEADOWS, NATURAL GARDENING & HAND-WATERING

Commissioner John Silverthorn prepared final draft of letter. Chair Kelly made a motion to send the letter as prepared; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Fox and all members were in favor, 6-0.

WATER COUNCIL TIERED WATER RATES

Chair Kelly presented a memo dated March 11, 2010 that includes all details of the recommendation made by the Water Council to adopt a tiered water rate structure. Chair Kelly made a motion to recommend that the City Council hire a consultant to develop a tiered rate structure and that all revenues generated be spent only on water-related services and programs; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Hughes and all members were in favor, 6-0.

PROTECTION OF ENGELMANN OAK TREES

Commissioner Ready explained that he is researching Engelmann oaks and plans to make a recommendation for protection and mitigation process for these species. Some considerations for review are increasing planting and specifying only Engelmann oak trees be planted when they have to be removed; he also wants to look into planting in neighboring properties to keep the trees local. He asks that the matter be placed on the regular May agenda and plans to prepare something in writing with proposed code changes.

ELECT CHAIR TO NREC

Chair Kelly opened nominations for Chair to the NREC. Chair Kelly nominated Kim Hughes as Chair to the Commission; Commissioner Hughes accepted the nomination. The nomination was seconded by Commissioner Beadle and all members were in favor, 6-0. Chair Kelly expressed his pleasure serving on the Commission and plans to continue to be an active member.

CHAIR COMMUNICATIONS - None.

COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS -

Commissioner Hughes requested a future agenda item to discuss a letter of support for a renewable energy bill. Another agenda item is for a community event to promote solar power possibly at the environmental car show coming up in October this year.

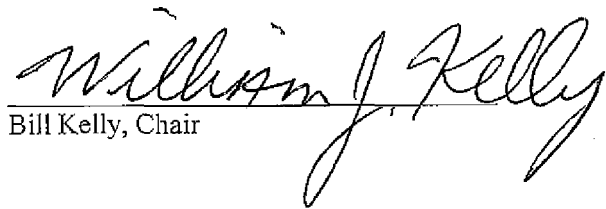
Commissioner Hughes shared an L.A. Times article on new EPA restrictions on drinking water.

STAFF LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS - Staff Liaison Harder received Tree City USA and Growth Award materials and presented them to the Commission.

COUNCIL LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS - Council Liaison Cacciotti made several announcements including lawnmower exchange event coming up on April 21.

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

NEXT MEETING - The next regular meeting of the Natural Resources and Environmental Commission will be held on Tuesday, April 27, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. in City Council Chambers.


Bill Kelly, Chair

MINUTES
NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
February 23, 2010

ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Present were Chair Kelly and Commissioners John Silverthorn, Drew Ready, David Beadle, Kim Hughes and Mike Fox. Vice Chair Margrave arrived shortly thereafter. Staff Liaison Diana Harder was present. Council Liaison Cacciotti arrived shortly thereafter.

MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting of January 26, 2010 were approved as motioned by Commissioner Fox and seconded by Commissioner Hughes and all members were in favor, 6-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS – None.

XERISCAPE BICYCLE TOUR

Commissioner Beadle asked if anyone looked at the xeriscape homes for the bicycle tour. Commissioner Hughes did. Commissioner Ready may want to add 4 properties. Next step is to publicize the event on city website and do press release and map to encourage participation in the event. Commissioner Beadle may talk to a few owners to give presentations on the tour. Handout materials may be provided from the Water District and Xeriscape brochures. Commissioner Beadle expressed his desire that the event be low-key and build on it in subsequent years. The date of the event will be Sunday, April 25 from 1pm to 3pm and starts at David Beadle's home. Commissioner Beadle will prepare a flyer. Charles Trevino commented on materials available as handouts from Water District.

MIDDLE SCHOOL TREE REMOVALS

Commissioner Beadle provided a handout after speaking with construction manager Lopez regarding the removal of 17 trees and planting of 42 trees. Commissioner Fox commented that Chinese elms are not desirable because they get top heavy and brittle and require a lot of maintenance. Commissioner Ready suggested evergreen and shade trees including oaks as desirable species. Commissioner Ready will contact Lopez regarding replacement trees and discuss with others on the Commission as to alternative tree species for planting.

NON-PROFESSIONAL TRIMMING TREES

Commissioner Silverthorn asked that the title of this agenda item be changed to "Trimming Signature Trees". He would like to see these neighborhood signature trees monitored and prevent over-trimming of these trees. Chair Kelly suggested that the commission start a community awareness campaign by putting notices on how to trim trees and what the consequences are when you trim without a permit on the City website as well as in the form of bill stuffers, welcome packets, press releases to the Review and ENewsletter articles. Commissioner Silverthorn would like to see regulations extended to cover these "signature" trees. Commissioners Silverthorn and Hughes will work on communication pieces and report back at the next regular meeting. Commissioner Ready would like to find language to change CMC to regulate trees of a certain height and will return with suggestions.

APPOINT GRANATH AND NORLEN TO WATER COUNCIL

Chair Kelly nominated Clint Granath and Paul Norlen to the Water Council. The nomination was seconded by Commissioner Beadle and all members were in favor, 7-0. Paul Norlen, 2015 Mission Street, thanked the commission for the appointment.

LAWN MANAGEMENT

Commissioner Silverthorn asked that the title of item change to "Landscape Maintenance, City of Trees, Meadows, Natural Gardening and Hand-Watering". He provided a handout letter to various organizations requesting that they may make presentations on the matter and asked Staff to put in Draft form for his review. Commissioner Hughes provided an article from U.C. Irvine, a study on grass and asked that the document be scanned and e-mailed to everyone on the Commission. Commissioner Silverthorn plans to contact Barbara Eisenstein to help with Natural Gardens part of his plan. Staff Liaison Harder will bring Acting

Maint. Superintendent Aguilar up to date on the desire to plant a test garden at the Dish Farm on Stoney Drive.

CHAIR COMMUNICATIONS - Chair Kelly would like to give an update on AB811 and asked that it be on the agenda next time. He also asked that nominations for Chair to the Commission be on the agenda next time and plans to serve as Chair for one final meeting in March.

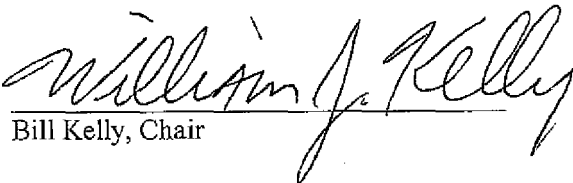
COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS - Commissioner Margrave asked that Community Gardens be placed on the next agenda for an update and status. Commissioner Hughes will provide information on a bill regarding solar energy as part of the Update on AB 811 that Chair Kelly will be presenting in March. Commissioner Fox provided an update on the Farmer's Market interviews and announced the Water Council meeting to be held on Tuesday, March 2. Commissioner Ready asked that the Landscape Model Ordinance be presented to the Water Council and would like an agenda item next time to discuss the protection of Engelman Oak trees and mitigation for tree removals.

STAFF LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS - Staff Liaison Harder asked if Chair Kelly would accept the Arbor Day Proclamation at the City Council meeting on March 3 and he accepted.

COUNCIL LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS - Council Liaison Cacciotti spoke regarding the San Pasqual Stables Lease, Golf Course Lease, National Scenic Byway Grant and Garfield Park Trex seating material.

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

NEXT MEETING - The next regular meeting of the Natural Resources and Environmental Commission will be held on Tuesday, March 23, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. in City Council Chambers.


Bill Kelly, Chair

MINUTES
NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
January 26, 2010

ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. Present were Chair Kelly and Commissioners John Silverthorn, Drew Ready, David Beadle and Kimberly Hughes. Commissioner Mike Fox and Vice Chair David Margrave arrived shortly thereafter. Staff Liaison Diana Harder was present. Park Supervisor Jesse Barajas was absent. Council Liaison Cacciotti was absent.

MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting of December 22, 2009 were approved as motioned by Commissioner Ready and seconded by Commissioner Silverthorn by a vote of 3-0 (Commissioner David Beadle and Kimberly Hughes abstaining)

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS – None.

APPLICATION FOR TREE REMOVAL PERMIT – 822 ONEONTA DRIVE

Ingrid Watson, applicant, explained reasons for requesting the removal of a 35” diameter pepper tree including “holes” in the stumps/limbs. She has an estimate for the removal and verbal communication from her contractor that the tree eventually could fail. Discussion ensued. Commissioner Beadle made a motion to defer the request to the next regular meeting when the applicant can provide an arborist report and a more extensive report can be made by the City Arborist. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hughes and all members were in favor, 6-0.

APPLICATION FOR TREE REMOVAL PERMIT – 1215 CHEL.TEN WAY

Ryan and Jennifer Brist, applicants, shared handouts with an aerial view, photos of the tree, a sketch of the proposed swimming pool and a plan showing existing trees on the lot including 7 oaks, 3 large eucalyptus a palm tree and tulip tree. The 8th oak is an Engelmann Oak that leans and will be at the corner of the proposed swimming pool, deep end. They explained that efforts have been made with the City Arborist and Planning staff to locate the pool at the least impactful location on the property. Discussion ensued. Vice Chair Margrave made a motion to recommend approval of the removal of the Engelmann Oak tree only when approved building plans are obtained by the applicant and with a condition that replacement trees include as many “like” species as possible to the Engelmann Oak tree. The formula for replacement trees for construction is 2 – 24” minimum size native species for each 6” dbh, or portion thereof; so the removal of a 22” dbh Engelmann Oak tree will require the planting of eight (8) 24” box minimum size native species. The trees may be planted on private property or paid to the City at the rate of \$325 per tree; in any combination. The motion was seconded by Chair Kelly and all members were in favor, 7-0.

APPLICATION FOR TREE REMOVAL PERMIT – 2044 PRIMROSE

Carlos Gan, representing his mother and applicant, Maria Gan, shared photos and explained reasons for requesting removal of the tree because it is leaning over his mother’s bedroom.

Steven Froberg, 2048 Primrose, submitted a letter in support of the tree removal.

Discussion ensued with Commissioners expressing concern for prior “hack” jobs on tree and observations that the tree looks healthy and there is no arborist report to explain otherwise. Chair Kelly made a motion to defer the request to the next regular meeting when the applicant can provide an arborist report that includes the age of the tree, its life expectancy and reasons the tree is a danger as well as a more extensive report can be made by the City Arborist. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Margrave and all members were in favor, 7-0. Mr. Gan requested a meeting with the City Arborist on site.

TIERED WATER RATE STRUCTURE

Commissioner Hughes explained tiered water rates in City of Los Angeles since the 1990s that have resulted in an 18.4% decrease in water use when implemented. Discussion ensued including costs of

water and operator costs. Chair Kelly made a motion to place this item on the Water Council agenda; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Beadle and all members were in favor, 7-0.

REDUCE WATER CONSUMPTION BY 20%

Joe Walters, 911 Bonita Drive, introduced himself and expressed his interest in the Water Council as he has worked in the water business for 14 years; he is in support of the Water Council items to help educate and provide incentives to the public and supports a comprehensive solution to the issues before the Council. Chair Kelly made a motion to place this item on the Water Council agenda; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Fox and all members were in favor, 7-0.

MEETING DATE

This matter is deferred to the next regular meeting.

ESTABLISH WATER COUNCIL

Sam Chandra, 1215 Indiana, introduced himself and expressed his interest in the Water Council. Chair Kelly expressed the great response that he has received to website and Review advertising to encourage membership on the Water Council. He shared a list of people interested and will e-mail the list to Staff Liaison Harder. Chair Kelly made a motion to nominate all those on the list as members of the Water Council; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Hughes and all members were in favor, 7-0. Commissioner Ready explained that Barbara Eisenstein declined his invitation to participate on Water Council so her name is removed.

CITY TREE REMOVALS

This matter is deferred to the next regular meeting.

LAWN MANAGEMENT

Commissioner Silverthorn expressed his thanks to Commissioners Fox and Ready for exploring potential test sites for lawn management. The preferred site is an area of land adjacent to the "dish farm" on Stoney Drive at Lohman Lane that is in bad shape. He would like to defer a final recommendation until Park Supervisor Barajas can comment. Commissioner Silverthorn prepared a draft letter to send to Jim Baird of the University of California Riverside and to Jill Morganelli of the Los Angeles County Arboretum. Commissioner Hughes suggested "Tree People" as experts in the field who may be interested. Discussion ensued. Commissioner Ready described lawn management practices at Commissioner Silverthorn's residence and his enthusiasm for exploring these good methods. Commissioner Silverthorn will make changes to the letter as recommended and continue the matter to the next regular meeting.

CHAIR COMMUNICATIONS - None.

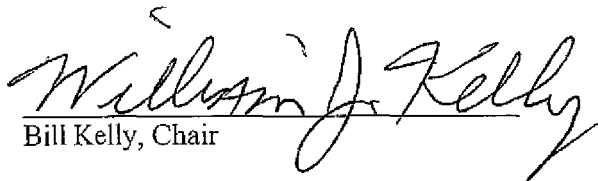
COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS - Commissioner Beadle provided a route map and detailed tour of homes for the xeriscape bicycle tour event and suggested commissioners take the route and come back at the next meeting for discussion. He asks that the middle school tree removals be on the agenda next time for discussion. Commissioner Silverthorn expressed his discontent with non-professionals trimming trees in town and asked that the matter be placed on next agenda. Commissioner Ready requested that a recommendation to seek additional locations for demonstration gardens/residences be placed on the March agenda. Newest Commissioner Kimberly Hughes introduced herself and explained that she is with Los Angeles Department of Water & Power for 8 years as public affairs specialist in charge of water conservation and environmental programs. Commissioner Hughes asked that productive vegetable gardens be considered where lawns are converted to vegetable gardens (produce to be being given to local Farmer's Market) as part of agenda item to consider additional locations for demonstration gardens. Commissioner Fox asked where the Community Gardens item stands and where it goes from here -- who makes contract with Caltrans for use of its property? Commissioner Margrave explained that all water on his site at 1266 Monterey Road when into the aquifer and the cistern system worked well. He asks that commissioners meet on site for demonstration and will establish a date with Staff Liaison Harder in the near future.

STAFF LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS - Staff Liaison Harder provided Free High Efficiency Toilets flyer for February 2, 2010 event as sponsored by the USGVMWD.

COUNCIL LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS - None.

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

NEXT MEETING - The next regular meeting of the Natural Resources and Environmental Commission will be held on Tuesday, February 23, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. in City Council Chambers.


Bill Kelly, Chair

MINUTES
NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
December 22, 2009

ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m. Present were Chair Kelly and Commissioners John Silverthorn, Mike Fox and Drew Ready. Vice Chair Margrave and Commissioner David Beadle were absent. Staff Liaison Diana Harder, Maintenance Superintendent Marcelino Aguilar, Grants Analyst Tracey Perkosky and Park Supervisor Jesse Barajas were present. Council Liaison Cacciotti was present.

MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting of November 24, 2009 were approved as motioned by Commissioner Silverthorn and seconded by Commissioner Ready by a vote of 3-0 (Commissioner Mike Fox abstaining)

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS – Bonnie Cruz, 1811 Diamond, explained that she was addressing the matter of tree removals with the Planning Commission and shared pictures showing the canopy of 4 trees that were removed for the construction of 4 units at 1825 Diamond to express the scope of the loss of 4 trees.

Donald F. Nichols, 1507 Santa Teresa, has a concern with the money being paid to the Upper District for overdrafting water and suggested a tiered water rate structure that will penalize those who use too much water.

AQMD TREE PLANTING PARTNERSHIP GRANT

Grants Analyst Tracey Perkosky explained reasons for requesting the NREC approve the expenditure of \$3,000 Council discretionary funds for the Tree Planting Partnership Grant. Commissioner Ready made a motion to approve expenditure of \$3,000 Council discretionary funds for the Tree Planting Partnership Grant, the motion was seconded by Commissioner Fox and all members were in favor, 4-0. Grants Analyst Perkosky explained that the project is expected to be approved at the January 20, 2010 City Council meeting.

SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY GRANT

Grants Analyst Tracey Perkosky explained that the grant is not available at this time but that the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy is accepting projects for pre-approval that would include a short description of the project and outline the costs. Chair Kelly suggested all commissioners go to the Arroyo and check out the site for possible improvements that may qualify.

ESTABLISH WATER COUNCIL

Chair Kelly asked if any commissioners had names that they would like to put forward for membership on the Water Council. Commissioner Ready suggested Teresa Ross of NorthEast Trees and Barbara Eisenstein a prior NREC member and expert horticulturist. Chair Kelly suggested Charles Trevino with USGVMWD, Kimberly Hughes with L.A. Dept. of Water & Power, Dave Czmanski with Sierra Club and Joe Birman, a geo-hydrologist. Chair Kelly made a motion to appoint the suggested membership, the motion was seconded by Commissioner Silverthorn and all members were in favor, 4-0. Chair Kelly established a tentative first meeting date of Thursday, January 28 at 6:30 p.m.; location to be determined. Chair Kelly will prepare a press release to the local newspaper and notice will be posted to the City website to announce the meeting and invite others to apply. Maint. Super. Aguilar answered questions regarding the water system, gave a Capital Improvement Project update that included sliplining transmission lines (approximately 2 miles); constructing a pump house in San Gabriel for one of the wells rehabilitated about 1.5 years ago (when in service it will allow So. Pas. to be 100% reliant on its own water sources); and the reconstruction of Wilson Reservoir that includes 2 wells and a water blending facility. He explained the general water system, how it operates and water rate structure. The water rates were increased in July and he can provide detailed information and some historical data at the next meeting. Chair Kelly requested his attendance at the January 28 meeting to present complete water system information, history and rates as well as water conservation outreach efforts.

POLICY FOR REPLACEMENT TREES ON CITY PROJECTS

Staff Liaison Harder explained the issue of replacement trees for capital improvement projects. Commissioner Fox made a motion that the same policy applied to residential tree removals be applied to construction contracts, the motion was seconded by Commissioner Ready and all members were in favor, 4-0.

CITY TREE REMOVALS

Park Supervisor Barajas explained that the tree inventory has been submitted and the data is being reviewed. When the tree inventory is finalized it will be presented to the NREC for comment. City trees to be removed include a palm tree and redwood tree at Garfield Park and a tree in the 900 block of Garfield.

FARMER'S MARKET OPERATOR SELECTION SUBCOMMITTEE

Staff Liaison Harder explained that the City is setting up a subcommittee to review applications for a new Farmer's Market operator and has asked that a member be appointed from both the Parks and Recreation Commission and the NREC. Councilmember Cacciotti provided copies of the RFP. Commissioner Mike Fox volunteered to serve on the subcommittee, but explained that he is not available to meet on Wednesdays.

LAWN MANAGEMENT

Commissioner Silverthorn explained his meadow approach to lawn management. He would like the City to be known as a city of trees, meadows and natural gardens rather than just a city of trees. Park Supervisor Barajas suggested a small plot of land in a triangular median at Arroyo Drive and Pasadena to see how a meadow could grow there and suggested criteria that could be measured at the site. Commissioner Fox suggested the "dish farm" – an elevated parkway area on Stoney Drive near Lohman Lane. Chair Kelly asked that commissioners review locations and make a decision at the next regular meeting. Commissioner Ready suggested a presenter come to the next meeting from U.C. Riverside because they have turf grass research and could share valuable information.

ANNUAL REPORT TO CITY COUNCIL

Chair Kelly provided an annual report that he had reviewed based on comments from the meeting. The final report will be presented to the City Council at its meeting of January 20, 2010.

CHAIR COMMUNICATIONS - None.

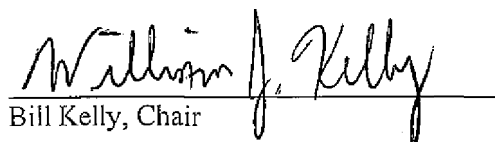
COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS - None.

STAFF LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS - Staff Liaison Harder provided a Notice of Preparation of Draft EIR for adoption of an ordinance to ban issuance of plastic carryout bags. The deadline for comments is 5pm on January 4, 2010. Staff Liaison Harder will e-mail the notice to all commissioners. She also announced that the Christmas Tree Recycling brochure has been mailed to all households in So. Pas. today.

COUNCIL LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS - Councilmember Cacciotti expressed the growing interest and need for community gardens and asked for help with the new Leaf Blower Ordinance that will be effective in October, 2010.

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

NEXT MEETING - The next regular meeting of the Natural Resources and Environmental Commission will be held on Tuesday, January 26, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. in City Council Chambers.


Bill Kelly, Chair

MINUTES
NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
November 24, 2009

ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m. Present were Chair Kelly, Vice Chair Margrave and Commissioners John Silverthorn and David Beadle. Commissioner Drew Ready arrived shortly thereafter. Commissioner Fox was absent. Council Liaison Cacciotti was present. Staff Liaison Diana Harder and Park Supervisor Jesse Barajas were present.

MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting of October 27, 2009 were approved as motioned by Commissioner Beadle and seconded by Commissioner Silverthorn by a vote of 3-0 (Bill Kelly abstaining)

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS – Bhanu Cruz, 1811 Diamond, spoke regarding 1825 Diamond and the removal of 4 trees in the back yard of the property ranging in size from 26” to 36” including 2 California oak trees without a permit. She would like the commission to have more say in these matters as it relates to penalties and understands that the planning commission will ask the applicant to plant “in-like” trees at its meeting coming up in December. Chair Kelly asked that the matter be on the next agenda for review and discussion and that Park Supervisor Barajas provide status of replacement trees at the site.

APPLICATION FOR TREE REMOVAL PERMIT – 1625 SPRUCE

Rob Davidson, applicant, explained reasons for requesting the removal of a pittosporum tree on the west side of his property. He explained that the tree is 40’ high, approx. 30” diameter and over 60 years old. The tree is rotted at the trunk and the bark is splitting from the tree at a point 4’ up the trunk to 15’. The tree is approximately 10’ from the house and one 15’ trunk broke off approximately 10 years ago. Discussion ensued. Commissioner Beadle made a motion to approve removal of the pittosporum tree with the planting of replacement trees based upon verification of the disease and tree measurements by Park Supervisor Barajas. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Margrave and all members were in favor, 5-0.

APPLICATION FOR TREE REMOVAL PERMIT – 804 GARFIELD

Paul Asimow, applicant, shared pictures and explained reasons for requesting removal of a 13” dbh Chinese elm tree and two jacaranda trees measuring 12” dbh and 13” dbh. He explained that the trees have weak branch structure due to topping in the past. The photos showed large limb failure and applicant claims the elm has lost 9 branches in recent years. He plans to plant 2 pear trees and 4 chitalpa (drought tolerant) trees on the property. Park Supervisor Barajas explained that the weak attachments and sprouts will continue to fail. Commissioner Ready made a note that the trees are not providing any shade for residents or structures except a shed in the backyard. Vice Chair Margrave made a motion to approve removal of the trees with the planting as proposed. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ready and all members were in favor, 5-0.

CITY TREE REMOVALS

Park Supervisor Barajas has no tree removals to report. Vice Chair Margrave requested Jesse look at a tree in Arroyo south field that blocks lights.

LANDSCAPE ORDINANCE

Commissioner Drew Ready provided a summary of the updated model of Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance and provided additional handout materials prepared by the San Gabriel Council of Governments. The State is requesting that every municipality adopt a model or equivalent ordinance by January 1, 2010. He asked Staff who will be re-crafting the ordinance and taking it for adoption. He mentioned that he spoke with Planner Paul Garnett who explained that South Pasadena is relatively built out so the ordinance will not pertain to most projects here. Commissioner Ready suggested a sub-committee be appointed to work with the appropriate department to develop the city’s version and to facilitate implementation. Chair Kelly explained that realistically the ordinance could not be adopted by January 1st; further, he believes it could be flushed out with establishment of the Water Council.

Commissioner Ready explained that if the ordinance is not adopted, he believes it goes into effect in the city regardless. Commissioner Ready will send information to Staff to give to Planning, Finance and Public Works Departments to consider next steps.

LAWN MANAGEMENT

Commissioner Silverthorn met with Commissioner Drew Ready and Park Super. Barajas. He continues discussions on an experiment on public property to explore grasses and plans to draft a letter to experts in the field to seek involvement and information. Park Super. Barajas explained his experience with "cucuya" grass that is surviving on its own and is a hardy plant. All Commissioners are asked to come back to the next meeting with site recommendation for planting a test grass; an experimental plot and control plot whereby they plan to collect data on water use, rodents, etc.

WATER ORDINANCE

Chair Kelly explained that there is nothing new to report in this matter. Chair Kelly proposes that these water matters be directed to the Water Council in the future.

ESTABLISH WATER COUNCIL

Chair Kelly provided a handout to explain the purpose of the Water Council and how it will operate. It will essentially be a "task force" to study and make recommendations. He spoke with Matt Sweeney and Charles Trevino of the Upper District and several others. He explained that the appointment of members to the Water Council can occur at the December regular meeting and then there would be a meeting to get organized in January. He expects that the Water Council will wrap things up and make a recommendation to City Council in the Spring after 4 or 5 meetings. He asked that Finance Dept. help at meetings with cost of operations as well as Public Works and Planning staff. They ask that a Water Department representative make a presentation to explain initially how much water is used, pumping fees, electrical costs, storage and transmission operations of our water infrastructure operations, Chair Kelly asks that all commissioners put a list together of recommendations for membership at the next regular meeting.

EARTH DAY 2010 PLANNING

Vice Chair Beadle will submit addresses and a map for the bicycle tour at the next regular meeting. While he will be absent at the December meeting he will submit materials that the commission can share and discuss. He also plans to develop a news release, brochure and ad for the E-newsletter.

CISTERNS FOR WATER RUN OFF SYSTEMS

Vice Chair Margrave explained that the system has been installed and he is awaiting rain in order to test it and demonstrate its benefits to the Commission.

ENVIRONMENTAL HOME IMPROVEMENT HANDBOOK

Chair Kelly provided an outline for the contents of an Environmental Home Improvement Handbook. Chair Kelly appointed Commissioners David Beadle and Mike Fox to a subcommittee. All commissioners are asked to e-mail suggestions to Chair Kelly and he will update the outline for the next regular meeting.

COMMUNITY GARDEN PLANNING

Chair Kelly explained that the Planning Dept. approved the zoning change that will allow community gardens on any property subject to a conditional use permit. Commissioner Beadle plans to attend the next regular Parks and Recreation Meeting to ask that park impact fee funds be used for community gardens.

ANNUAL REPORT TO CITY COUNCIL

Chair Kelly prepared a report to City Council on the commission's activities the past year and asked for suggestions on its content, changes or additions for the next regular meeting.

TREE CITY USA AND GROWTH AWARD

Staff Liaison Harder explained that the Tree City USA and Growth Award is due to the State Forestry Dept. by the end of December and asked for suggestions on how to obtain the growth award. Discussion

ensued. Categories that we may use to qualify for the growth award include: A4(3 points) for Local Awards Program for establishing a program to award residents for xeriscaping gardens, C4 (7 points) for Tree Inventory and Analysis for updating the City's tree inventory and C8 (6 points) Improved Ordinance for adding the 4th criteria to allow tree removals. Commissioners are invited to make further recommendations by mid-December to be included in the submittal.

CHAIR COMMUNICATIONS - Chair Kelly welcomed new commissioner Drew Ready and apologized for being absent at last month's meeting.

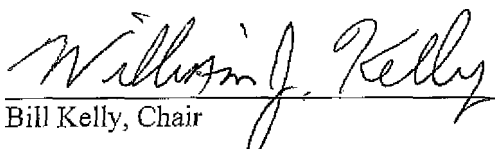
COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS - Commissioner Beadle explained that he had participated in the toilet exchange event and it was well-run. Vice Chair Margrave would like a report from the Water Department on how much water has been used over a 10-year period, how much money in energy it costs to pump it, store it, transport it and all associated costs and rates to customers for the next regular meeting.

STAFF LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS - Staff Liaison Harder announced that the "Day without a Bag" resolution is on the December 2 City Council agenda for approval.

COUNCIL LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS - Councilmember Cacciotti explained grant opportunities in Arroyo golf course area and asked that the Commission help getting the word out on the new leaf blower ordinance and AQMD leaf blower exchange program. He asks that the Santa Monica Conservancy Grant, possibly for building a bike path in the Arroyo, be on the next regular agenda.

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

NEXT MEETING - The next regular meeting of the Natural Resources and Environmental Commission will be held on Tuesday, December 22, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in City Council Chambers.


Bill Kelly, Chair

MINUTES
NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
October 27, 2009

ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m. Present were Vice Chair Margrave and Commissioners John Silverthorn, David Beadle, Mike Fox and Drew Ready. Staff Liaison Diana Harder, Director of Public Works Matthew Sweeney and Park Supervisor Jesse Barajas were present.

Vice Chair Margrave welcomed newest commissioner Drew Ready to the Commission and he introduced himself and told the Commission a little about his expertise in sustainable landscapes.

MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting of September 22, 2009 were approved as motioned by Commissioner Beadle and seconded by Commissioner Fox and approved by a vote of 4-1 (Ready abstaining).

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS – Linda Krausen of 1109 Grevelia spoke in favor of dog parks on vacant lands and community gardens; she suggests school children be involved in possible program to pick edible fruits from private property and take to food shelters or food banks with owner's permission.

Ed Fujimoto of 2051 La Fremontia expressed his concern for trees that he feels are in jeopardy due to construction next to his property. He shared a photo of a Chinese Elm and a Pine tree and asked what a safe distance is for trees next to the roadway. Staff Liaison Harder provided a handout with information for his use should he be asked to remove trees for construction.

APPLICATION FOR TREE REMOVAL PERMIT – 1351 INDIANA

Morris Schneider, applicant, explained reasons for requesting the removal of a 20" diameter liquid ambar tree and a 36" diameter olive tree; explaining that he had removed #2 from his application because it was less than 12" dbh. Discussion ensued. Commissioner Beadle made a motion to approve the removal of the olive tree by meeting removal criteria that allows the applicant to increase the number of trees on his property and to plant natives species; the liquid ambar tree removal is denied pending plans that would demonstrate where new trees could be planted to provide greater benefits on the property than the existing tree's value, benefits or species. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Fox and all members were in favor, 5-0.

REPLACEMENT TREES – 1825 DIAMOND AVENUE

Kenny Wan of 1825 Diamond explained the planning process for a residential project involving relocating a driveway from the north side of the property to the south side of the property that would impact five trees including an oak and mature sycamore tree. Vice Chair Margrave asked that he return with proposed landscape plans that would demonstrate a planting of replacement trees that would provide greater benefits on the property than the existing tree's values, benefits or species in accordance with the 4th criteria of the Tree Ordinance.

MORINGA REVIVAL PROGRAM

Dr. Martin described benefits of the Moringa tree to the Commission, shared several books and research materials on the subject, and brought a tree to the meeting. He asked for participation in the "Moringa Revival Program" in conjunction with MI Hope Inc., a non-profit public charity. The City may participate in any of the following ways:

1. Assign one or more of its vacant lots as a site to plant some 100 or more Moringa trees;
2. Promote the benefits of Moringa trees to school children;
3. Make Moringa tree education a part of the school's learning programs; promote at Library events;
4. Adopt the Moringa tree as an official tree of the city.

Discussion ensued. Commissioner Beadle suggested that Moringa trees may be planted in community gardens in the future. The Commission thanked Dr. Martin for his presentation.

LAWN MANAGEMENT

Commissioner Silverthorn provided a handout and updated the commission on his efforts to promote lawn-grass care alternatives and water savings techniques to landscaped lawn areas. Vice Chair Margrave appointed John Silverthorn and Drew Ready to a subcommittee to explore and make a recommendation to the commission. Park Supervisor Barajas explained types of grasses in city parks and how they are maintained using pre-emergents for some areas to arrest growth of grasses. Commissioner Silverthorn will meet with Commissioner Ready and Park Supervisor Barajas to continue research on the topic.

CHINESE ELM TREES

Park Supervisor Barajas explained the potential hazard of a tree on Collis Avenue and asked for commission support to remove it after many efforts to adapt it that have failed. Commissioner Fox made a motion to remove the Chinese elm tree; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Beadle and all members were in favor, 5-0. Barajas plans to plant a replacement tree by November.

CITY TREE REMOVALS

Park Supervisor Barajas plans to remove a dead liquid amber tree at 912 Mound Avenue; to remove a hazardous carob tree because the base is cavitated at 719 Garfield; and to remove a hollow carob tree that has a compromised tree flare at 1724 Hope Street.

WATER ORDINANCE

Park Supervisor Barajas provided an update on the irrigation systems for city parks and parkland areas including the Rain Master Oasis Central software system specifications, Evolution Weather Center II, Evolution DX2 controllers, radio communications and phone repeater communications' overviews. He explained an anticipated 40% water savings from the installation of these new systems and explained that new systems may be on board this fiscal year. Other matters on this item are deferred until Chair Kelly can be present.

GREY WATER RECYCLING SYSTEM

Public Works Director Matt Sweeney explained City's support of Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District's sewage plant recommendation proposed to return water to spreading grounds and replenish the water table; a recycled waste water effluent program. Discussion ensued. Vice Chair Margrave asked about water availability from the Hyperion plant to water fields in South Pasadena. Public Works Director Sweeney explained that to pipe to So. Pasadena would be expensive, but to build a means to participate and get mutual benefit is something South Pasadena is exploring. Vice Chair Margrave asked for continued communication on the matter. Dr. Schneider asked the Commission to take a lead in setting up a water council; explained that the item will take a lot of coordination and to encourage individuals to reuse water, but reclaimed water for fields into South Pasadena with the installation of transmission lines is of interest. He suggested that Charles Trevino be invited to make a presentation (contact information to be provided by Councilman Cacciotti).

EARTH DAY 2010 PLANNING

Commissioner Beadle said he is making headway with xeriscaping and the bike way. He made a plan for homes west of Orange Grove and north of Hawthorne and will make formal contact and ask permission to use homes for the bicycle tour. He plans to explore east of Orange Grove and west of Meridian this weekend and report back at the next regular meeting.

CISTERNS FOR WATER RUN OFF SYSTEMS

Vice Chair Margrave made progress with the installation of a cistern on property he owns. Water from the last rain was collected and the system worked well.

ENVIRONMENTAL HOME IMPROVEMENT HANDBOOK

This matter is carried over.

COMMUNITY GARDEN PLANNING

This matter is carried over.

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES' "A DAY WITHOUT A BAG"

Staff Liaison Harder explained the request for "A Day Without a Bag" campaign support from County of Los Angeles to help encourage consumers to forgo single-use bags for the holiday shopping season in the form of adopting a resolution to recognize December 17 as "A Day without a Bag"; and to build awareness for the event by joining efforts to sponsor giveaway sites and donate bags. She also shared a flyer for an event on Tuesday, November 10 hosted by Clean L.A. and L.A. County to encourage residents to bring 5 plastic bags for recycling and pick up a free "Brag about your Bag" shopping tote. The event is located at 500 W. Temple Street at Civic Center Mall in Los Angeles from 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Commissioner Beadle made a motion to support the "A Day Without a Bag" campaign; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Fox and all members were in favor, 5-0. Vice Chair Margrave appointed Commissioner Beadle to lead campaign efforts on behalf of the Commission. Staff Liaison Harder explained that the Resolution will go to City Council by the first meeting in December.

ANNUAL REPORT TO CITY COUNCIL

Chair Kelly will bring an outline to the next regular meeting on this item. Chair Kelly and Commissioner Beadle will put together a report and share it with the Commission at the November regular meeting.

CHAIR COMMUNICATIONS - Vice Chair Margrave appointed commissioners Drew Ready and Michael Fox to a subcommittee to explore updates to the current landscape ordinance.

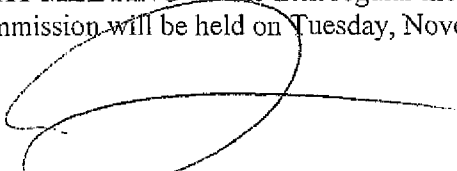
COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS - None.

STAFF LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS - Staff Liaison Harder explained that Dumpster Day resulted in the lowest turn out since 1996 and accepted suggestions on improving promotion of the event for next year such as a banner over Fair Oaks. The total trash tons collected was 29.16 tons and collection from 36 senior homes as compared to 37.19 tons and 117 senior homes in 2008; 71.78 tons and 78 senior homes in 2007; 76.26 tons and 121 senior homes in 2006, 88.13 tons and 140 senior homes in 2005; 114.81 tons and 135 senior homes in 2004. She also announced that the City was selected for an award for the Tree Partnership grant from SCAQMD for \$24,852 to plant trees. The Tree City USA and Growth Award application has been received and will be on the agenda next time for input. She also shared a letter from a resident addressed to the Commission regarding Edison power lines and palm tree interference issues on Maple Street submitted by Eva Lueck of 1967 Marengo Avenue.

COUNCIL LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS - Councilmember Cacciotti encouraged commissioners to stop by the City and try out the new Mini Cooper.

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned at 10:15 p.m.

NEXT MEETING - The next regular meeting of the Natural Resources and Environmental Commission will be held on Tuesday, November 24, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in City Council Chambers.



David Margrave, Vice Chair

MINUTES
NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
September 22, 2009

ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. Present were Chair Kelly, Vice Chair Margrave and Commissioners John Silverthorn, David Beadle and Mike Fox. Commissioners Harry Atwater was absent and Commissioner Brian Knight has resigned. Staff Liaison Diana Harder was present. Maintenance Superintendent Jesse Barajas was absent.

MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting of August 25, 2009 were approved as motioned by Vice Chair Margrave and seconded by Commissioner Beadle and all members were in favor, 5-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS – None.

CHINESE ELM TREES

This matter is deferred to the next regular meeting when Maint. Super. Barajas may be present.

CITY TREE REMOVALS

This matter is deferred.

WATER ORDINANCE

This matter is deferred.

XERISCAPE GARDEN BICYCLE TOUR

Commissioner Beadle suggested the bicycle tour be part of an Earth Day event in April, 2010. The Commission will identify gardens that qualify and establish a route. They plan to inform residents and provide information on plants. They plan to include owners and encourage them to describe their gardens as part of the tour. They plan to establish the route using marked bike lane routes.

PARK IMPACT FEE USE

Commissioner Beadle spoke with Com. Services Director Sheila Pautsch and she has confirmed park impact fees may be used for community gardens. The fund balance is \$107,751.10. The use of funds for community gardens would have to be put on Parks & Recreation Commission's list of new uses of funds. They plan to put the item on Parks & Recreation Commission agenda for discussion to get on list. Possible areas for community gardens include: Grevelia, 1100 blk., Magnolia, Edison right-of-way, golf course/racket club area possibilities and Caltrans property.

CISTERNS FOR WATER RUN OFF SYSTEMS

Vice Chair Margrave provided handouts to demonstrate how cisterns work in Tucson, Arizona, including a Harvesting Rain Water Sample Ordinance for new construction and asked commissioners to consider existing property conversions and applicability to South Pasadena. Commissioners will read materials and continue discussion at the next regular meeting. Discussion ensued about status of water consumption today and population growth in various regions.

LAWN MANAGEMENT

Commissioner Silverthorn explained that he is researching information to provide to residents and has some contacts established. He would like to ask Jesse Barajas to meet with him at his property to experiment and explore water conservation landscapes, including lawns. This matter will continue on the next regular agenda as information is available.

ENVIRONMENTAL HOME IMPROVEMENT HANDBOOK

Chair Kelly will bring an outline to the next regular meeting on this items. Chair Kelly and Commissioner Beadle will make a subcommittee to explore handbook options.

CHAIR COMMUNICATIONS - None.

COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS - Commissioner Beadle would like to invite Drew Ready to share Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance from City of L.A. at the next regular meeting. He also asked staff to provide information on a Water District Toilet Event coming up on October 31. Staff Liaison Harder will put flyer on website as soon as it is available.

STAFF LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS - Staff Liaison Harder provided a revised Resident's Guide to Tree Removals and explained that next month the Commission would be addressing its first application for tree removal for 4th criteria, i.e. when the tree planting is a greater benefit than the existing trees value. She also provided a handout from Scott Feldman of the Chamber of Commerce regarding the 2009 Plein Air Paint-out & Exhibition.

COUNCIL LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS - None.

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

NEXT MEETING - The next regular meeting of the Natural Resources and Environmental Commission will be held on Tuesday, October 27, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in City Council Chambers.

DAVID L. MARGRAVE

VICE CHAIR

~~William Kelly, Chair~~

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large loop and a long horizontal stroke.

MINUTES
NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
August 25, 2009

ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:07 p.m. Present were Chair Kelly, Vice Chair Margrave and Commissioners John Silverthorn, David Beadle and Mike Fox. Commissioners Harry Atwater and Brian Knight were absent. Staff Liaison Diana Harder and Maintenance Superintendent Jesse Barajas were present. Council Liaison Michael Cacciotti was present.

MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting of June 23, 2009 were approved as motioned by Vice Chair Margrave and seconded by Commissioner Fox by a vote of 4-1 (David B. abstaining).

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS – None.

TREE ORDINANCE

Staff Liaison Harder shared language proposed by Councilmember Putnam to the Tree Ordinance for clarity issues. Discussion ensued. Commissioner Mike Fox made a recommendation to insert the word “any” in between the words “to” and “persons” in 34.7(a)(1) as follows: “Where the tree itself, its excess foliage or its limbs poses a reasonable risk of injury or harm to any persons or property, or is interfering with a structure or building, and there is no feasible and reasonable alternative to mitigate the interference.” The motion was seconded by Chair Kelly and all members were in favor, 5-0.

CITY TREE REMOVALS

Maint. Super. Barajas passed around a photo of a Chinese elm tree he has posed as hazardous above 5041 Collis Avenue. Discussion ensued regarding the removal of hazardous Chinese elm trees and the commission requested that the matter of removing Chinese elms trees be placed on the next agenda for further discussion. The agenda item for Management of Dead, Dying & Diseased Parkway Trees will be back on the agenda when the tree inventory is complete tentatively by end of September. He plans to remove a dead jacaranda at 2065 Marengo and a dead pine tree at 381 Monterey Road. He continues to assess conditions of Magnolia trees on Milan with the assistance of Dr. Turney, a plant pathologist with the County.

REVIEW PARKWAY IMPROVEMENT ORDINANCE

Vice Chair Margrave made a motion to rescind recommendations to the parkway improvement ordinance; the motion was seconded by Chair Kelly and all members were in favor, 5-0. Instead of enacting changes to the ordinance that are difficult to enforce, Commissioner Mike Fox recommended that the commission consider encouraging proper planting on parkways through a public awareness effort. The commission observed that people have planted a number of types of plants on parkways and that it is difficult to enforce the existing ordinance, except when the city receives complaints.

WATER ORDINANCE

Chair Kelly plans to write something up from Jesse’s presentation regarding watering improvements to city landscape areas. In response to other inquiries from City Council; the native gardens project is underway and Staff is asked to provide an update on the grant application and locations selected for native garden planting. Chair Kelly will draft a response to recommend further on a possible award program for resident’s who xeriscape lawn areas after coordinating with South Pasadena Beautiful at its meeting in September.

COMMUNITY GARDEN PLANNING

Chair Kelly provided a recommendation titled “Operational Guidelines for South Pasadena Community Gardens”. Discussion ensued. Locations proposed for garden installations include Edison rights of way, an area near the golf course in the Arroyo, as well as vacant Caltrans properties. Vice Chair Margrave made a motion to recommend the adoption of Operational Guidelines for South Pasadena Community Gardens as submitted by Chair Kelly; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Beadle and all members were in favor, 5-0.

LEVINE SOLAR FINANCING MEASURE AB 811

Chair Kelly prepared an information report on the AB 811 Solar Financing Program. Vice Chair Margrave made a recommendation to forward the informational report to City Staff and City Council as prepared by Chair Kelly; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Fox and all members were in favor, 5-0.

PARK IMPACT FEE USE

Commissioner Beadle continues to explore uses of park impact fees. He plans to ask Community Services Director Sheila Pautsch how much is in the fund and how to use it including its possible use for community gardens.

CISTERNs FOR WATER RUN OFF SYSTEMS

Vice Chair Margrave shared a photo showing a swale on property; an article showing adoption of an ordinance by Tucson regulating cisterns; and shared examples and explained how cisterns work to help the aquifer rather than allow water to run into the river. He explained further that he has installed systems and is doing test cases to see how much it costs. Chair Kelly asked that Vice Chair Margrave write up a recommendation including costs for the next regular meeting.

CHAIR COMMUNICATIONS - None.

COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS - Commissioner Silverthorn expressed his interest in recommending alternatives to lawns and letting grass grow taller for better water use. This matter will be on the next regular agenda.

STAFF LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS - Staff Liaison Harder attended the Upper San Gabriel Municipal Water District roundtable meeting on water conservation and shared materials on programs they offer.

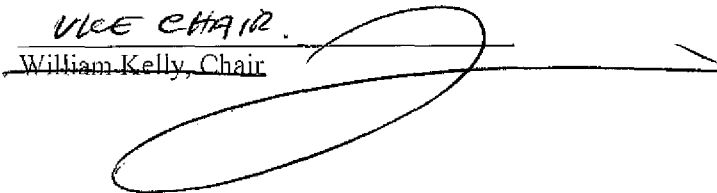
COUNCIL LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS - Councilman Cacciotti expressed his interest in the Commission proceeding with the bike tour for native plants and is interested in providing residents with a handbook that could help guide residents through environmental improvements save hiring an expensive environmental consultant; he's hoping the commission can draft such a handbook. Commissioner Beadle asked that the Bike Tour and Earth Day be placed on the next regular agenda.

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

NEXT MEETING - The next regular meeting of the Natural Resources and Environmental Commission will be held on Tuesday, September 22, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in City Council Chambers.

DAVID L. MARGRAVE
VICE CHAIR

~~William Kelly, Chair~~



MINUTES
NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
June 23, 2009

ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. Present were Chair Kelly and Commissioners John Silverthorn, David Margrave and Mike Fox. Commissioners Harry Atwater, Brian Knight and David Beadle were absent. Staff Liaison Diana Harder and Maintenance Superintendent Jesse Barajas were present. Council Liaison Michael Cacciotti, Public Works Director Matt Sweeney, City Attorney Richard Adams and Senior Planner John Mayer were present.

MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting of May 26, 2009 were approved as motioned by Commissioner Margrave and seconded by Commissioner Silverthorn by a vote of 3-1 (Mike Fox abstaining).

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS – Susan Shapiro, 2106 Hanscom, spoke regarding 2100 Hanscom and concerns about oak trees on the lot. She provided a copy of CMC Chapter 34, provided a virtual view of the property, and a field observation report on the property as well as photos to support her case.

APPEAL OF APPROVAL OF TREE REMOVAL PERMIT – 2100 HANSCOM DRIVE

City Attorney Richard Adams briefed the Commission on planning commission and CEQA elements to the project at 2100 Hanscom Drive. Public Works Director Sweeney explained his support for approval of the tree removals for construction. Senior Planner John Mayer explained the process by which the applicants over many years obtained their building permits.

Susan Shapiro, 2106 Hanscom, spoke in opposition to the tree removals for development at 2100 Hanscom.

Gwen McLain, 1319 Mountain View, spoke in opposition to the tree removals for development at 2100 Hanscom

The applicant, Mr. Andrew Bikichky, spoke next and asked the commission to approve their permit and allow them to build after 5 years in the planning and permitting process.

Discussion ensued.

Commissioner Margrave made a motion to approve removal of the 25" California Pepper Tree and the 9" Mexican Elderberry in accordance with CMC Section 34.7a(2) with the planting of an additional 36" box replacement tree for the Mexican Elderberry to be planted either on-site or off-site. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Silverthorn and all members were in favor, 4-0.

REVIEW PARKWAY IMPROVEMENT ORDINANCE

This matter is deferred to the next regular meeting.

CITY TREE REMOVALS

Maint. Super. Barajas explained that he plans to catch up on removal of stumps by mid-July and tree planting will come soon after that.

WATER ORDINANCE

This matter is deferred to the next regular meeting when Harry Atwater can report.

COMMUNITY GARDEN PLANNING

Chair Kelly provided an outline for how a community garden will work in South Pasadena and asked commissioners to comment and make additional suggestions. Concerns were raised with the impact on the neighborhoods. The conditional use permit would give public hearing and notice to residents. Preliminary to that, Commissioner Margrave would like to see a mailer to 500' radius to solicit feedback

on whether the residents are in favor of such community gardens. Other comments included leasing Edison property and Councilman Cacciotti explained that the cost to lease Caltrans property is \$100/year. This matter is continued to the July agenda and the outline will be expanded to include recommended changes.

LEVINE SOLAR FINANCING MEASURE AB 811

The Levine Solar measure will allow cities to establish a program to help property owners fund the installation of solar panels on private property. Councilman Schneider asked for a recommendation on this bill. The financing aspects of this bill have dried up at this time and the program is not advancing. Chair Kelly suggests that the Commission continue to monitor this bill and put the matter back on the agenda for discussion at such a time as financing options become available.

PARK IMPACT FEE USE

This matter is deferred to the July regular meeting when Commissioner Beadle can be present.

CISTERNS FOR WATER RUN OFF SYSTEMS

Commissioner Margrave is coming up with plans to develop cisterns and a set of guidelines and will bring it to the next regular meeting for continuing discussion on this item.

EARTH DAY/4TH OF JULY/CLEAN AIR CAR SHOW & ENVIRONMENTAL EXPO

Staff Liaison Harder explained that she has submitted the registration form for NREC participation in this year's 4th of July Parade. In addition, Xeriscaping brochures and reusable bag book marks were given to Chair Kelly for the car show booth. Staff Liaison Harder will submit a reservation form for the Commission's participation.

CHAIR COMMUNICATIONS - None.

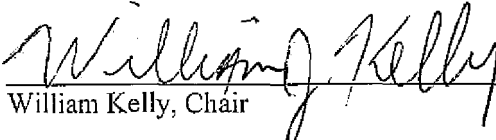
COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS - None.

STAFF LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS - Staff Liaison Harder announced that she will be on vacation for the next regular NREC meeting. The next regular meeting was therefore rescheduled to the week following her vacation, or Tuesday, August 4 at a location to be determined. She also handed out a letter of appreciation to the commission from Megan Palacios.

COUNCIL LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS - Councilman Cacciotti made various announcements and updated the commission on the Clean Air Car Show & Environmental Expo.

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

NEXT MEETING - The next regular meeting of the Natural Resources and Environmental Commission will be held on Tuesday, August 4, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in a location to be determined.


William Kelly, Chair

Draft of Minutes from the Natural Resources & Environmental Commission

Tuesday May 26th

Roll Call-Call to order at 7:20PM-Present Chair Bill Kelly, commissioners David Beadle, John Silverthorn, David Margrave. Commissioners Brian Knight and Harry Atwater were absent. Maintenance Superintendent Jesse Barajas was also present. Staff Liaison Diana Harder was absent.

Minutes from April 28th, 2009 were approved on a motion by Commissioner Margrave, seconded by Commissioner Silverthorn, by a vote of 4-0

No Public Comments

Item 6, City Tree Removals was brought forward. Jesse Barajas told the commission about the Pepper Tree removal at 1742 Huntingdon Drive. This tree had been set on fire. There are also going to be some plantings of Oak trees (sub species to be confirmed) on Milan, to be done by West Coast Arborists. Jesse also showed the commission a special announcement from the Deputy Director of Public Works (confirm) regarding the fourth criteria. This was going to be discussed at the next City Council Meeting on Wednesday the 3rd of June, so Chair Bill Kelly decided to call an emergency meeting as this was not on the agenda, and this needed to be prepared for that City Council meeting. The commission agreed without objection.

Emergency item regarding the addenda of Section 1. Section 34.7(a) of the South Pasadena Municipal Code. Commissioner Silverthorn asked Jesse Barajas about allowing the removal of less vital trees. Silverthorn used the term 'poor specimen'. Jesse Barajas commented that the removal of less vital trees would not be appropriate as during times of severe water shortage trees will be and look under stress and shed leaves, etc., but would come back when water was more available.

Chair Kelly made a motion to make an addendum to Section 34.7(a) paragraph 1 which now reads (NREC addenda red underlined) "Where the tree itself, its excess foliage or its limbs poses a reasonable risk of injury or harm to persons or property as shown by a risk assessment method as used by the ISA or some other professional arborist association, or is interfering with.....interference. However, the preference is to manage the risk through tree trimming and maintenance as a first method for managing risk." Margrave seconded the motion and the vote was 4-0 in favor of the motion.

Commissioner Margrave made a motion to make an addendum to Section 34.7(a) paragraph 4 which now reads "..... benefits or species. In cases of any new construction, tree replacement costs shall be paid for at the time of permit issuance." Chair Kelly seconded the motion and the vote was 4-0 in favor of the motion.

Commissioner Beadle made a motion to make an addendum to Section 34.7(a) paragraph 4 after Commissioner Margrave's addendum which now reads "Personal aesthetics cannot be used as grounds for tree removal." Chair Kelly seconded the motion and the vote was 3-1 in favor.

Item 4 of the agenda LA County's request for support of AB 87-Commissioner Margrave made a motion for the NREC to give its support to AB87 (the 25 cent tax on every plastic bag used). Chair Kelly seconded the motion. The vote was 4-0 in favor.

Review Parkway Improvement Ordinance: Chair Kelly made some recommendations for allowing residents more leeway in beautifying parkways. See attached.

Water Ordinance: Commissioner Beadle made a motion to propose having various smaller Xeriscapes planted around the city for maximum exposure and education for residents, rather than one large one. Sites include along Pasadena Avenue at the entrance to the nature park (a great promotion for the nature park). An agreed upon place in Garfield Park, at the War Memorial Park, one on the intersection of Monterey and Fair Oaks, one at the intersection of Huntington and Fair Oaks. Each site, if accessible by pedestrians, should have a plaque with information on the plants. Chair Kelly seconded the motion and the vote was 4-0 in favor.

As part of the water ordinance Commissioner Margrave showed an Electric Isolation Valve. This device will constrict water flow to alert the home owner when water is being used excessively. It does not completely cut off the supply. Only enough to allow water for drinking and cooking, re-filling toilets. Irrigation will not have enough pressure to work properly. Margrave also suggested that rental property owners have a yearly inspections of water usage by the city, and before a new renter is allowed to live in the house or apartment, water saving devices such as constrictors for shower heads and low flow toilets be installed.

Community Garden Planning: Chair Kelly told the commission that the Planning Commission is moving forward with zoning changes to allow community gardens, pocket parks, and dog runs to be established on vacant properties throughout the city subject to a conditional use permit. He said that NREC is expected to come up with recommendations for operating community gardens. They gave out a list of recommendations to talk about at the next scheduled meeting.

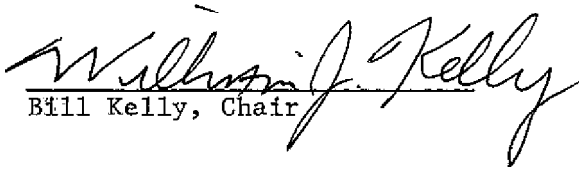
Items 9/10/11/12 were tabled.

Item 13: Commissioner Beadle mentioned that he would not be attending the June meeting as he will be on a vacation, but had started working on the 4th of July parade banner. The commission approved funds to pay for the materials.

No Chair Comments-

Commissioner Comments- Commissioner Margrave mentioned that he had made a deposit to buy an Aptera, a hybrid car that can achieve 300 miles per gallon.

Meeting adjourned at 9:35PM


Bill Kelly, Chair

MINUTES
NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
April 28, 2009

ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. Present were Chair Kelly and Commissioners David Beadle, John Silverthorn and David Margrave. Commissioner Harry Atwater arrived shortly thereafter. Commissioner Brian Knight was absent. Staff Liaison Diana Harder and Maintenance Superintendent Jesse Barajas were present. Council Liaison Michael Cacciotti, Public Works Director Matt Sweeney, City Attorney Richard Adams and Senior Planner John Mayer were present.

MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting of March 24, 2009 were approved as motioned by Commissioner Beadle and seconded by Chair Kelly by a vote of 4-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS – Barbara Eisenstein, 1852 Monterey Road, asked the Commission to consider a tiered system of water utility billing such that residents can understand when they are using water excessively. Commissioner Beadle asked that she send a link so he can take a look at a sample bill.

APPEAL OF APPROVAL OF TREE REMOVAL PERMIT – 2100 HANSCOM DRIVE

Staff Liaison Harder announced that this item is pulled from the agenda. Public Works Director Sweeney explained that Staff is evaluating CEQA requirements and until CEQA requirements have been satisfied the matter has been pulled from the agenda. The matter may return to the Commission following exploration of CEQA and permit procedures.

REVIEW PARKWAY IMPROVEMENT ORDINANCE

Commissioner Beadle expressed his desire to acknowledge Barbara Eisenstein for the positive aspects of her parkway planting in that it uses less water and invited her to speak first on the issue. She shared pictures and expressed her desire to allow native plants in the parkway and that she is not in favor of grass. Chair Kelly suggested that the Commission do further research and come back with suggestions at the next regular meeting.

CITY TREE REMOVALS

Maint. Super. Barajas explained that he is planning to remove a pepper tree that was set on fire at 1724 Huntington Drive. There are no further reports at this time as he is dealing with issues related to the Service Facilities fire earlier this month.

WATER ORDINANCE

Al Benzoni, 1617 Monterey Road, spoke regarding landscaping being the single highest cost of water and provided a power point presentation in favor of city implementation of a gray water system program that supports retrofitting to stub-out gray water systems and creating incentives to implement such systems. Chair Kelly has concerns with chemicals in gray water. Discussion ensued regarding meters that can be read by property owners to provide better awareness of water usage. Commissioner Margrave will bring a water meter to the next meeting that allows property owners to read their meters for water consumption. The Water Ordinance review continues with Commissioner Beadle taking Item #4 (to promote xeriscaping); Commissioner Margrave taking item #7 (to review irrigation systems); and, Chair Kelly taking item #9 (to sponsor an award program for xeriscape lawns). The Commission by consensus supports ideas provided by Planning & Building Department especially the signage suggestion (#6) for yards converted to xeriscaping.

COMMUNITY GARDEN PLANNING

Chair Kelly explained that this effort furthers the City's goal to improve the environment. The matter is going before the Planning Commission to discuss a zoning amendment to enable use of Caltrans lots for community gardens and Chair Kelly plans to attend that meeting. Chair Kelly provided a handout for Commission consideration of location, operation and standards & issues to establish a community garden in South Pasadena. The Commission added several items to the list of standards & issues and Chair Kelly

will revise the list for Commission recommendation. He explained further the U.C. Davis has a master garden program that provides personnel to operate and provide training for community gardens.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY OUTREACH

Commissioner Beadle explained that the School District is asking for recommendations from NREC on how to save money by conserving energy. His suggestions for the school include an energy audit (by SCE), a water audit, raising thermostats, installing an interruptible rate program with SCE for air conditioning systems, compact fluorescents, using power strips. Commissioner Beadle will write up the suggestions and provide it to the School District on behalf of the Commission.

LEVINE SOLAR FINANCING MEASURE AB 811

Councilman Schneider asked that the Commission review AB 811 that provides for financing of solar installations at homes and businesses through an assessment paid over a twenty-year period so these installations become affordable for property owners. Chair Kelly explained that Berkeley will test 40 installations this summer and we can track the success of that program. He also suggests that we explore bank loans so City acts in a facilitator capacity rather than loaning the money directly. Chair Kelly plans to gather more information and monitor the measure. This matter will remain on the agenda for further exploration and discussion.

PARK IMPACT FEE USE

Commissioner Beadle asked that this matter be tabled.

EARTH DAY/4TH OF JULY/CLEAN AIR CAR SHOW & ENVIRONMENTAL EXPO

Commissioner Beadle explained that the storm drain stenciling project for Earth Day was a success with the painting of seven stencils at Meridian & El Centro. The Commission continued planning for 4th of July participation including exploring the Theodore Payne Foundation to obtain pictures of native plants for the entry. The theme is "Save Water - Go Native" and plans to prepare a banner are underway. The Clean Air Car Show is going well and they are on schedule.

CHAIR COMMUNICATIONS - None.

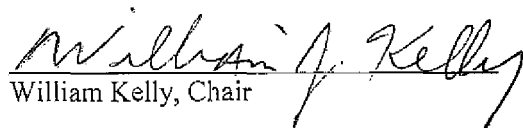
COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS - Commissioner Silverthorn noticed that a tree has been removed next to Buster's on Mission Street – Staff Liaison Harder will ask Maint. Super. Barajas to investigate the matter. Commissioner Margrave expressed his desire that the Commission consider Cisterns for water run off systems and asked that the matter be on the next regular agenda. Commissioner Beadle asked that the matter of appointing a Vice Chair be on the next regular agenda.

STAFF LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS - Staff Liaison Harder announced that she will be on vacation for the next regular NREC meeting and that the meeting will be held in the 2nd floor conference room at City Hall. She provided a handout of Economic Recovery Projects provided by Grants Analyst Tracey Perkosky for Commission interest.

COUNCIL LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS - Councilman Cacciotti made AQMD announcements, electronic lawn mower events, and encouraged Commissioners to attend a budget meeting on May 19 at 6:30 p.m. to make suggestions to fund improvements.

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned at 10:15 p.m.

NEXT MEETING - The next regular meeting of the Natural Resources and Environmental Commission will be held on Tuesday, May 26, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in the City Hall 2nd floor Conference Room.


William Kelly, Chair

MINUTES
NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
March 24, 2009

ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m. Present were Chair Kelly and Commissioners David Beadle, John Silverthorn and Harry Atwater. Commissioners Brian Knight and David Margrave were absent. Vice Chair Bissner has resigned. Staff Liaison Diana Harder and Maintenance Superintendent Jesse Barajas were present. Council Liaison Michael Cacciotti and Public Works Director Sweeney were present.

MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting of February 24, 2009 were approved as motioned by Commissioner Beadle and seconded by Commissioner Atwater by a vote of 4-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS – None.

CITY TREE REMOVALS

Maint. Super. Barajas reports that a couple of Magnolia trees at Columbia & Fremont, east side, are declining and he is watching them to see if they recover; another on Pasadena Avenue near the Tyco building is also suffering and he is treating some trees with watering and surfactant to moisten soil and help the trees acclimate. One tree at each venue at this time will have to be removed.

GREEN TRAINING PROGRAM

Chair Kelly asked for the removal of this item from the agenda.

GREEN PURCHASING POLICY

Chair Kelly submitted a written policy for consideration by the Commission. Discussion ensued. Commissioner Beadle suggested a "Zero Waste Event" policy and asks that the matter be on the next regular agenda for further discussion; the principal is to regulate events such as festivals and farmer's markets so that they use biodegradable paper and not Styrofoam; use corn starch utensils and generally, more environmentally friendly products during their events. Commissioner Atwater emphasized the need to eliminate paper to the greatest extent possible and feels that programs and database development costs could be recovered in paper cost saved by the City. Education and outreach would be an additional cost. The change would include an on-line bill pay program and on-line permit processing for a start. The biggest benefit is to eliminate paper costs at approximately \$500,000 per year in the city's budget. Chair Kelly went over his green purchasing policy item by item and changes will be incorporated into a final policy for submittal. Commissioner Atwater made a motion to approve the Green Purchasing Policy as amended, the motion was seconded by Commissioner Beadle and all members were in favor, 4-0.

MANAGEMENT OF DEAD, DYING & DISEASED PARKWAY TREES

Maint. Super. Barajas apologized for confusing the commission with the issue of trees and concrete interferences and redirected the commission to develop a long-range plan to address the rapidly aging tree inventory. Barajas will do a tree inventory in July to identify trees by age, per street. Barajas explained that at 56 years old trees can be evaluated for decline or acclimation – it is a breaking point. Knowing the current age and the expected life expectancy the Commission is tasked with coming up with a long range replacement plan, costs, and suggestions on how to implement the plan. Maint. Super. Barajas will generate a map and provide handout materials at the next regular meeting.

PARK IMPACT FEE USE

Commissioner Beadle did not go to the Parks & Recreation meeting this month. He did walk down the old trail that runs from Arroyo Drive down into Arroyo Park. He plans to explore the possibility of re-opening and rebuilding this path as a new access point. In addition, Commissioner Beadle plans to petition for public support of the plan and will take photos to better identify the area.

EARTH DAY/4TH OF JULY/CLEAN AIR CAR SHOW & ENVIRONMENTAL EXPO

Commissioner Beadle set a date of Saturday, April 18 at 2p.m. for his community project to paint storm drain stencils in a select area near the Farmer's Market. He attended a Youth Commission meeting to solicit support and may have Key Club members interested. Also, Commissioner Beadle suggests the Commission donate a tree for Earth Day and help kick off the Tree Dedication Program again this year.

The Commission's theme for this year's 4th of July parade is "Go Native". Commissioner Beadle solicited the interest of Kelly Conte to help with costumes. Commissioners are asked to bring a list of native plants to the next meeting. The entry may include the Plastic Vomit Monster to continue the campaign to discourage use of plastic bags at grocery stores.

Councilman Cacciotti gave an update on the car show and said planning is going well. The Commission wants to maintain the "Go Native" theme in the booth at the Car Show.

CHAIR COMMUNICATIONS - Chair Kelly plans to explore a published guide on community gardens produced by UC Davis and will report back at the next regular meeting. Community Gardens will be on the agenda next time.

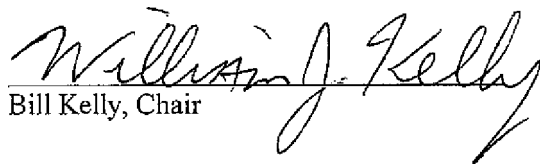
COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS - Commissioner Atwater reported on community issues regarding water use and trees and concrete and discovered that residents prefer trees to displaced sidewalks. Commissioner Silverthorn shared his concerns for follow up on tree planting and the process of approving and denying tree removals. Commissioner Beadle shared his concerns for the recent sewer spill and would like to donate a tree for the center median on El Cerrito Circle.

STAFF LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS - Staff Liaison Harder announced that the Commission meeting in June will have a location change and asked where the Commission would like to meet. Chair Kelly asked for the Library 2nd floor Conference Room if possible. She also shared comments from City Council on recommended changes to the Water Conservation Ordinance.

COUNCIL LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS - Councilman Cacciotti announced meetings that the Commission may be interested in attending.

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

NEXT MEETING - The next regular meeting of the Natural Resources and Environmental Commission will be held on Tuesday, April 28, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.


Bill Kelly, Chair

MINUTES
NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
February 24, 2009

ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. Present were Chair Kelly and Commissioners Beadle, John Silverthorn and Brian Knight. Commissioner Harry Atwater arrived at 7:20 p.m. and Commissioner David Margrave arrived at 7:25 p.m. Vice Chair Lela Bissner was absent. Staff Liaison Diana Harder and Maintenance Superintendent Jesse Barajas were present. Council Liaison Michael Cacciotti arrived at 8:20 p.m.

MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting of January 27, 2009 were approved as motioned by Commissioner Beadle and seconded by Commissioner Silverthorn and approved 3-1 (Commissioner Knight abstaining).

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS – None.

APPLICATION FOR TREE REMOVAL – 2100 HANSCOM DRIVE

Caroline Halili, applicant, explained reasons for requesting the removal of a 20" diameter California Pepper tree on her property that is within 5' of the proposed footprint of the property. Commissioner Silverthorn made a motion to approve removal of the pepper tree with the planting of two 24" box replacement trees; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Beadle and all members were in favor, 4-0.

APPLICATION FOR TREE REMOVAL – 250 HILLSIDE DRIVE

James Farmer, agent for owner, shared photos and a foundation report to explain reasons for requesting the removal of a 17" dbh olive tree (A), a 17" dbh elm tree (B) and a 15" dbh ficus tree (F) on the property. A 4th tree is dead and will be inspected by Maint. Super. Barajas prior to approval. Discussion ensued. Commissioner Beadle made a motion to approve the removal of trees A & F on the plans with the planting of four (4) 24" box minimum size replacement trees and to deny tree B as it was outside the 3 times diameter to any structures on the site; suggesting further that the tree may be trimmed to relieve issues with the tree and roof interference problems; the motion was seconded by Chair Kelly and all members were in favor, 5-0.

APPLICATION FOR TREE REMOVAL – 740 GARFIELD AVENUE

Charles Sammis, applicant, shared an arborist report and explained reasons for requesting the removal a 14" diameter podocarpus and a 32" western sycamore tree on the property. The podocarpus is within 3 times its diameter to the backyard pool and the sycamore is within 3 times its diameter to the house and encroaching on adjacent oak trees on the property. Charles Sammis further explained that his property is full of fruit trees and lined with trees and live oaks; he has planted in excess of 15 trees on the property. Commissioner Silverthorn made a motion to approve removal of the podocarpus tree; the motion was seconded by Chair Kelly and all members were in favor, 6-0. Commissioner Atwater made a motion to approve removal of the Western Sycamore tree; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Margrave and all members were in favor, 6-0. Commission Margrave made a motion that the property owner plant three (3) 24" box minimum size replacement trees, a number reduced due to ample trees on the lot; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Atwater and all members were in favor, 6-0.

CITY TREE REMOVALS

Maint. Super. Barajas has no tree removals to report.

ACTION PLAN TO REPLACE LANDSCAPING IN MEDIANS

Maint. Super. Barajas shared a landscape plan for the planting of drought tolerant ground cover in the median at Huntington Drive and Fair Oaks Avenue. The cost is approximately \$24,000 and the area it covers is approximately 160' x 300'. Discussion ensued regarding benefits of such planting and water savings achieved by such an installation. Concerns about trampling the new plants were discussed and concerns with water savings. Commissioner Harry Atwater made a motion to recommend to City Council that it seek funding from the USGVMWD to re-plant medians in town in such a way as to promote drought tolerant groundcover, promote water conservation, and thereby set an example of

planting practices that could be further replicated throughout the city; the motion was seconded by Chair Kelly and the motion passed by a vote of 6-0.

MANAGEMENT OF DEAD, DYING & DISEASED PARKWAY TREES

Maint. Super. Barajas reached out to other cities in his pursuit of a plan to manage the aging urban forest and planting of vacant sites as species die. He handed out a list of Goals & Objectives for the Commission to consider and asked that the Commission establish goals for South Pasadena. He has requested a re-inventory of parkway trees that will include the declining species. He explained some common practices to meander sidewalks around trees. In an effort to establish goals, Commissioner Atwater suggested the Commission reach out to the public to generate comments on trees and sidewalks issues. Chair Kelly suggested the commission develop a post card with a free mail back. Commissioner Margrave suggested a focus group mailer. Maint. Super. Barajas is asked to provide 3 or 4 locations that have issues. The Commission plans to develop a questionnaire at the next meeting. They ask Staff Liaison Harder to announce the meeting for public attendance.

GREEN TRAINING PROGRAM

Chair Kelly provided a handout for posting on the City's website. He suggested that the links he provides be through a Central Index Page that would provide an introduction and Question of the Month as part of its format. Commissioner Atwater suggested an event page and to develop themes to further Green Training ideas.

GREEN PURCHASING POLICY

Chair Kelly and Commissioner Atwater have reviewed the City Budget and expenses that individual departments incur as part of its operations. One critical path for cost savings is the use of paper by the City and they recommend the use of electronic devices to the extent possible to eliminate paper including electronic permits, on-line forms, etc. They plan to bring complete recommendations to the next regular meeting as it develops. They also asked that Tracey Perkosky, Grants Analyst, provide a report on the stimulus funds and what we will use them for at the next meeting.

PARK IMPACT FEE USE

Commissioner Beadle attended a Parks and Recreation meeting to suggest the use of park impact fees to develop a path from Arroyo Drive into Arroyo Park. Parks and Rec. did not support the idea readily, having concerns with parking and crime on Arroyo Drive. Commissioner Beadle will explore the possibility of using park impact fees to improve an existing path on Arroyo Drive into the Arroyo Park that has deteriorated over the years. Commissioner Atwater suggested a bicycle rack at the top of the path.

EARTH DAY/4TH OF JULY/CLEAN AIR CAR SHOW & ENVIRONMENTAL EXPO

Commissioner Beadle suggested a storm drain stencil project for Earth Day this year. They have done this in years past with great success using high school students. An area he has identified that needs restenciling is near the Farmer's Market. Earth Day this year will be Saturday, April 25. Chair Kelly suggested a native plant theme for 4th of July parade participation this year. Commissioner Beadle will contact Kelly Conte to help with the event again this year. Commissioner Atwater suggested a "What Do You Know About Being Green" concept for the parade. The Clean Air Car Show & Environmental Expo this year is on Sunday, July 26. The NREC requests a 10 x 10 booth.

CHAIR COMMUNICATIONS - Chair Kelly explained his desire to pursue a community garden in South Pasadena and plans to do research on the topic and look at candidate sites in So. Pas.

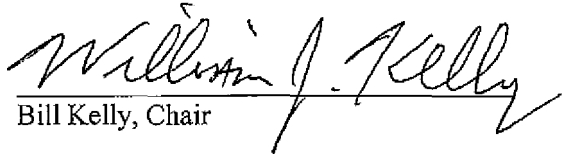
COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS - None.

STAFF LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS - Staff Liaison Harder shared success of Christmas tree recycling program again this year; Water System tours on April 4 and 25th; and an announcement coming out in next issue of Neighbor's Community Newsletter to announce the availability of an opt-out to receive the City newsletter electronically.

COUNCIL LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS - Councilman Cacciotti explained that he knows of a few lots that could be good for community gardens; explained issues with film trucks and idling concerns; the CNG station failed but he would like to bring it back in the future.

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned at 10:20 p.m.

NEXT MEETING - The next regular meeting of the Natural Resources and Environmental Commission will be held on Tuesday, March 24, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.


Bill Kelly, Chair

MINUTES
NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
January 27, 2009

ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Present were Chair Kelly, Vice Chair Lela Bissner and Commissioners David Beadle and John Silverthorn. Commissioner David Margrave arrived shortly thereafter. Commissioner Atwater arrived at approximately 9pm. Commissioner Brian Knight was absent. Staff Liaison Diana Harder and Maintenance Superintendent Jesse Barajas were present. Council Liaison Michael Cacciotti arrived shortly thereafter.

MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting of December 15, 2008 were approved with minor corrections as motioned by Chair Kelly and seconded by Commissioner Beadle and all members were in favor, 4-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS – None.

APPLICATION FOR TREE REMOVAL – 1727 FLETCHER AVENUE

Karen Sima, applicant, shared photos and explained reasons for requesting the removal of a 1-2' diameter camphor tree on her property. Commissioner Beadle made a motion to approve removal of the camphor tree because it is within 3 times its diameter to the house, the motion was seconded by Vice Chair Bissner and all members were in favor, 5-0.

APPLICATION FOR TREE REMOVAL – 534 GRAND AVENUE

Staff Liaison Harder was asked to copy 3rd page of letter from applicant and Commission took a short recess to allow for distribution of the material. Yolanda Benson, applicant, shared photos, a site plan, and explained reasons for requesting the removal of a 34.5" dbh stone pine tree on her property. Commissioner Margrave made a motion to approve removal of the stone pine due to its proximity to the house (34" away from structure) with the planting of four (4) 24" box minimum size replacement trees; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Silverthorn and all members were in favor, 5-0.

APPLICATION FOR TREE REMOVAL – 1110 PINE STREET

John Anderson, applicant, shared photos and explained reasons for requesting the removal of a 12" dbh oak tree on his property. Applicant explained that he currently has 29 large trees on his property. Commissioner Beadle made a motion to approve removal of the oak tree due to its proximity to the structure with the planting of two (2) 24" box native species (fewer trees due to the number of trees existing on the lot); the motion was seconded by Commissioner Silverthorn and all members were in favor, 5-0.

APPLICATION FOR TREE REMOVAL – 191 MONTEREY ROAD

Ma Twen, developer for the applicant (Valen Cheng), and Ben Lungren of Lungren & Assoc. shared photos and explained reasons for requesting the removal of 24 trees on the development at 191 Monterey Road. The planting plan submitted showed 63 new trees. Commissioner Beadle made a motion to approve removal of 24 trees, adding tree #1 on the plan to the application, with the planting of replacement trees as documented on the landscape plans; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Margrave and all members were in favor, 5-0. The Commission recommends the trimming of oak trees #19, #20 and #21 on the plans to better maintain them during construction.

CITY TREE REMOVALS

Maint. Super. Barajas plans to remove a dead tree at 1821 Oliver an 18" dbh eucalyptus species. Chair Kelly asked Barajas to look at a dead magnolia tree near his home on the west side of Milan Avenue. Commissioner Beadle asked about watering in parks. Maint. Barajas explained that the irrigation system uses a weather station to prevent overwatering, but broken sprinkler heads are a problem and he's looking into replacing them with mp rotators that are a higher elevation and provide better watering. He seeks grant funding for purchase of improvements.

GREEN TRAINING PROGRAM

Chair Kelly requested this item be carried over to the next regular meeting.

TREE ORDINANCE

Staff asked for clarification on the criteria suggested at the last meeting as follows:

- 1.) Reduction in energy use when trees are planted to shade structures; Staff asks how energy use will be verified. Staff is directed to share the calculation provided by SMUD that provides a method for quantifying the benefit of shade trees.
- 2.) Reduction in water use when planting native species, etc.; staff asks if this is saying removals will be approved if they plant drought tolerant plants instead of replacement trees. Commission explains that this will not include plants, only trees.
- 3.) Promotion of native species; Staff asked what the difference is with #2 above. Commission responds that while replacement trees are required under normal permit process, with this criteria, the applicant will be required to provide a tree planting plan prior to permit approval outlining how native trees will be planted on the property.
- 4.) Increasing the number of trees on the property. Staff asks if the current replacement tree policy automatically increases the number of trees in every case. The Commission explains that this is not necessarily true since the current policy prevents some removals and in those cases there is no gain in the number of trees. By allowing these additional criteria for removal, it could result in a net increase in the number of trees planted as well as insure that those newly planted trees provide more environmental benefits than the ones removed.
- 5.) Preserving wildlife habitats; Staff asks how removing a tree preserves wildlife habitats. The commission says this item should be removed from the list.
- 6.) When trees are planted to abate urban noise;
- 7.) When planting larger tree size. Staff asks if larger means larger diameter or larger tree species. The commission explains that this applies to larger tree species.

Discussion ensued. Maint. Super. Barajas suggested that diversity is the key to planting trees on private property – not so much the native species exclusively.

REPLACEMENT TREES

Commissioner Beadle explained that viable trees that must be removed on construction lots should require more stringent replacement tree requirements. Commissioner Beadle made a motion to amend the replacement tree formula on construction sites as follows:

Non-native tree removals

One 24" box tree for each 6" in diameter, or portion thereof (Example: the removal of a 36" diameter mature tree (any species) would require 6 (six) 24" box replacement trees).

Native species removal

Two 24" box native trees for each 6" in diameter, or portion thereof. (Example: the removal of a 36" diameter oak tree would require 12 (twelve) 24" box native species replacement trees.)

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Margrave and all members were in favor, 6-0.

GREEN PURCHASING POLICY

Chair Kelly requested that this item be carried over to the next regular meeting. Commissioner Atwater received his budget book. Some discussion includes electronic documents so that residents can opt-out of receiving the Community Newsletter via mail; recycled content paper and biodegradable cups.

Commissioner Atwater made a motion to recommend that the City accept from AQMD a CNG police vehicle to conduct a field test as a first element of its green purchasing policy. The motion was seconded by Chair Kelly and all members were in favor, 6-0.

SET PRIORITIES FOR 2009

Commissioner Atwater would like to work on a bicycle or transportation plans for South Pasadena; Chair Kelly is interested in green building and community gardens; and xeriscaping. Commissioner Beadle asked that Earth Day be put on the agenda and also 4th of July and Clean Air Car Show and Environmental Expo.

CHAIR COMMUNICATIONS - None.

COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS - Commissioner Silverthorn suggested that education is key to removing trees that are planting in a bad location early. Commissioner Atwater suggested commissioners keep sharp eye on stimulus package and opportunities that may help government. Commissioner Beadle will meet with Parks & Recreation Commission about the Park Impact Fee and its use to develop a new access point from Arroyo Parkway into the Arroyo Park. Vice Chair Bissner explained that Scott Feldman attended a So. Pas. Beautiful meeting to explain a fundraiser he is putting together for tree wells on Mission Street.

STAFF LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS - Staff Liaison Harder explained that there will be two items coming to the Commission in February from Maint. Super. Barajas regarding a plan to replace all existing landscaping in the median at Huntington and Fair Oaks with drought tolerant native planting; and a report on how to manage and replace dead, dying and diseased trees throughout the City.

COUNCIL LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS - Councilman Cacciotti gave an update on the car show this year and reminded Commissioners that there is a water tour of water infrastructure in February.

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned at 10:10 p.m.

NEXT MEETING - The next regular meeting of the Natural Resources and Environmental Commission will be held on Tuesday, February 24, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.



Bill Kelly, Chair

MINUTES
NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
December 15, 2008

ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Present were Chair Kelly and Commissioners David Beadle, John Silverthorn and Brian Knight. Vice Chair Lela Bissner and Commissioner David Margrave were absent. Commissioner Harry Atwater arrived at 8:30 p.m. Staff Liaison Diana Harder was present. Maintenance Superintendent Jesse Barajas was absent. Council Liaison Michael Cacciotti arrived at 8:30 p.m.

MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting of November 25, 2008 were approved as motioned by Commissioner Beadle and seconded by Commissioner Silverthorn and all members were in favor, 4-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS – None.

APPLICATION FOR TREE REMOVAL – 708 ORANGE GROVE TERRACE

Elizabeth Kho, representative for applicant, and Rock Mackenzie, arborist, explained reasons for requesting the removal of 2 remaining deodars on the property including one tree that had outgrown its planter and was somewhat of a hazard, 8-9' away from a stone planter with a restricted root system and no tap root growing over roof. Rock McKenzie said eventually it would fail. The smaller tree behind it has had its limbs cut for Edison line clearing and 180 degree of roots have been cut by the neighbor for construction; Mackenzie believes the tree is stressed out and doesn't think it will recover. Discussion ensued. Commissioner Beadle made a motion to approve removal of the 2 deodar trees with the planting of six (6) 24" box minimum size replacement trees; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Silverthorn and passed with a vote of 4-0.

CITY TREE REMOVALS

No report.

GREEN TRAINING PROGRAM

Chair Kelly explained that the Green Program is a significant IT project and will require the development of web pages. It is most easily accomplished by creating a link to Pasadena's pages. Creating links provides good education. Staff Liaison Harder will check to see if there is a wireless connection in the Council Chambers. Chair Kelly asks that all commissioners come in with good ideas for links on the city's web page and following development would like to announce the new web pages in the Summer Issue of Neighbor's Community Newsletter.

REPLACEMENT TREES

Commissioner Beadle explained his recommendation on replacement trees for construction sites to increase overall tree canopy because construction is a direct destruction of trees for building and not the hardship that they often encounter for trees on developed lots that are dead, dying, diseased or destroying private property. Also, it is discovered that developer's landscape plans often exceed the replacement formula currently being used. Commissioner Beadle made a motion to adopt new replacement formula for construction, but receive no second on the motion. Commissioner Beadle suggested the matter be rolled over to the January meeting when a full commission may be present.

TREE ORDINANCE

Staff Liaison Harder added the October 7 minutes to discussion materials on this item. Discussion ensued. Chair Kelly made a motion that the Tree Ordinance be amended to provide for removal of trees under the following new criterion: "Significant trees may be removed when tree planting provides greater benefits than the existing tree's value, benefits or species". With this new criterion the Commission would establish guidelines to help applicants demonstrate greater benefits including, but no limited to:

- 1.) reduction in energy use when trees are planted to shade structures;

- 2.) reduction in water use when planting native species, etc.;
- 3.) promotion of native species;
- 4.) increasing the number of trees on the property;
- 5.) preserving wildlife habitats;
- 6.) when trees are planted to abate urban noise;
- 7.) when planting larger tree sizes

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Atwater and all members were in favor, 5-0.

WATER CONSERVATION

Chair Kelly presented a report he prepared to support the Water Conservation Ordinance. Overall he felt that the Ordinance language was fine, but lacked enforcement. Commissioner Beadle would like to see a financial hit of some kind. Chair Kelly made a motion to recommend the following:

- Conduct outreach to educate residents of the critical nature of the region's water supply. This could be done by publicizing and holding a special briefing to the council on the water supply situation and by urging residents to observe the ordinance. In addition, a plain English one-page fact sheet distilling the ordinance could be distributed to local businesses and residents as an appeal to conserve water. Ads could be placed in the paper periodically and appeals to conserve placed in water bills and in the city newsletter.
- Set up a telephone hotline and e-mail link on its website to anonymously report violations of the ordinance. The website would also provide plain English information on the ordinance. The enforcement hotline and e-mail tip link could be publicized through the city water bill mailings, city newsletter, and the local newspaper.
- Promote xeriscaping by converting some city parkway areas from lawn to native vegetation, as well as hosting an educational seminar for residents on native plant gardens. NREC could help with these tasks.
- Develop a budget for such outreach and enforcement funded by a modest surcharge on bimonthly water bills. This amount likely would be small.
- Looking longer term, should dry conditions continue and regional rationing be imposed, the city may want to establish an increasing block rate structure for water usage and use increased payments paid by the biggest water users to fund xeriscaping and other water conservation programs. This may be considered as part of the water rate study currently being reviewed.
- Review and invest in new irrigation systems with timers and up-to-date technologies including rain sensors for parks to prevent overwatering parks and parkland areas.
- Assess opportunities for water conservation as part of the annual report and assess on a year by year basis the effect of water conservation issues on reducing water use.
- Sponsor award program for resident's who xeriscape lawn areas.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Beadle and all members were in favor, 5-0.

Staff Liaison Harder is asked to have Maint. Super. Barajas explain irrigation systems currently in parks, parkways and medians at the next regular meeting.

GREEN PURCHASING POLICY

Chair Kelly explained that some research is necessary prior to recommending a Green Purchasing Policy for the City. Chair Kelly and Commissioner Atwater will review the City Budget for materials and supplies expenses by department and apply that information to a purchasing policy plan so that it applies to what the city purchases. Following review of the city budget and possibly interviews with individual departments, Chair Kelly and Com. Atwater will establish a policy for recommendation to the Commission.

RESIDENTS GUIDE TO TREE REMOVALS

Chair Kelly made a motion to amend the Resident's Guide to Tree Removals to include the submission of a diagram showing existing tree(s) on site including common names of tree species and dbh (diameter at breast height) for all trees on the lot. This is to be added as a bullet point to the last section of the first page of the resident's guide under "... to complete the application form". In accordance with CMC Section 34.7b(1) and (3) the Commission may consider existing tree(s) onsite to serve as replacement tree(s) upon commission approval. This will encourage residents to consider and care for their entire landscape plan when planting additional replacement trees on their residential properties.

LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR EDISON TREES

Chair Kelly prepared a letter to Southern California Edison asking that they strongly consider planting some trees in South Pasadena as part of the forthcoming carbon offset program. Chair Kelly made a motion to approve a draft letter to Edison for these purposes; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Atwater and all members were in favor, 5-0. Staff Liaison Harder is directed to print the letter out on City Letterhead for Chair Kelly's signature.

SET PRIORITIES FOR 2009

Continue to January meeting for further discussion.

CHAIR COMMUNICATIONS - None.


COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS - Commissioner Beadle asked for next meeting the Commission consider park impact fee uses as part of priorities discussion for 2009.

STAFF LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS - Staff Liaison Harder is preparing the application for Tree City USA and Growth Award and asked for suggestions on obtaining points to meet the criteria for the Growth Award.

COUNCIL LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS - Councilman Cacciotti invited Commissioners to a tour of water facilities taking place in January; explained that the City is looking for a CNG slow fill facility and other alternative vehicle charging stations that may be used by the public; he asks for any thoughts as he helps develop a new contract for the Golf Course including a banquet building that will be LEED certified.

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned at 10:30 p.m.

NEXT MEETING - The next regular meeting of the Natural Resources and Environmental Commission will be held on Tuesday, January 27, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.



Bill Kelly, Chair

MINUTES
NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
November 25, 2008

ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. Present were Vice Chair Lela Bissner and Commissioners David Beadle, Harry Atwater and John Silverthorn. Chair Bill Kelly arrived at 7:25 p.m. Commissioner Brian Knight has an excused absence and Commissioner David Margrave was absent. Staff Liaison Diana Harder and Maintenance Superintendent Jesse Barajas were present. Council Liaison Michael Cacciotti was absent.

MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting of October 7, 2008 were approved with a correction to the 1125 Stratford item such that Commissioner Beadle made the motion and the second was made by Commissioner Margrave. The motion to approve was made by Vice Chair Lela and the second was made by Commissioner Beadle and the minutes were approved 3-1 (Silverthorn abstaining).

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS – None.

APPLICATION FOR TREE REMOVAL – 801 LA BELLORITA

Doris Johnson, applicant, explained reasons for requesting the removal of a 24" diameter Monterey pine tree on her property and shared photos to demonstrate damages due to the extensive tree root system. Discussion ensued. Commissioner Beadle made a motion to recommend removal of the pine tree due to hardship with the planting of two (2) 24-inch box minimum size replacement trees; the motion was seconded by Vice Chair Bissner and the motion passed, 4-1.

APPLICATION FOR TREE REMOVAL – 805/07 BRENT AVENUE

Thomas Bulmahn, applicant, shared pictures and explained reasons for requesting the removal of an 18" diameter liquid ambar tree on his property. The tree is located within 3 times its diameter to the house. Commissioner Beadle made a motion to approve removal of the liquid ambar tree with the planting of two (2) 24" box minimum size replacement trees; the motion was seconded by Vice Chair Bissner and passed by a vote of 4-1 (abstaining).

APPLICATION FOR TREE REMOVAL – 2049 MILAN AVENUE

Virginia Paca, landscape designer for the project, explained reasons for requesting the removal of two orange trees measuring 12" and 15" in diameter that are located in the footprint of 2 new covered parking spaces required by the development. The placement of the covered parking spaces preserves other trees on the lot. Commissioner Beadle made a motion to approve removal of the orange trees due to construction with the planting of four (4) 24" box minimum size replacement trees. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Bissner and the motion passed 4-1 (abstaining).

APPLICATION FOR TREE REMOVAL – 1727 FLETCHER AVENUE

Karen Sima, applicant, explained reasons for requesting the removal of a 1-2' diameter camphor tree on her property. By consensus the Commission made a recommendation to table the request pending further documentation to support the reasons for requesting the removal, including photos of the tree. They also asked for an inventory of trees on the lot to determine the number of replacement trees required by such a permit. The specific dbh of the tree should also be provided.

APPLICATION FOR TREE REMOVAL – 708 ORANGE GROVE TERRACE

Elizabeth Kho, representative of applicant, explained reasons for requesting the removal of two (2) remaining deodar trees on the property at 708 Orange Grove Terrace and provided an arborist report from Rock's Tree & Hillside Service. Chair Kelly explained that the report from Rock's was not clear and referred to only one tree. Discussion ensued regarding financial hardship to rent the property due to tenants fear as referenced in a letter of support dated 7/3/08. Maint. Super. Barajas explained that there was a break in continuity from the report from Arbor Care Inc. and Rock's arborist report. Chair Kelly

deferred the decision on the permit pending a site visit, clarification on the ambiguous arborist report and financial hardship for which there was no documentation. Chair Kelly also read the last page of the Arbor Care report and asked that an updated report from Arbor Care be provided for re-evaluation based on findings in the first report.

CITY TREE REMOVALS

Maint. Super. Barajas explained that a deodar tree 245 Fair Oaks had to be removed due to decay. Also a carob tree behind the elementary school on Stratford is declining. Vice Chair Bissner asked that Jesse look at a tree cut in half at 1885 Peterson.

GREEN TRAINING PROGRAM

Tabled.

REPLACEMENT TREES

Tabled.

TREE ORDINANCE

Tabled.

WATER CONSERVATION

Tabled.

XERISCAPE GARDEN BICYCLE TOUR

Tabled.

BIKE STORAGE AT GOLD LINE STATION

Tabled.

CHAIR COMMUNICATIONS - Chair Kelly would like to reschedule the meeting to Monday, December 15 at 7pm to address all tabled items as well as a return of the application for 708 Orange Grove Terrace. Several items to add to the agenda include an item to set priorities for the coming year and asks that Council Liaison Cacciotti provide what the Council would like to see the Commission accomplish for 2009 (include copy of support letter for Park Improvement Fee) Also an item to revise the Residents Guide to Tree Removals. They also want to see the bicycle plan go through and feel their input is environmental in nature. Chair Kelly asked to be added to the list of persons to receive the Transportation Com. agendas.

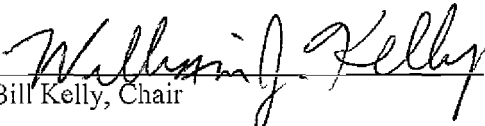
COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS - The Commission welcomed newest commissioner John Silverthorn and everyone shared a little about themselves.

STAFF LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS - Staff Liaison Harder shared results of Dumpster Day and announced an item to be added to the agenda next time is a discussion and recommendation on a Green Purchasing Policy for South Pasadena.

COUNCIL LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS - None.

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

NEXT MEETING - The next regular meeting of the Natural Resources and Environmental Commission will be held on Monday, December 15, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. in the City Hall, 2nd Floor Conference Room.


Bill Kelly, Chair

MINUTES
NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
October 7, 2008

ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. Present were Chair Bill Kelly, Vice Chair Lela Bissner and Commissioners David Beadle, Harry Atwater, Brian Knight, and David Margrave. Staff Liaison Diana Harder and Maintenance Superintendent Jesse Barajas were present. Council Liaison Michael Cacciotti was present.

MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting of August 26, 2008 were approved with minor corrections to spelling "You Tube" and "embedded" in Green Training Program item; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Atwater and all were in favor, 6-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS – None.

APPLICATION FOR TREE REMOVAL – 822 ARROYO DRIVE

Charles Osthelder, new owner and applicant, explained reasons for requesting the removal of an 18" diameter podocarpus tree that is 8" from the foundation of his property and crowding another tree. Commissioner Beadle made a motion to allow removal of the podocarpus tree with the planting of two (2) 24-inch box minimum size replacement trees; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Margrave and all members were in favor, 6-0.

APPLICATION FOR TREE REMOVAL – 1125 STRATFORD AVENUE

Robert and Diane Wilken, applicants, explained reasons for requesting the removal of a 28" diameter oak tree that is raising the foundation of their garage; trimming the tree has not been successful to resolve the interference and the garage can be repaired if the tree is removed. A tree inventory for their lot was submitted to show many trees existing and cared for on the lot. Commissioner Beadle made a motion to approve removal of the oak tree with the planting of one (1) 36-inch box oak tree and two (2) 24-inch box oak tree replacements; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Margrave and all members were in favor, 6-0.

APPLICATION FOR TREE REMOVAL – 1039 MONTROSE AVENUE

Mike and Clair Wallace, applicants, explained reasons for requesting the removal of a 43" diameter Box Elder tree that is on the foundation and leaning on the roof line of their home; an arborist report was submitted. Commissioner Beadle made a motion to approve removal of the tree with the planting of five (5) 24-inch box minimum size replacement trees; the motion was seconded by Vice Chair Bissner and all members were in favor, 6-0.

CITY TREE REMOVALS

Maint. Super. Barajas shared a photo of a Glassy-eyed Sharpshooter; an insect that is a pest in South Pasadena. He explained that the insect will be monitored by placing "sticky traps" to determine the extent of infestation. A liquidambar tree at 1017 Montrose was removed because of this insect.

GREEN TRAINING PROGRAM

This matter is tabled to the November regular meeting.

REPLACEMENT TREES

Chair Beadle developed a policy for replacement trees for construction. Staff Liaison Harder explained that she has not as yet included language with the current policy to allow flexibility for planting requirement trees based on the existing trees on the lot, in accordance with CMC. Staff Liaison Harder is asked to amend the current policy sheet/handout to include the changes for adoption at the next regular meeting. Information provided by Commissioner Margrave for City of San Marino and all prior communications, including minutes, are to be included for the discussion item next time.

TREE ORDINANCE

Chair Kelly provided a handout explaining a tool that has been developed to show energy saved by planting shade trees based on the location, species, etc. of the tree planting. It is provided by the Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD). This tool can help determine the benefits of planting shade trees on a lot. Chair Kelly made a motion for the following 4th criteria language to allow tree removals on private property when:

“It is deemed by the Commission to be necessary or compelling to the property owner’s quality of life or to prevent detriment to the City AND meets the following conditions:

- 1.) the tree is not taller than 15 feet;
- 2.) the tree is a non-native species;
- 3.) replacement of the tree will result in energy savings when replacement tree(s) are mature as demonstrated using SMUD’s Tree Benefit Estimator.”

Discussion ensued. Chair Kelly withdrew his motion. The Commission will continue to explore language suitable as a 4th criteria to the Tree Ordinance. The matter will continue to the next regular agenda.

WATER CONSERVATION

This matter is tabled to the November regular meeting.

ANNUAL REPORT TO CITY COUNCIL

Chair Kelly shared his annual report on commission activities and accomplishments with the Commission. Discussion ensued and suggestions were incorporated into the final report. Staff Liaison Harder will provide the number of tree applications the NREC has addressed for the last year to include in the report.

XERISCAPE GARDEN BICYCLE TOUR

No report.

BIKE STORAGE AT GOLD LINE STATION

No report.

CHAIR COMMUNICATIONS - Chair Kelly would like to streamline meetings to make them more formal and to establish procedures to follow to schedule items on the agenda and keep things within a time frame for each item.

COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS - Commissioner Atwater spoke with residents who like the planting of trees on streets with same species. Vice Chair Bissner explained that So. Pas. Beautiful has funds available for small beautification projects and is currently working on the Library – this is an item for the agenda next time. Commissioner Beadle asks commissioners to come on time or call 3 hours before the meeting to get an excused absence. Commissioner Margrave asks that the Commission consider a “Chair Review” process for tree removal applications so the Commission can spend more time on other items on the agenda.

STAFF LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS - Staff Liaison Harder announced that she will not be able to attend the October 28 regular meeting of the Commission and Chair Kelly will ask someone on the Commission to take minutes of that meeting.

COUNCIL LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS - Council Liaison Cacciotti asked Staff Liaison Harder to get an update on the bicycle plan from Tony C. of the Transportation Commission and Design Advisory Group especially as relates to the swale and use that area may have as a bike path. The DAG is currently considering a Fair Oaks Corridor item on their agenda that should incorporate NREC’s concerns with regard to a bike path. He shared information regarding banning leaf blowers and solar/wind technology at reservoir sites.

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned at 10:15 p.m.

NEXT MEETING - The next regular meeting of the Natural Resources and Environmental Commission will be held on Tuesday, October 28, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.


Bill Kelly, Chair

MINUTES
NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
August 26, 2008

ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 p.m. Present were Chair David Beadle, Vice Chair Lela Bissner and Commissioners Bill Kelly and David Margrave. Commissioners Harry Atwater and Brian Knight were absent. Staff Liaison Diana Harder and Maintenance Superintendent Jesse Barajas were present. Council Liaison Michael Cacciotti arrived at approximately 9pm.

MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting of June 17, 2008 were approved as motioned by Chair Beadle and seconded by Commissioner Kelly and were approved, 3-1 (Margrave abstaining).

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS – None.

CALIFORNIA CLIMATE ACTION REGISTRY

Commissioner Kelly asked that the Commission consider recommending that the City join the California Climate Action Registry to meet future regulations for carbon offset credit and to sell credits in the future as demand for such programs increases. Commissioner Kelly provided information on membership and costs. By consensus the Commission refers the matter to staff to explore membership options and how it may qualify with its urban forestry programs for tree planting.

GREEN TRAINING PROGRAM

Commissioners reviewed information from City of Pasadena's website including the Green Training Program and Green City Action. By consensus the Commission agreed to take the Green Training program and make comments at the next regular meeting to recommend the training and web site improvements to support Green concepts consistent with So. Pasadena's goals. Discussion ensued regarding communication methods including use of Neighbors to advance Green issues, "flash animation" and embedded files with You Tube film shorts. All commissioners are to do the Green Training Program before the next regular meeting. Staff Liaison Harder will inquire about the use of web site features with the City's webmaster.

URBAN FORESTRY MANAGEMENT

Staff Liaison Harder shared a table representing the cost for multi-year contracts with West Coast Arborists for Urban Forestry Management. Maint. Super. Barajas explained that West Coast Arborists does a good job for the city and provides more than requested and his desire for a long term contract. Commissioner Margrave made a motion to recommend a 10-year contract with West Coast Arborists to include annual CPI adjustments; the motion was seconded by Chair Beadle and all members were in favor, 4-0.

CITY TREE REMOVALS

Maint. Super. Barajas will remove trees at 1124 Huntington Dr. – a pepper tree that is hazardous and in the 1700 block of Huntington Dr., another pepper tree that is declining.

REPLACEMENT TREES

Chair Beadle explained that it would not be possible to recommend leniency for replacement trees when trees are dead, dying, diseased, etc. because it is impossible to tell whether the trees declined naturally or were not cared for. Discussion ensued. Maint. Barajas explained that 90% of South Pasadena's urban forest is beyond maturity of 45 years, so that replacement trees are important to maintain. Chair Beadle suggested a stronger replacement policy for trees removed for construction. Chair Beadle will develop a policy for consideration at the next regular meeting.

4TH OF JULY PARADE – AFTER ACTION REPORT

Chair Beadle said that this year's parade entry was the best ever; the Commission won the Best Neighborhood trophy thanks to Kelly Conte. Chair Beadle will write a thank you letter to Kelly Conte.

CLEAN AIR CAR SHOW - AFTER ACTION REPORT

Chair Beadle explained that the car show was a success. The commission shared book marks to promote reusable grocery bags and gave out brochures on Xeriscaping.

TREE ORDINANCE

Staff Liaison Harder shared comments made by City Prosecutor on language that could be used as 4th criteria for tree removals. The language seemed to be too broad in scope and the Commission had concerns about how to consider a 4th criteria on such broad terms as "quality of life" and "to prevent detriment to the City". The matter is tabled until a full commission can continue prior discussions and recommendations. Chair Beadle asked that the language provided by City Prosecutor be copied to all in electronic form prior to the next regular meeting.

BIKE STORAGE AT GOLD LINE STATION

Chair Beadle is researching grants available for bike storage at Gold Line locations and plans to send information on this topic prior to the next regular meeting.

"GREEN" BUILDING PLAN

Staff Liaison Harder explained that in the near future the Planning Department will be coordinating a combined meeting of the NREC, DRB and CHC to begin the process of establishing "green" building regulations. Commissioners are interested in moving forward with Green Workshops including bike rides to explore environmentally friendly lawn practices and to begin promoting participation for a Xeriscape Bike Ride. Staff Liaison Harder is asked to put this on the agenda next time as an independent item for discussion. Also, the concept of xeriscaping the median on Fair Oaks. Staff Liaison Harder is asked to provide information from Tony Catenacci on the bike route through South Pasadena that was developed some years ago and reviewed by Transportation Commission. Staff Liaison Harder is asked to put Xeriscaping information on the City's website.

ANNUAL ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Chair Beadle nominated Commissioner Kelly for the Chair position on the Commission. Commissioner Kelly accepted the nomination. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Margrave and all members were in favor, 4-0. Chair Beadle nominated Vice Chair Lela Bissner as Vice Chair for a second term. Vice Chair Bissner accepted the nomination. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Margrave and all commissioners were in favor, 4-0. Congratulations to Chair Kelly and Vice Chair Bissner!

CHAIR COMMUNICATIONS - Chair Beadle shared some research on the Green Chemistry Initiative.

COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS - Commissioner Margrave expressed his interest in planting trees and conserving water. Chair Kelly thanked the Commission for nominating him as Chair. Vice Chair Bissner thanked everyone for nominating her for a second term.

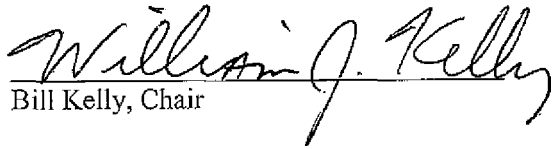
STAFF LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS - Staff Liaison Harder announced the Watershed Restoration Program that will be held on Saturday, September 27 and Saturday, November 15. The flyer will be sent to all electronically. She also announced the WaterFest 2008 event that will be held on Saturday, October 4 in Arcadia Park and that flyer will also be sent out electronically, including the booth sign up form. The annual report to City Council is scheduled for submittal to the City Clerk on October 28 and to City Council at its meeting of November 5; a reminder will be sent electronically to all.

COUNCIL LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS - Council Liaison Cacciotti announced the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments Solid Waste 101 coming up, city toilet replacements, the new

janitorial contract to include green friendly cleaning products, an anti-idling ordinance and energy saving software that will allow computers to go into "sleep mode" to save energy.

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned at 10:15 p.m.

NEXT MEETING - The next regular meeting of the Natural Resources and Environmental Commission will be held on Tuesday, September 23, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.


Bill Kelly, Chair

MINUTES
NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
June 17, 2008

ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. Present were Chair David Beadle, Vice Chair Lela Bissner and Commissioner Bill Kelly. Commissioners Harry Atwater and Brian Knight were absent. Staff Liaison Diana Harder and Maintenance Superintendent Jesse Barajas were present. Council Liaison Michael Cacciotti was absent.

MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting of May 27, 2008 were approved as motioned by Chair Beadle and seconded by Commissioner Kelly and were approved, 2-1 (Bissner abstaining).

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS – None.

APPLICATION FOR TREE REMOVAL PERMIT – 1936 ILLINOIS DRIVE

Denny Hsieh, applicant, explained reasons for requesting the removal of a 25" diameter pine tree on his property and provided photos showing a tree leaning toward neighbor's property. Discussion ensued. Chair Beadle made a motion to approve removal of the pine tree due to shallow roots and a lean toward the road, the motion was seconded by Commissioner Kelly and all members were in favor, 3-0.

CITY TREE REMOVALS/CITY TREE PLANTING

Maintenance Superintendent Barajas provided a tree replacement and removal history explaining that in fiscal year '02-'03, 20 trees were removed and 23 replaced; in '03-'04, 23 removed and 252 replaced; in '05-'06, 24 removed and 57 replaced and in '06-07, 28 removed and 62 replaced. There were budget cuts in '04-'05. There is an account (232-6310-8181) established to subsidize planting and \$10,000 is budgeted in that account. There is a deficit of 2000 trees in vacant parkways established in the original tree inventory. A 15-gallon tree that is planted in a 24" box for 2 years, becomes a 24" box tree and because after that time the tree has a higher ratio of leaves and better vigor they are best for planting. Jesse provided Inventory History Reports showing the exact locations, species, box sizes and dates of all removals and plantings in parkways in the fiscal years above mentioned.

REPLACEMENT TREES

Chair Beadle explained his concern for residents forced to plant a "like size" number of replacement trees when property owners are faced with a tree removal due to circumstances beyond their control, such as disease, death or hazardous trees. Discussion ensued. Commissioner Kelly asked about the posting of surety bonds to guarantee survival of smaller, 15 gallon trees. While the Commission has established a formula for planting replacement trees, the City Municipal Code provides language allowing the Commission to consider the number of trees on the lot as part of that formula which could result in fewer trees or no replacement trees under certain circumstances. Commissioner Kelly suggested this matter be tabled to the next regular meeting when a full commission can be present. The Inventory History Reports will be copied and provided as part of this regular item at the next meeting for continued discussion.

4TH OF JULY EVENT PLANNING

Chair Beadle invited Kelly Conte, 1335 Oakhill Pl. (323) 344-0292, to address the Commission. She is providing the artwork for a banner to promote the new reducing plastic bag effort. She shared artwork with the Commission and explained that it will be placed on a 4' x 12 ½' banner to carry in the parade. Language will read: "shop with reusable bags" and "Reduce/Reuse/Recycle". Reusable is better than "canvas" so there is more flexibility. Plans are to have a Reusable Bag Man in the parade and to have a Monster (hero) vomiting plastic bags. There will be children dressed like turtles, dolphins and birds to emphasize the hazards of plastic bags on the environment.

CLEAN AIR CAR SHOW

Chair Beadle shared language for the bookmark to promote reusable bags that will be a handout at the Car Show. Commissioners were assigned time in the booth as follows:

Lela Bissner 4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

David Beadle 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon

Bill Kelly from 12:00 noon to 1:30 p.m.

And the other Commissioners may choose either the 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. shift or 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Commissioner Kelly shared a handout that he order called "7 Steps to Xeriscape".

TREE ORDINANCE

The Commission asked Maint. Super. Barajas about the relocation of palm trees. Chair Beadle provided information he gathered from the cities of Santa Barbara, La Canada/Flintridge and Pasadena.

Commissioners studied documents and discussion ensued. In an effort to improve tree canopy some cities allow removals on a case-by-case basis considering what is "arboriculturally" appropriate to a property or area. The concept requires further research. Commissioner Kelly liked the language from Pasadena's Permit Center under "Findings for a Private Tree Removal" asking the applicant to "describe how/why there is a substantial hardship to the property owner in the enjoyment and use of the real property if the injury or removal of the private tree is not permitted." Commissioners wish to continue development of criteria to allow tree removals when two or more environmental benefits can be accomplished by the applicant. The Commission acknowledges the benefits of planting trees when they address environmental concerns. The Commission plans to continue research to develop a 4th criteria under 34.7 of the Tree Ordinance.

BIKE STORAGE AT GOLD LINE STATION

Chair Beadle plans to contact the MTA Community Relations Officer to speak at an upcoming meeting of the Commission. The Commission plans to research grant opportunities to provide bike storage facilities at the Mission-Meridian Station. The City's Grants Analyst will be asked to follow up on opportunities.

CONSIDER CANCELLING JUNE REGULAR MEETING

Chair Beadle made a motion to cancel the June Regular meeting, the motion was seconded by Commissioner Kelly and all members were in favor, 3-0.

CHAIR COMMUNICATIONS - Chair Beadle said he would like to see an award for xeriscaping of yards in town and possibly a bike ride to tour the sites in the future.

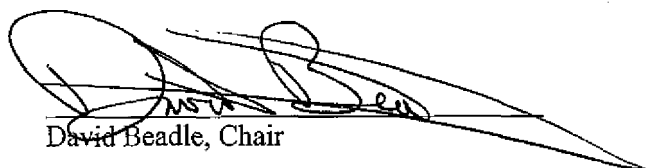
COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS - Vice Chair Bissner explained that approx. 80 people attended the South Pasadena Beautiful annual meeting and there was an impressive talk about "going green". Commissioner Kelly explained that he is anxious to get started with supporting the city's Environmental Action Plan as submitted to City Council and asked that a copy of the resolution and action plan be placed on the next regular agenda for discussion and follow-up.

STAFF LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS - None.

COUNCIL LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS - None.

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

NEXT MEETING - The next regular meeting of the Natural Resources and Environmental Commission will be held on Tuesday, July 22, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.



David Beadle, Chair

MINUTES
NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
May 27, 2008

ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:20 p.m. Present were Commissioners Bill Kelly, Harry Atwater and Brian Knight. Chair David Beadle arrived shortly thereafter. Vice Chair Lela Bissner was absent. Staff Liaison Diana Harder was present. Maintenance Superintendent Jesse Barajas was absent. Council Liaison Michael Cacciotti arrived at 7:55 p.m.

MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting of April 22, 2008 were approved as motioned by Commissioner Atwater and seconded by Commissioner Knight and all members were in favor, 3-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS – None.

APPLICATION FOR TREE REMOVAL PERMIT – 1936 ILLINOIS DRIVE

Denny Hsieh, applicant, explained reasons for requesting the removal of a 25" diameter pine tree on his property and provided photos showing a tree leaning toward neighbor's property. Discussion ensued. By consensus this item is deferred to the next regular meeting when Maintenance Superintendent Barajas can be present.

APPLICATION FOR TREE REMOVAL PERMIT – 1315 CHELTEN WAY

Tim Clark, architect with Cynthia Bennett, Inc., shared photos and explained reasons for requesting the removal of a 36" diameter sycamore tree within 3 times the diameter of a house move. Chair Beadle made a motion to recommend removal of the tree with the planting of four (4) 36" box native trees, or larger equivalents; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Knight and all members were in favor, 4-0.

CITY TREE REMOVALS/CITY TREE PLANTING

Maintenance Superintendent Barajas is absent. This item is moved to the next regular meeting.

REPLACEMENT TREES

Chair Beadle explained his concern for residents forced to plant a "like size" number of replacement trees when property owners are faced with a tree removal due to circumstances beyond their control, such as disease, death or hazardous trees. Discussion ensued with a general consensus to look more into the statistics that the Commission is dealing with. Commissioner Kelly requested that staff prepare a report showing the number of dead, dying, diseased or hazardous tree removals it approved over the last 2-3 year period. The commission also requests that Maint. Super. Barajas explain the difference between smaller trees that would be less expensive for the resident versus the 24" box size currently considered "minimum size" for planting. Commissioner Kelly shared Southern California Edison's First Mayor "Early Action" Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan that includes a proposal to increase urban tree planting with 70,000 new trees for beautifying participating communities.

4TH OF JULY EVENT PLANNING

Chair Beadle asked staff to submit a parade form for the Commission to march in the parade and promote the new reducing plastic bag effort. Kelly Conte is an art docent who will paint canvas bags to promote the use of reusable bags. Commissioners and their families are encouraged to participate and march in the parade.

CLEAN AIR CAR SHOW

Chair Beadle obtained an estimate for book marks; 500 are \$87.50 and 1000 is \$116 to be printed both sides to promote reducing plastic bags for the car show. Staff Liaison Harder will make copies of the Resident's Guide for Tree Removal handout on recycled paper (green) to distribute at the booth. Booth assignments so that the event is staffed will be discussed next time.

TREE ORDINANCE

Staff Liaison Harder explained that the Commission is charged with establishing additional criteria to approve tree removals. Staff asks the question: "Under what circumstances would the commission allow a tree removal other than structural interference, health and safety, or hardship cases?" The Commission recognizes that trees have been planted in the wrong place to a great extent and acknowledges the benefits of planting trees when they address one or more of the following environmental concerns:

- 1.) reduction in energy use when trees are planted to shade structures;
- 2.) reduction in water use when planting natives species, etc.;
- 3.) promotion of native species;
- 4.) increasing the number of trees on the property;
- 5.) preserving wildlife habitats;
- 6.) when trees are planted to abate urban noise;
- 7.) when planting larger tree sizes.

The commission agrees that under some circumstances Significant trees may be removed when tree planting provides greater benefits than the existing tree's value/benefits/species. This item is continued to the next regular agenda so that commissioners can develop criteria that can be applied in each case.

BIKE STORAGE AT GOLD LINE STATION

Chair Beadle said he will invite someone from the MTA to discuss opportunities for secure bike lockers to the next meeting. Discussion on this matter is deferred until then.

CHAIR COMMUNICATIONS - Chair Beadle said that he was concerned about the potential for the city council to vote for a waiver of the Park Facilities Impact Fee on the downtown redevelopment. This would net the parks nearly \$272,000 which could be used to decrease the deficit of open space in the city, and to renew parkland areas. Beadle went on to add that if the city did waiver the fee then there would be a motion to have the CRA pick up the fee, but that would mean the tax payer would be footing the bill for the developer.

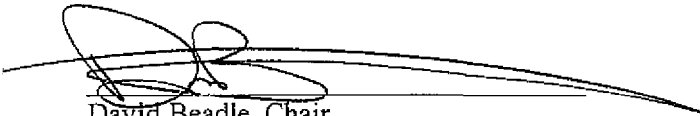
COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS - Commissioner Atwater expressed his interest in contributing to the community in the form of working to enhance pedestrian and bicycle quality of life. He plans to prepare a menu of options that the Commission may adopt to encourage non-motor traffic in the City, including bike paths and will present to the Commission in the Fall. Council Liaison Cacciotti suggested a joint meeting with the Transportation Commission as they are charged with bike path projects and would have some history on that. Staff Liaison will provide some background at the next regular meeting.

STAFF LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS - None.

COUNCIL LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS - Council Liaison Cacciotti said he participated in "Bike to Work" the other day and took his bike on the train. He explained that they are planning to distribute canvas bags at the car show in support of the reduction of plastic bags effort. He invited Commissioners to participate in the Santa Monica Conservancy meetings held in Diamond Bar the first Friday of every month at 9am.

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

NEXT MEETING - The next regular meeting of the Natural Resources and Environmental Commission will be held on Tuesday, June 24, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.



David Beadle, Chair

MINUTES
NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
April 22, 2008

ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. Present were Chair David Beadle, Commissioner Bill Kelly, Commissioner Harry Atwater and Commissioner Brian Knight. Vice Chair Lela Bissner was absent. Maintenance Superintendent Barajas and Staff Liaison Diana Harder were present. Council Liaison Michael Cacciotti attended in time for comments.

MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting of March 25 were approved as motioned by Chair Beadle and seconded by Commissioner Kelly and all members were in favor, 4-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS – None.

APPLICATION FOR TREE REMOVAL PERMIT – 1716 LAUREL STREET

Denise Tomlam, architect for the project spoke on behalf of the applicant, requesting removal of a 14" diameter English walnut tree in the footprint of a pool cabana in the backyard. Discussion ensued. Commissioner Kelly made a motion to approve removal of the tree with the planting of two 24" box minimum size replacement trees; the motion was seconded by Chair Beadle and all members were in favor, 4-0. Staff Liaison letter will send a follow up letter with instructions on how to proceed and copy that letter to the architect.

CITY TREE REMOVALS

Jesse Barajas reported that the tree at 1240 Brunswick must be removed because the top of cylinder died and only lateral branches are left, it is a silver maple tree. Also a black acacia at 1307 Indiana has to be removed because it is a hazard, you can see the cavity in it. There is a dead pecan slated for removal at Monterey Rd. & Brunswick. There are 6 black acacias and one redwood tree in Garfield Park along the Edison right-of-way that have sharp shooter infestation and must be removed. He reports that the Dedication Tree for Earth Day has been planted in Garfield Park and Staff Liaison Harder will schedule a photo shoot at the site. Chair Beadle asked about the Ailanthus Tree and whether the commission should single it out for eradication around the city because of its allelopathic characteristics and its extremely prolific nature. Mr Barajas mentioned that there are some Male Ailanthus Trees, that cannot reproduce, around the city. They being kept in check by other more mature, stronger trees, and can grow where other trees cannot flourish.

COUNTY PROGRAM TO REDUCE PLASTIC CARRYOUT BAG LITTER

Chair Beadle provided a handout article on Whole Foods and noted that they are not using plastic bags as part of an environmentally friendly program. Commissioner Kelly suggested that the City produce bookmarks and distribute them at city events (like the car show) to show support of the reduction of plastic bags. By consensus the Commission supports AB 2829 to bring awareness to the impacts of littered plastic bags and encourage reusable bags; and to the City's participation in the L.A. County Program to reduce plastic carryout bag litter at supermarkets on a level that So. Pasadena can support.

4TH OF JULY EVENT PLANNING

Chair Beadle suggested that the City produce a banner and establish a campaign presentation as part of the entry to encourage the reuse of plastic bags, possibly children chasing plastic bags to collect them. All commissioners are encouraged to participate in the 4th of July parade.

MODEL ORDINANCE – WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT

Chair Beadle is concerned with water conservation issues and clearly we are not out of the woods with our water supply, he would like to encourage residents to consider more water efficient landscaping. Commissioner Atwater says the major benefits in water efficiency units for homes and most savings can be considered in high efficiency toilets and in shower heads. The Commission feels most success in a re-sale program will be with multi family dwellings where property owners are less likely to change out

fixtures. Chair Beadle make a motion to recommend that the City adopt an ordinance for the retrofit upon re-sale of toilets and shower heads that fit current water efficiency standards for new construction. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Atwater and all members were in favor, 4-0.

CLEAN AIR CAR SHOW AND LEED OUTREACH

Chair Beadle explained that the preparation of LEED outreach materials for residents would not be attainable as a handout for the car show. That item is replaced with the promotion of reducing plastic bags and water conservation issues. The commission desires to produce bookmarks with the plastic bag message and Chair Beadle will get a cost on that.

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY PROGRAM

Commissioner Knight shared material from the City of San Diego about private sector incentives to think about related to sustainable building policies, the "Sustainable Community Program"; and an ordinance relating to renewable energy goals. He also provided a handout from City of Greensburg, Kansas who has adopted a resolution pertaining to LEED building standards that affects all new construction over 4,000 square feet and requires that they be designed to conform to the Platinum rating of the LEED system.

DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION PROJECT

The Downtown Revitalization Project will go before City Council on May 21, 2008 at a meeting exclusively for that item. Commissioners plan to attend and voice final concerns about the project. Chair Beadle will meet with Commissioner Knight to prepare for that meeting. The Commission feels compelled to educate the City Council on the various levels of LEED certification that the project can obtain.

TREE SPECIES AND YOUR ENVIRONMENT

The applicant for 200 Warwick Place, Sunny Chan, said that his house is directly in the sun and wants to plant shade trees as part of a new landscape plan for his property including the removal of 3 palm trees. Discussion ensued regarding tree removals and the benefits of shade trees in relation to reducing energy costs. David Beadle made a motion to recommend approval of the removal of three palm trees with the planting of 6-8 24" box canopy replacement trees to be planted in a location on the property that provides substantial shade on the house at maturity to help reduce excessive heat gain as the house faces south. The preferred species is native such as a live oak or sycamore tree. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kelly and all members were in favor, 4-0.

REPLACEMENT TREES

Chair Beadle moved this to another date.

EARTH DAY 2008 AFTER ACTION REPORT

Chair Beadle explained that no one showed up to the event this year. He did get together with several other volunteers who cleaned the area. He said the fire pit by Clarich field was full of trash/glass and syringes and they had 4 bags filled to put in the dumpster. The Nature Park looked great. Area around the dumpster at Arroyo Park needs to be cleaned up and Athens needs to be more careful emptying it.

TREE REMOVALS FOR CONSTRUCTION

Staff Liaison Harder explained the case at 1300 Marengo that prompted a recommendation to include an area extending 15 feet beyond the property line for construction projects. Discussion ensued. By consensus the commission supports the idea of implementing a 15' extended area onto construction plans for tree review.

CHAIR COMMUNICATIONS - Chair Beadle explained a new program "Schools for Shade" to promote the planting of trees and asked that the Commission see what it can do to help and support such an effort.

COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS - Commissioner Atwater asked about parkway tree planting and how decisions on species and planting are made by the Public Works Department.

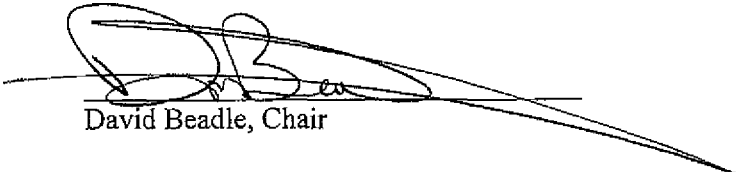
Commissioner Kelly provided an update to the solar heating issue related to existing trees such that the existing trees would be exempt from solar requirements.

STAFF LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS - Staff Liaison Harder announced that criteria for tree removals item would be returning to the commission for discussion with more specific details on what the commission is to review relative to that item. She handed out the June 14 HHW round up flyers for the Rose Bowl event. It is one of only 2 events in and near South Pasadena each year and is heavily advertised for So. Pas. participation.

COUNCIL LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS - Councilman Cacciotti explained that there will be a tour of the Downtown Revitalization project area soon and confirmed that the Council will hear the matter at its May 21 City Council meeting.

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned at 10:10 p.m.

NEXT MEETING - The next regular meeting of the Natural Resources and Environmental Commission will be held on Tuesday, May 27, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.



David Beadle, Chair

MINUTES
NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
March 25, 2008

ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. Present were Chair David Beadle, Vice Chair Lela Bissner and Commissioners Bill Kelly, and Matthew Segal. Commissioners Brian Knight and Harry Atwater were absent. Maintenance Superintendent Barajas was absent. Staff Liaison Diana Harder was present as was Council Liaison Dr. Richard Schneider.

MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting of February 26, 2008 were approved as motioned by Chair Beadle and seconded by Commissioner Kelly and all members were in favor, 3-1 (M.Segal abstaining).

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS – None.

APPLICATION FOR TREE REMOVAL PERMIT – 1800 COURT AVENUE

Stephanie Shoen, on behalf of the applicant Kimberly Shoen, explained reasons for requesting the removal of 25" diameter Ash tree. A foundation report, property site plan and photos were shared. Chair Beadle noted that the tree was too close to the house, less than the 3 times diameter, and the tree is an ash tree with an invasive root system. Commissioner Kelly made a motion to approve removal of the ash tree with the planting of three (3) 24" box replacement trees; the motion was seconded by Chair Beadle and all members were in favor, 4-0.

RE-CONSIDER TREE REMOVAL RECOMMENDATION FOR 1705 FLETCHER

The applicant, Edward Price, asked the Commission to re-consider the number of replacement trees the Commission recommended with the approval of his tree removal last year. The Commission asked for eight (8) 24-inch box replacement trees for the removal of an 82-inch diameter Ailanthus tree. The primary basis for his request is that he feels the average trunk base for the Ailanthus species is much wider than other species. He also feels the Commission should consider things like tree classification and life span in its calculation for tree replacements. With approval of the tree removal last year, it was suggested that the tree may be pruned. The applicant explored that option with the finding that pruning the tree would result in vigorous growth of the trunk, roots and branches creating more problems in the future. Staff Liaison Harder explained that the Commission is in a position to consider other criteria for replacement trees in accordance with CMC Section 34.7(b)1.): "Designation by the Commission of the number, size, species and location of replacement tree(s) based on consideration of the size and species of the established tree(s) proposed for removal . . .". Discussion ensued. Commissioner Kelly explained that the Commission was not in a position to make a decision on the request immediately. Chair Beadle asked that the matter of considering additional criteria for replacement trees should be on the agenda for the next regular meeting. The applicant will be invited back should any changes occur affecting his application and replacement trees.

APPLICATION FOR TREE REMOVAL PERMIT – 2060 ALPHA AVENUE

This applicant failed to show up for the meeting.

APPLICATION FOR TREE REMOVAL PERMIT – 200 WARWICK AVENUE

Sunny Chan presented the Commission with a landscape plan as directed by the Commission at a meeting last year. The applicant did not meet the criteria for removing trees in order to install new landscaping and plant additional trees. Discussion ensued. The Commission determined by consensus that the decision to remove trees for new landscaping be deferred. The applicant may submit construction plans. The Commission asked for the minutes of the meeting of May 21, 2007 to gather additional information on the disposition of the tree removal request.

CITY TREE REMOVALS

No report.

ENERGY ACTION PLAN

Staff Liaison Harder explained that one of the benefits of membership in the San Gabriel Valley Energywise Program is the Energy Action Plan. SCE has provided the framework for such a plan and it is presented to the Commission to develop and include what they want in it. Commissioner Kelly asked if the Plan will be consistent with the California Climate Action Registry. Chair Beadle suggested an energy savings in the form of allowing traffic signals to be put on flash between the hours of midnight and 5 a.m. to save energy. Commissioner Kelly mentioned a law that was enacted back in 2006 that allows water utilities to install renewable energy systems on site that would include a "Feed-In Tariff" at 10 cents per kw. The energy system may be solar panels on reservoir roof tops. Commissioner Kelly will e-mail more information. Another suggestion was energy procurement standards (to require contractors use energy efficient fleet vehicles in their operations). Commissioners may e-mail additional information.

EARTH DAY 2008

Chair Beadle prepared a flyer for Earth Day and asked about its distribution. Staff Liaison Harder explained that an ad can be placed in the So. Pas. Review for about \$200 and then copies can be distributed to all public counters, including Library, Recreation, Senior Center, etc. and the flyer will be posted on the City website. The Commission continues to solicit volunteers to help with the walk. Staff Liaison Harder explained that David Whitman was revising the Earth Day Walk banner and it would be hung across Fair Oaks as soon as it is ready. Arroyo Park picnic area has been reserved for the event. Staff Liaison Harder will coordinate for the delivery of trash cans, tables, chairs and a portable toilet at the nature park for the event. Chair Beadle suggests that the Commission dedicate an oak tree to Garfield Park one week prior to the event as publicity.

4TH OF JULY EVENT PLANNING

Chair Beadle said that he will provide t-shirts so that the So. Pas. Clean Team can march in the parade. Chair Beadle is coordinating with Councilman Michael Cacciotti for this year's entry. All commissioners are invited to participate and march in the parade.

MODEL ORDINANCE – WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT

Staff Liaison Harder provided a memo with Building & Planning staff response to the implementation of the model ordinance. Discussion ensued. Chair Beadle expressed desire to continue discussions on this item at the next regular meeting.

CLEAN AIR CAR SHOW AND LEED OUTREACH

Chair Beadle is looking for a source for LEED handout materials for the car show. Staff Liaison Harder explained that the Commission will share a booth at the event and must be prepared to staff the booth for the entire event. City Manager's staff continue to coordinate for speakers and programs and Jeannie C. is following up on Commission requests. Staff Liaison Harder shared the CMC on Water Conservation and an e-newsletter from City of Los Angeles Stormwater Program "L.A. Stormwater".

CHAIR COMMUNICATIONS - Chair Beadle asked that an item be on the agenda next month to discuss "Tree Species and Your Environment". Chair Beadle also asked Staff to print out comments on the Draft EIR and the response comments and put on agenda for next regular meeting to review. Chair Beadle welcomed Matthew Segal to the Commission. Commissioners were introduced and all welcomed Commissioner Segal.

COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS - Vice Chair Bissner shared the So. Pas. Beautiful bulletin and announced that Alexander Robinson would be at the Library Community Room on Monday, June 16 at 6:30 p.m. and that the Garden Tour is on April 13 this year.

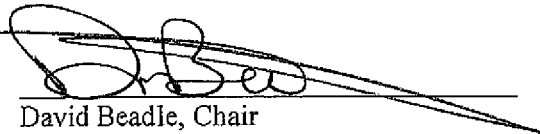
STAFF LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS - Staff Liaison Harder announced that the Christmas Tree Recycling program went well with 104.75 tons of Christmas trees recycled. Staff Liaison

Harder explained that Evan Davis had to withdraw his nomination to the NREC due to his employment with the DOJ. She shared an article on MWD increase for 2009 – 14% hike in rates for imported water.

COUNCIL LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS - Dr. Schneider shared that the Youth Commission is doing a recycling program with ink cartridges.

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned at 10:20 p.m.

NEXT MEETING - The next regular meeting of the Natural Resources and Environmental Commission will be held on Tuesday, April 22, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.



David Beadle, Chair

MINUTES
NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
February 26, 2008

ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. Present were Chair David Beadle, Vice Chair Lela Bissner and Commissioners Bill Kelly, Harry Atwater and Evan Davis. Commissioner Brian Knight arrived shortly thereafter. Commissioner David Whitman was absent. Maintenance Superintendent Barajas was present as was Staff Liaison Diana Harder. Council Liaison Dr. Richard Schneider was present.

MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting of January 22, 2008 were approved as motioned by Chair Beadle and seconded by Vice Chair Bissner and all members were in favor, 5-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS – Scott Feldman thanked the commission for its participation in the Tree Dedication Program; invited commissioners to the Arroyo Seco Golf Course Lease Subcommittee meeting on the 1st Monday each month in the Council Chambers at 7pm; and, announced that the Chamber has joined the USGBC (Green Building Council) and would like to partner with the city.

TREE ORDINANCE

Chair Beadle expressed his feelings that the NREC is, in effect, a “4th criteria” for the approval of tree removal permits as they evaluate tree applications on a case-by-case basis for hardship issues. Discussion ensued. The commission came to consensus that there would be no suggested language for a 4th criteria to CMC 34.7 to allow for tree removals. The commission would like to be able to refer applications to the City Council for special cases.

APPLICATION FOR TREE REMOVAL PERMIT – 708 ORANGE GROVE TERRACE

The applicant’s representative, Elizabeth Kho; tenant, Natalia Viner; and, arborist, Michael Crane, shared photos, an arborist report, and explained reasons for requesting the removal of three (3) deodar trees on the property. Michael Crane explained that the trees are on a steep slope and close to the house; a “lion tailing” technique to prune trees creates limb failure; neighbors root pruning to install retaining walls may have compromised the trees; there is no evidence of defects or disease at this time. Maint. Super. Barajas explained that conifers tend to decay when roots are pruned during construction; as a species deodars do not recover well; erosion is not a big issue and trees are well-acclimated to their environment on the hillside. The first tree is a 30” diameter deodar that is located 8-feet from the retaining wall; the second tree is a 24” diameter and is located 12-feet from the retaining wall and the third tree, a 30” diameter deodar, was not impacted by the retaining wall construction, but has a railing growing into the tree trunk. Discussion ensued. Chair Beadle made a motion to recommend approval of the removal of Tree No. 1, a 30” diameter deodar, that is closest to the retaining wall and is most likely to suffer from root pruning for construction; and, further recommends that the remaining 2 trees be re-evaluated at the end of summer for conditions that would warrant removal. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kelly and all members were in favor, 6-0.

APPLICATION FOR TREE REMOVAL PERMIT – 1017 OLIVER

Steve Tepe, arborist for the applicant, shared photos and explained reasons for requesting the removal of a 22” diameter liquid ambar tree in the front yard of the property. He explained that the tree is compromised as it exists over an old concrete walkway/stairway inhibiting root stability. Maint. Super. Barajas explained that the tree appears to be in a state of decline. Chair Beadle made a motion to approve removal of the 22” diameter liquid ambar tree with the planting of three (3) 24-inch box minimum size replacement trees; the motion was seconded by Vice Chair Bissner and all members were in favor, 6-0.

APPLICATION FOR TREE REMOVAL PERMIT – 1800 COURT AVENUE

Kimberly Shoen, applicant, called to cancel as she was not prepared and plans to attend next month.

CITY TREE REMOVALS

Maintenance Superintendent Barajas reported that he is planning to remove several palm trees in the 600 block of Stratford and in the 1000 block of Fremont.

LOW-EMISSION LANDSCAPING EQUIPMENT

Staff Liaison Harder explained that the City issues 46 business licenses to gardeners each year. They obtain stickers for each vehicle. The cost is \$110 for the first vehicle and \$55 for each additional vehicle. There is a \$10 application fee or a \$5.00 renewal fee. Staff Liaison Harder spoke with Larry Kojak of the AQMD and learned that the leaf blower exchange events will be advertised in May with exchange events planned this summer. Commissioner Kelly will prepare a letter to gardeners that can be sent along with a flyer to introduce and encourage participation in the leaf-blower exchange program.

ARBOR DAY AND EARTH DAY 2008

Chair Beadle has been in contact with the Library to organize a tree seedling give-away for children and parents participating in Arbor Day festivities this year. The seedlings are \$2.04 each. Arbor Day will be Monday, March 10 after school hours. Earth Day will be Sunday, April 20 from noon to 2pm and includes a walk from Arroyo Park to the Nature Park. Staff Liaison Harder will make a reservation for Arroyo south field. Word docs for last event will be e-mailed to Chair Beadle to develop publicity for this year's event. A banner will be put over Fair Oaks announcing the walk this year.

4TH OF JULY EVENT PLANNING

Chair Beadle introduced discussion on 4th of July participation. Mayor Cacciotti stopped by and they discussed use of electric vehicles in this year's event. Chair Beadle will solicit participation by car dealers. This year's theme may be the "All Electric" event. This item will remain on agenda as planning continues.

MODEL ORDINANCE – WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT

Council Liaison Schneider explained the model ordinance. Discussion ensued. Commissioner Atwater made a motion to forward the model ordinance to the City Attorney and Department Heads for legal considerations and appropriateness to South Pasadena, the motion was seconded by Commissioner Kelly and all members were in favor, 6-0.

ASSEMBLY BILL 811 – PAY SOLAR POWER THROUGH VOLUNTARY PROPERTY TAX FEES

Commissioner Kelly explained AB811 and its implications. Discussion ensued. He suggested that the City may issue a letter of support. The only downside to the item would be the federal tax credit that homeowners could not take advantage of. There was concern with tree removals for solar panel installations. Commissioner Kelly made a motion to recommend to City Council that a letter of support be sent in support of this legislature; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Atwater and all members were in favor, 6-0. Commissioner Kelly will draft language for a letter of support in the next few months.

LEED OUTREACH

Chair Beadle explained LEED standards are ever-evolving and participation is on different levels. LEED for residents is something on the horizon. Chair Beadle would like to see the first outreach in some form at the Clean Air Car Show. Another idea is for the commission to align itself with Scott Feldman, CEO of the Chamber of Commerce for business outreach. Chair Beadle asked that the Clear Air Car Show and LEED Outreach be combined as an item on the NREC agenda for next month.

PARK IMPACT FEE WAIVER FOR DOWNTOWN REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT

Chair Beadle drafted a letter to the City Council, City Manager and All Commissions providing an official position on the Park Impact Fee resolution recently adopted by City Council. Discussion ensued. Several revisions were made to the draft letter. Chair Beadle made a motion to issue a letter supporting

the Park Impact Fee, as amended; the motion was seconded by Vice Chair Bissner and all members were in favor, 6-0.

GREEN GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

Commissioner Kelly compiled a few grant opportunity items the City may want to consider and asked Staff Liaison Harder to distribute the list and information to the appropriate City staff to decide potential benefits the City could receive with the implementation of any items.

GREEN BUILDING STANDARDS

Commissioner Kelly distributed copies of Community Development Director David Watkins staff report to City Council regarding its proposed work plan to implement the City Council's goal to "preserve and improve the environment" including a discussion on city policies and incentives for solar energy and "Green" design and construction practices.

CHAIR COMMUNICATIONS - Chair Beadle welcomed Evan Davis to the Commission. Commissioners were introduced and all welcomed Commissioner Davis on board.

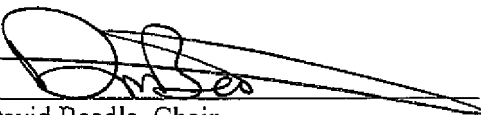
COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS - none.

STAFF LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS - Staff Liaison Harder asked new commissioners to e-mail her so that e-mail communication could be verified and set up properly since the majority of communications now are via e-mail. She announced the next meetings for the AB 1234 (Ethics) and Brown Act in-house training (a mandatory training for all commissioners); and, the USGVMWD Earth Day event is on Saturday, April 12 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Sanitation Districts Administrative Parking Lot. She also announced that the Arbor Day Proclamation will be presented to the NREC Chair at its meeting on March 5, 2008. Chair Beadle and Vice Chair Bissner will attend to accept the proclamation.

COUNCIL LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS - Mayor Michael Cacciotti explained that the Clean Air Car Show will be held on July 20 this year and invited commission participation. Commissioner Harry Atwater agreed to be a speaker for solar power at the event. Staff Liaison Harder was asked to follow up on that and a request that Decoma be sent a letter of participation.

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned at 10:20 p.m.

NEXT MEETING - The next regular meeting of the Natural Resources and Environmental Commission will be held on Tuesday, March 25, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.



David Beadle, Chair

MINUTES
NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
January 22, 2008

ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. Present were Chair David Beadle, Vice Chair Lela Bissner and Commissioners David Whitman, Bill Kelly, Harry Atwater and Brian Knight. Maintenance Superintendent Barajas was present as was Staff Liaison Diana Harder. Council Liaison Dr. Richard Schneider was present.

MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting of October 22, 2007 was approved with a correction to the Planner's name "Mayer" as was motioned by Chair Beadle and seconded by Commissioner Whitman and all members were in favor, 3-0.

Minutes of the meeting of November 13, 2007 was approved as motioned by Chair Beadle and seconded by Commissioner Kelly and all members were in favor, 4-0.

Minutes of the meeting of November 26, 2007 was approved as motioned by Chair Beadle and seconded by Commissioner Kelly and all members were in favor, 6-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS – None.

APPLICATION FOR TREE REMOVAL PERMIT – 1300 MILAN

The applicant, Sean Hunter, explained reasons for requesting the removal of an ash tree including root structure interference, leaning, debris on roof and financial hardship and offered to plant three (3) 48" diameter trees to the City for the removal. Chair Beadle explained that the tree had been before the commission last year and was denied and is not interfering with structures. Maint. Super. Barajas added that the tree has ample space, is mature and not likely to cause further interference with structures and does not have a weak root structure; root pruning is an alternative to root interference issues. Chair Beadle made a motion to deny the request for tree removal; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Whitman and the motion passed, 5-1.

APPLICATION FOR TREE REMOVAL PERMIT – 708 ORANGE GROVE TERRACE

Staff Liaison Harder explained the applicant's request to move this item to the February agenda as she was not prepared.

APPLICATION FOR TREE REMOVAL PERMIT – 733 LA PORTADA

The applicant, Chance Williams, shared photos and explained reasons for requesting the removal of a 29.6" dia. Pine tree due to leaning toward neighbor's property. Maint. Super. Barajas explained that the tree could be corrected if trimmed so that load on branches is reduced and suggested the tree needs maintenance. Mr. Williams explained that the tree continues to lean more and more and toward the neighbor's property. Maint. Barajas explained that the tree can't be straightened, but can be trimmed "inwardly". Mr. Williams explained that his arborist supports removal and efforts have been made to preserve the tree over a process of limb loss and evaluations. Chair Beadle made a motion to approve removal of the pine tree due to significant lean with the planting of three (3) 24-inch box minimum size replacement trees; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Kelly and the motion passed, 5-1.

APPLICATION FOR TREE REMOVAL PERMIT – 1956 LA FRANCE

The applicant, John Wygonski, shared photos and explained reasons for requesting the removal of a 14" diameter multi-trunk crepe myrtle tree on his property including auto accident and in a "stressed" state. He added that the tree is not a good candidate for transplanting as he had explored that option. Discussion ensued. Commissioner Whitman made a motion to approve removal of the crepe myrtle tree with the

planting of two (2) 24-inch box minimum size replacement trees, or one (1) 36-inch diameter replacement tree; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Atwater and all members were in favor, 6-0.

CITY TREE REMOVALS

Maintenance Superintendent Barajas reported that he is planning to remove a brazilian pepper tree at Huntington & Marengo due to soft root mass and root decay, a liquid ambar tree at 1307 Spruce due to a large cavity in the base; and, a dead eucalyptus tree at 1404 Indiana.

Council Liaison Schneider asked about planting replacement trees. Maint. Super. Barajas explained that he had approached residents on Mountain View, but they did not want city trees in their area. He added that Oaklawn is now a focus area for planting replacement trees.

TREE ORDINANCE

Chair Beadle attended the City Council meeting to discuss tree removals for aesthetic reasons. The Commission wished to express consensus that it does not support tree removals for purely aesthetic reasons, and plans to meet again to discuss other criteria that may apply. Discussion widened to consider additional language that may provide a 4th criteria for approving tree removal applications (34.7). Discussion will continue at the next regular Commission meeting.

TREE REMOVAL PERMIT – STREAMLINING PROCESS

Chair Beadle asked commissioners to review the Resident's Guide and make suggestions on how to streamline the application process. Chair Beadle asked if Maint. Super. Barajas could do more with approvals. Maint. Super. Barajas explained that he could review arborist reports before they go to the Commission and consider more hazardous trees.

Commissioner Harry Atwater left the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

LOW-EMISSION LANDSCAPING EQUIPMENT

Staff Liaison Harder shared information regarding Councilman Ten's request to consider a policy to encourage the use of low-emission landscaping equipment and shared a flyer from the AQMD regarding leaf blower exchange events. Chair Beadle explained that he is interested in supporting such a policy and asked Staff Liaison Harder to gather information on the number of permitted gardeners that operate in South Pasadena, the fee for a license and whether gardeners place license (stickers) on their vehicles. In addition he suggested the commission look into draught tolerant landscaping and Staff Liaison Harder was asked to include water reduction municipal code sections to the agenda item next time related to this topic. Staff Liaison Harder was asked to contact the AQMD and ask about scheduling lawn mower exchange events in South Pasadena.

ARBOR DAY AND EARTH DAY 2008

Chair Beadle introduced discussion on Commission events for 2008. Vice Chair Bissner spoke on behalf of South Pasadena Beautiful and expressed their interest in participating with the NREC on a program to purchase books, trees, etc. for the Arbor Day event. Chair Beadle will find out how many children participate in Arbor Day festivities from Children's Librarian Maida Wong. Earth Day this year is on April 19. Discussion for the event included a clean up of the horse trail between the Arroyo Park and Nature Park as has been done in previous years soliciting the participation of the high school and prior Commissioner Barbara Eisenstein for plant identifications. To encourage participation, Chair Beadle suggested free t-shirts to the first few people who attend.

CHAIR COMMUNICATIONS - Chair Beadle asked to include the 4th of July event planning on the February agenda and the Clean Air Car Show will be on July 20 this year. Chair Beadle asked Staff Liaison Harder to ask about vacancies on the Commission. There are two (2) remaining vacancies that need to be filled.


COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS - Vice Chair Bissner explained that she is selecting properties in South Pasadena for the Golden Arrow Awards, one of which may be the Garfield Park Youth House.

STAFF LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS - Staff Liaison Harder announced that the National Arbor Day Foundation approved the City's application for Tree City USA and Tree City Growth Award and a press release announcing that would be sent shortly. She also announced that the Resident's Guide has been added to the City's "Welcome Package" that is mailed to all new homeowners in South Pasadena.

COUNCIL LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS - Council Liaison Schneider explained that the Downtown Revitalization Project responses are due in February and will be presented to the City Council on April 16, 2008. He asked that the Commission add an item to its February agenda to include a model ordinance regarding wastewater management with regard to retrofitting on re-sale of property so when a building goes through escrow the new owner must install low-flow fixtures.

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

NEXT MEETING - The next regular meeting of the Natural Resources and Environmental Commission will be held on Tuesday, February 26, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.



David Beadle, Chair

MINUTES
NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION
January 22, 2007

ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Present were Vice Chair David Beadle and Commissioners David Whitman and Ron Mitchell. Chair Bryan Horsman was absent. Maintenance Superintendent Barajas and Staff Liaison Diana Harder were present. Mayor Putnam attended for a short time.

MINUTES

Vice Chair Beadle made a motion to approve the minutes of December 18; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Whitman and all were in favor, 3-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS – None.

APPLICATION FOR TREE REMOVAL PERMIT – 617 & 619 Indiana Terrace

The applicant, Richard Wang, and project arborist, Vance Tucker, presented building plans and explained reasons for requesting the removal of four (4) Blue Gum trees in the footprint of the driveway and a parking space on the development. It was determined that Blue Gum tree #9 on the plans was less than 12-inches in diameter and no permit would be required for that tree. Commissioner Whitman made a motion to approve the removal of three (3) Blue Gum trees, known on the plans as tree #5 at 619 Indiana Terrace, and trees #4 and #10 at 617 Indiana Terrace with the planting of nine (9) 24-inch box minimum size “canopy” replacement trees to be planted, preferably, on site; the motion was seconded by Vice Chair Beadle and all members were in favor, 3-0. Commissioner Whitman made a point that the permit fee of \$150 be charged per development lot.

APPLICATION FOR TREE REMOVAL PERMIT – 1301 Mountain View Avenue

The applicant, Mr. Karl Cox, explained reasons for requesting the removal of a 22-inch diameter Fan Palm tree on his property. The tree was found to threaten the property because of its sway in the wind that brings the tree within 2-feet of the existing structure. Discussion ensued. Vice Chair Beadle made a motion to approve removal of the fan palm with the planting of two (2) 24-inch box minimum size “canopy” replacement trees. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Whitman, and all members were in favor 3-0.

APPLICATION FOR TREE REMOVAL PERMIT – 1721 Mission Street

The applicant, Scott Feldman, explained reasons for requesting the removal of a 13-inch diameter Camphor tree on his property including issues with a retaining wall and drainage to the basement. Commissioner Whitman made a motion to approve removal of the camphor tree with the planting of one (1) 24-inch box replacement “canopy” tree; the motion was seconded by Vice Chair Beadle, and all members were in favor, 3-0.

CITY TREE REMOVALS

Currently, Maintenance Superintendent Barajas reports a tree removal at 515 Grand. It is an oak tree that is declining.

OAKLAWN BRIDGE/LEGION PARK PROJECT

Glen Duncan, President of the South Pasadena Preservation Foundation, explained reasons for requesting a Letter of Interest from the Natural Resources Commission for a grant that is being solicited to develop a new landscape plan for Legion Park. In addition he seeks Commission participation in a process that will decide what trees stay and what trees must go in order to develop a landscape plan geared toward making the bridge more visible. He asks that one member of the NRC be appointed to serve on an ad hoc committee to see the project through completion. Staff Liaison Harder will prepare a Letter of Interest for signature by the Chair in time for Veronica D. to submit it with the grant application - due Friday, January 26.

ARBOR DAY PLANNING

Commissioner Mitchell reports that he had a conversation with Barbara Eisenstein, Friends of the Nature Park, who is working with Maida Wong at the Library to develop an Arbor Day program that will include a walk at the nature park, scavenger hunt and other activities geared toward tree preservation and public awareness.

EARTH DAY EVENT PLANNING

Commissioner Whitman would like to see a bridle path walk included in this year's Earth Day event. Vice Chair Beadle expressed an interest in a possible picnic at Arroyo Park and walk. Commissioner Mitchell would like it to see a community project event. Commissioners are asked to come to the next meeting with ideas for marketing, materials and costs.

CHAIR COMMUNICATIONS

Vice Chair Beadle expressed his interest in developing an energy policy for recommendation to the City Council and has solicited statistical information from the City on energy usage. This matter will be placed on the February agenda for further discussion.

COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS - None.


STAFF LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS - None.

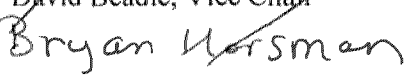
COUNCIL LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS

Council Liaison Mayor Putnam expressed his interest in the clean up project at Arroyo Park and the Nature Park that is being organized by Barbara Eisenstein and encouraged participation. Staff Liaison Harder will invite Ms. Eisenstein to meet with the City's Landscape Maintenance contractor and Maint. Super. to discuss how volunteer tasks can be developed and clean up projects organized so as to compliment new landscape maintenance activities at the nature park..

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

NEXT MEETING - The next regular meeting of the Natural Resources Commission will be held on Monday, February 26, 2007.



David Beadle, Vice Chair


MINUTES
NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION
February 26, 2007

ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 6:42 p.m. Present were Chair Bryan Horsman, Vice Chair David Beadle and Commissioner David Whitman. Commissioner Ron Mitchell arrived a short time later. Maintenance Superintendent Barajas and Staff Liaison Diana Harder were present.

MINUTES

Vice Chair Beadle made a motion to approve the minutes of January 22; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Whitman and all were in favor, 3-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS – None.

APPLICATION FOR TREE REMOVAL PERMIT – 2050 Ashbourne Street

The applicant, Wendy Munger, shared pictures and explained reasons for requesting the removal of a 30-inch diameter palm tree on her property due to litter and encroachment on neighboring trees. Maint. Super. Barajas explained that the tree would grow to 100-ft., and is only 50-60 feet now as well as that the tree poses no hazard to the adjacent trees. Discussion ensued. Commissioner Whitman made a motion to deny the application, the motion was seconded by Vice Chair Horsman and the motion passed 3-0.

APPLICATION FOR TREE REMOVAL PERMIT – 1824 Gillette Crescent

The applicants, James Okazaki and Linda Wah, explained reasons for requesting the removal of an approximately 3-foot diameter ash tree and approx. 3-foot diameter rubber tree. During the conversation it was determined that the ash tree is actually 2 ash trees growing close to each other and one multi-trunk ficus tree (diameters of existing trees and replacement trees to be determined by Maint. Super. Barajas). Maint. Super. Barajas explained that the ash tree growing closer to the house would be more apt to fail than the second tree that is farther away. Discussion ensued. Vice Chair Beadle made a motion to remove the ficus tree because of its interference with the house and to remove the ash tree closest to the wall. The ash tree furthest from the wall is to remain. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Mitchell and all members were in favor, 4-0.

APPLICATION FOR TREE REMOVAL PERMIT – 1022 Brent Avenue

The applicants, Raphael and Misha Lei, shared pictures and explained reasons for requesting the removal of a ficus tree on their property that is growing into the garage and lifting the foundation approximately 4 inches. Commissioner Whitman made a motion to approve removal of the ficus tree with the planting of an appropriate number of replacement trees based on Maint. Super. Barajas measurement of the ficus; the motion was seconded by Vice Chair Beadle and all members were in favor, 4-0.

APPLICATION FOR TREE REMOVAL PERMIT – 1953 La France

The applicant, David Foster, explained reasons for requesting the removal of a 12-inch diameter Oak tree on his property due to its proximity to roofs between 2 properties and a wall with no room to grow and mature. Commissioner Mitchell made a motion to approve removal of the oak tree with the planting of two (2) 36-inch box replacement trees, native species preferred. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Beadle and all members were in favor, 4-0.

APPLICATION FOR TREE REMOVAL PERMIT – 1610 Marengo Avenue

The applicant, Donna Furey, explained reasons for requesting the removal of a 42-inch diameter Deodar Cedar on her property including issues with crowding of adjacent trees. It was determined that the tree is a nice specimen and that the application should consider moving the tree using a tree nursery company, such as Senna, to consider the tree as nursery stock. The applicant was invited to return following exploration of such alternative method of tree removal that will preserve the tree.

CITY TREE REMOVALS

Currently, Maintenance Superintendent Barajas reports palm tree removals in the 600 block of Stratford due to pink rot.

EARTH DAY EVENT PLANNING

Commissioners discussed a concept for the car show participation "Keep So. Pas. Clean". Staff is asked to solicit the use of trash cans from Athens Services for use as painting project for local student participation to promote the "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle" message on the cans and to establish a trash patrol at events so that trash is collected and properly disposed of. The trash cans could be painted as part of earth day festivities and then used at the 4th of July parade and then at the car show. Staff Liaison Harder is asked to explore storage capacity at the yard for keeping the painted trash cans. Earth Day event activities may include a citywide clean up along freeway fences. Staff Liaison Harder will e-mail a letter of interest in such a project to Chair and Vice Chair for next months meeting discussion.

CITY ENERGY USAGE

Tabled to next meeting when all energy information has been obtained by Vice Chair Beadle.

CLEAN AIR CAR SHOW AND FILM FESTIVAL

Mayor Pro Tem Cacciotti shared the car show logo and flyer for the event and asked commissioners for ideas for participation in the event; suggesting a joint meeting with the youth commission next month. Staff Liaison Harder explained that the commission could participate and help further goals of AB 2176 to encourage the "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle" message at the large event and will share details of AB2176 at the next meeting. A joint meeting will be held with the Youth Commission from 6:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Library Conference Room on Monday, March 26 (next regular meeting date). The regular meeting of the NRC will be begin following the joint meeting, at 7:15 p.m. at the Council Chambers Conference Room thereby allowing 15-minutes travel time.

CHAIR COMMUNICATIONS

Chair Horsman spoke at a very productive South Pasadena Beautiful meeting. There will be a Nature Park Arbor Day Program at the Nature Park on Saturday, March 10 at 9:00 a.m. Senator Gil Cedillo's Office will be presenting a Resolution acknowledging the City of South Pasadena for ten years as a Tree City U.S.A. at the March 7 City Council meeting. The Arbor Day Proclamation will also be presented at that meeting.

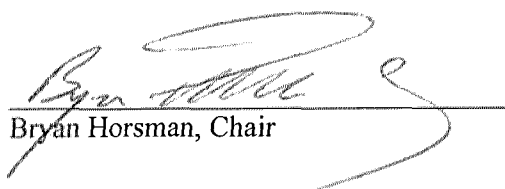
COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS - Commissioner Mitchell reported on the Friends of the Nature Park clean up project on February 17. It is reported as the biggest turn out ever for clean ups in the park. He asks for more police presence and to increase patrol of the park to remove homeless.

STAFF LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS - None.

COUNCIL LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS - None.

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

NEXT MEETING - The next regular meeting of the Natural Resources Commission will be held on Monday, March 26, 2007 starting with a joint meeting with the Youth Commission at the Library Conference Room from 6:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. and then the regular meeting starting at 7:15 p.m. at the usual place.


Bryan Horsman, Chair

MINUTES
NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION
March 26, 2007

ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 p.m. Present were Chair Bryan Horsman, Vice Chair David Beadle and Commissioner Ron Mitchell. Commissioner David Whitman was absent. Maintenance Superintendent Barajas and Staff Liaison Diana Harder were present. City Council Liaison Philip Putnam arrived shortly thereafter.

MINUTES

Commissioner Mitchell made a motion to approve the minutes of February 26; the motion was seconded by Vice Chair Beadle and all were in favor, 3-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS – Lila Bisner, President of South Pasadena Beautiful, shared a brochure including information on the Garden Tour this year on April 15.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENT CREATES NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION

Chair Horsman introduced Natalia, an elementary school student from Arcadia who is advocating for the protection of trees in Arcadia. Natalia is ten years old and loves trees. She has raised \$800 selling vintage jewelry to raise money to stop tree topping in her community. Chair Horsman offered contact information; encouraged Natalia and offered support. Mayor Cacciotti stopped in to congratulate Natalia on her efforts. Mayor Pro Tem Putnam also met her at the meeting.

APPLICATION FOR TREE REMOVAL PERMIT – 1510 Marengo Avenue

The applicant, Marvin Fong, presented a letter from his insurance company regarding tree encroachment on this property. Maintenance Superintendent Barajas explained that the tree is a 14-inch diameter oak tree. It is a young tree and the flare is still growing; the structure would require modification repeatedly to co-exist with the tree as it continues to grow. Discussion ensued. Vice Chair Beadle made a motion to recommend removal of the 14-inch diameter oak tree with the planting of two (2) 36-inch box minimum size native species replacement trees. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Mitchell and all members were in favor, 3-0.

APPLICATION FOR TREE REMOVAL PERMIT – 1817 Bushnell

The applicants, Dennis and Ellen Dougherty, shared photos and explained reasons for requesting the removal of a 15-inch diameter olive tree on their property. Vice Chair Beadle pointed out that the camphor tree while appearing to encroach on the olive tree will get above the tree as it grows to maturity. The reasons for requesting the tree removal were found to be mostly cosmetic. Dennis and Ellen Dougherty agreed to explore alternative methods to tree removal and report back to the commission at a future meeting.

APPLICATION FOR TREE REMOVAL PERMIT – 516 Arroyo Drive

The applicants, Melvin and Lena Kum, shared pictures and explained reasons for requesting the removal of a 22-inch diameter ash tree on their property. They agreed to withdraw the request to remove the 16-inch diameter ash tree, No. 2 on the application. The construction of a security block wall is impeded because of the close proximity of the tree to the block wall footing. The construction of a wooden fence alternative to retain the tree was discussed. Vice Chair Beadle made a motion to approve removal of the 22-inch diameter ash tree with the planting of four (4) 24-inch box replacement trees. The motion was seconded by Chair Horsman and the motion passed, 2-1.

CITY TREE REMOVALS

Removals include a dead pepper tree at 1135 El Centro and a dead pepper tree at 1918 Huntington Drive according to Maintenance Superintendent Barajas.

EARTH DAY EVENT PLANNING

Staff Liaison Harder is asked to check the balance of commission budget available for earth day. The event is planned to be low-key this year. The commission would like to purchase plants and possibly submit an ad in the local newspaper for local interest for an earth day cleaning event at the nature park. The event date will be Saturday, April 21 from 9am to 12:00 noon.

CITY ENERGY USAGE

Tabled to next meeting pending more information Vice Chair Beadle is collecting.

AB 2176 – WASTE REDUCTION PLAN FOR LARGE EVENTS

Staff Liaison Harder shared materials that can be used to monitor and record program information as well as quantities information for large events in compliance with AB 2176. The waste reduction, reuse and recycle plan for large events can be developed by the Commission for the 4th of July, and other car show events. Vice Chair Beadle will send out a Powerpoint Presentation on other event activities for AB 2176 compliance for review and this item will be on the agenda for next time.

CHAIR COMMUNICATIONS

Chair Horsman announced that the Arbor Day program at the nature park went very well on March 10. He shared the “I Spy Arroyo Nature Bingo” flyer that was an activity at the event that can be submitted with the 2007 Tree City application.

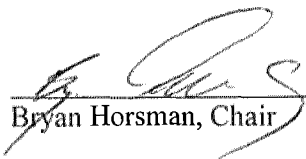
COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS - None.

STAFF LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS - The Friends of the Nature Park will be re-adopting the nature park at the City Council meeting on April 18 and special recognition will be given to Barbara Eisenstein for leading the group. State Senator Gil Cedillo’s office will be presenting a Resolution recognizing the City for 10 years as a Tree City at the City Council meeting on April 18.

COUNCIL LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS - Mayor Pro Tem Putnam shared information regarding discussions on the 710 tunnel through South Pasadena; explained interest in transit rail system for waste disposal (a 9-minute video is available and will be shared at the next commission meeting).

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned at 10:15 p.m.

NEXT MEETING - The next regular meeting of the Natural Resources Commission will be held on Monday, April 23, 2007 at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers Conference Room.


Bryan Horsman, Chair

MINUTES
NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION
May 7, 2007

ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Present were Chair Bryan Horsman, Vice Chair David Beadle, Commissioner Lela Bissner and Commissioner Bill Kelly. Commissioner David Whitman was absent. Maintenance Superintendent Barajas and Staff Liaison Diana Harder were present. City Council Liaison Dr. Richard Schneider was present.

MINUTES

Chair Horsman made a motion to approve the minutes of March 26; the motion was seconded by Vice Chair Beadle and the minutes were approved with a vote of 2-0 (Commissioners Bissner and Kelly abstaining)

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS – Robert Conte, Cultural Heritage Commissioner, shared a copy of the Downtown Redevelopment Project and suggested the Natural Resources Commission may want to make some comment on it. Staff Liaison Harder is asked to include the item on the next agenda for discussion as appropriate.

Ron Mitchell shared his concern regarding the removal of Mission Street trees without input of the Natural Resources Commission and the use of Replacement Tree revenues to fund tree planting on Mission Street. Council Liaison Schneider read a letter from Ken Walters of EC Construction apologizing for the inadvertent removal of crepe myrtle trees on Mission.

APPLICATION FOR TREE REMOVAL – 2044 FLETCHER AVENUE

The applicant, Niles Pierce, shared photos and a foundation report to demonstrate damages to his property caused by three Cedar trees. Maintenance Superintendent Barajas explained that root pruning would not be a viable option due to the foundation being within the zone of protection for the trees (3 times the diameter of the trunk). Discussion ensued. Chair Horsman made a motion to approve the removal of three (3) cedar trees with the planting of seven (7) 24-inch box minimum size replacement trees; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Kelly and all members were in favor, 4-0. Niles Pierce expressed his dissatisfaction at the number of replacement trees and asked for an alternative. Chair Horsman asked that the Replacement Tree Policy be placed on next month's agenda for further discussion with the intent that should a change be made to the current policy, the replacement trees for Niles Pierce's application would be adjusted accordingly.

APPLICATION FOR TREE REMOVAL PERMIT – 1401 FAIR OAKS AVENUE

The applicant, Clarence Hancock, shared photos of his tree and described circumstances that led him to request its removal including its location over a sewer line to the business property. He explained that excavation for the repair to the sewer lateral would require removal of the tree. Discussion ensued. Vice Chair Beadle made a motion to approve the removal a 22" diameter multi-trunk liquid ambar tree with the planting of three (3) replacement trees. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bissner and all members were in favor, 4-0. Should a change to the Replacement Tree Policy be adopted (per the above prior discussion), the replacement trees for Mr. Hancock would likewise be adjusted.

APPLICATION FOR TREE REMOVAL PERMIT – 1122 FREMONT AVENUE

The applicant, John Keefe, shared reasons for requesting the removal of a 16" diameter mulberry tree on his property including interference with underground plumbing right under the tree. Following some discussion, it was the consensus of the commission that Mr. Keefe return to the next meeting with estimates to demonstrate the financial hardship of installing a new service line around the tree.

APPLICATION FOR TREE REMOVAL PERMIT – 1816 GILLETTE CRESCENT

The applicant did not attend the meeting. Vice Chair Beadle made a motion to deny the request to remove a 14” diameter primrose tree failing to recognize a hardship by the property owner. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Horsman and all members were in favor, 4-0.

CITY TREE REMOVALS

Maintenance Superintendent Barajas reports no city tree removals at this time.

CITY ENERGY USAGE

Vice Chair Beadle expressed his interest in an energy audit that could provide the foundation for recommendations to improve energy efficiency in the City. Council Liaison Schneider will share the request with the City Council at its next meeting.

CLEAN AIR CAR SHOW AND FILM FESTIVAL – JULY 22, 2007

Mayor Cacciotti brought the commission up-to-date on the progress of plans for the car show and film festival. All commissioners are invited to the next planning meeting at 1pm in the Council Chambers. They are looking for members to help the day of the show, volunteers to make phone calls, etc. Staff Liaison Harder was asked to follow-up with Dennis Chiappetta of Athens regarding his sponsorship. Vice Chair Beadle will follow up with a speaker for Al Gore’s movie “An Inconvenient Truth”. They may contact the youth commission to follow up on prior commitments. Vice Chair Beadle has several suggestions for energy savings at the event including the use of solar power for the vendors and the use of special containers, no straws, etc. (requirements) for vendors to be more environmentally friendly with the distribution of food and drink at the event.

NRC TREE DEDICATION

Chair Horsman explained that the commission has a budget of \$1000 each year to spend on NRC programs and projects, and suggested that the Commission purchase dedication trees with the funds prior to June 30 as it is getting late in the year and no funds have been expended. Vice Chair Beadle also expressed interest in purchasing environmental t-shirts for various events. Chair Horsman made a motion to purchase two (2) 24-inch box dedication trees; a coast live oak tree for Garfield Park and a second tree of Jesse’s preference, to honor the City’s 10 years as a Tree City U.S.A. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bissner, and all members were in favor, 4-0.

CHAIR COMMUNICATIONS

Chair Horsman welcomed new commissioners Lela Bissner and Bill Kelly. Chair Horsman received a resolution for Senator Gil Cedillo’s office recognizing the City for 10 years as a Tree City U.S.A. at the City Council meeting on April 18, 2007. All commissioners were treated to a color copy of the Resolution courtesy of Chair Horsman. Chair Horsman introduced a concept know as the “Carbon Off-Set Program” that can provide funding for environmental projects and/or programs.

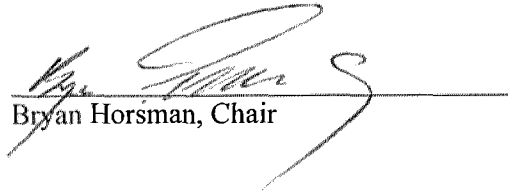
COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS - . There is consensus among commissioners to streamline the process by which it considers tree removal applications including the development of a handout to inform applicants how to prepare. This matter will be discussed, along with the Tree Replacement Policy item, at a special meeting next month. Commissioners showed an interest in attending a tour of the City’s water facilities. Staff Liaison will inquire into the possibility of such a tour as the commission considers expanding its role. Participation in the 4th of July will be on the next regular meeting agenda.

STAFF LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS - Staff Liaison Harder shared a memo and engineering drawing regarding a preliminary proposal to remove a parkway tree at 717 Fairview for an MTA Traction Power Sub Station. The MTA is not desirous of the tree removal, but may return to the Commission should it be necessary.

COUNCIL LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS - Council Liaison Schneider expressed his interest in expanding the charter of the Natural Resources Commission to include environmental issues, energy, green building, run-off, water contamination issues, etc. and to increase the number of commissioners. Discussion on this item will be on a future agenda for a special meeting.

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned at 10:35 p.m.

NEXT MEETING - The next regular meeting of the Natural Resources Commission will be held on Monday, May 21, 2007 at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers Conference Room.



Bryan Horsman, Chair

MINUTES
NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION
May 21, 2007

ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 6:33 p.m. Present were Chair Bryan Horsman, Vice Chair David Beadle, Commissioner Lela Bissner and Commissioner Bill Kelly. Commissioner David Whitman was absent. Maintenance Superintendent Barajas and Staff Liaison Diana Harder were present. City Council Liaison Dr. Richard Schneider arrived shortly thereafter. Mayor Cacciotti also attended the second half of the meeting.

MINUTES

Vice Chair Beadle made a motion to approve the minutes of May 7; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Bissner and the minutes were approved, 4-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS – Linda Krausen, 1109 Grevelia, as a member of South Pasadena Neighbors for Peace and Justice, passed out a flyer to invite commissioners to a production of “Who Killed the Electric Car” to be held on Saturday, May 26 at the Library Community Room. Vice Chair Beadle will communicate via e-mail to share information and contacts for the Clean Air Car Show.

APPLICATION FOR TREE REMOVAL – 815 MAGNOLIA STREET

The applicant, Michael Culross, shared photos and explained reasons for requesting the removal of a tree that he said has moved a foot since Christmas and is destroying his foundation; causing windows and doors not to close and cracking. Maintenance Superintendent Barajas explained that the structure is within 3 times the diameter of the root ball of the tree and it would be difficult to mitigate roots in that small area without causing a great impact on the tree. Vice Chair Beadle made a motion to approve removal of the Chinese Elm tree with the planting of two or three 24-inch box minimum size replacement trees depending on the diameter of the Chinese Elm to be removed (to be calculated by Maint. Super. Barajas). The motion was seconded by Chair Horsman, and all members were in favor, 4-0.

APPLICATION FOR TREE REMOVAL PERMIT – 1147 HUNTINGTON DRIVE

The applicant, Doreen Craig, shared photos and explained her hardship with the tree including foliage growing into wires and an adjacent fence. Maint. Super. Barajas explained that the tree is not imbedded in wires or the fence and recommended directional trimming away from those structures. Chair Horsman made a motion to deny removal of a 17-inch diameter Chinese Elm tree and to recommend directional pruning. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bissner and all members were in favor, 4-0.

APPLICATION FOR TREE REMOVAL PERMIT – 200 WARWICK AVENUE

The applicant, Sunny Chan, shared reasons for requesting the removal of three (3) palm trees on his property to plant more shade trees and provide more cover for his property. Discussion ensued. The Commission directed the applicant to re-submit his application with landscape plans for consideration at a future date. Staff Liaison Harder will place the application on hold pending the additional submittal.

CITY TREE REMOVALS

Maintenance Superintendent Barajas reports no city tree removals at this time. Commissioner Kelly asked about the health of a camphor tree 2 doors west of 1852 Oxley Street (NW corner of Oxley and Avon Place). Maint. Super. Barajas explained general health concerns of camphor trees citywide.

4TH OF JULY PARADE PARTICIPATION

Mayor Cacciotti offered the use of a Phoenix all electric sport utility truck for the NRC’s entry in the 4th of July Parade. Staff Liaison Harder will speak with Joan Shaw to obtain an application for the vehicle entry. The entry will promote the Clean Air Car Show coming up on July 22. Commissioners will walk with banners or posters advertising the event or ride inside the vehicle. The Commission will not use Mighty Mike (miniature trash truck) in this year’s entry.

CLEAN AIR CAR SHOW AND FILM FESTIVAL – JULY 22, 2007

Vice Chair Beadle has coordinated the participation of producers and directors to speak with a Q&A sessions following film presentations at the Rialto Theater. Mayor Cacciotti shared statistical materials that the Youth Commission is generating for the event. Vice Chair Beadle plans to obtain t-shirts from Ellen's Silkscreening for High School volunteers who may promote recycling and reuse concepts at the event. They may distribute and collect water bottles. They plan to have a booth at the event and coordinate with Athens. Commissioner Kelly thought that it would be nice to hand out flyers on tree care. Staff Liaison Harder will order materials from the ISA for the event.

GREEN BUILDING STANDARDS

Commissioner Kelly shared a Power Point presentation that he prepared to explain the benefits of Green Building Standards. Discussion ensued. Chair Horsman appointed Vice Chair Beadle and Commissioner Kelly to the Green Building Standards sub-committee to meet with various commissions as appropriate and develop conceptual standards for South Pasadena development projects. Staff Liaison Harder will share the presentation materials with Community Development Director David Watkins for his information.

CHAIR COMMUNICATIONS

Chair Horsman asked the status of NRC Dedication Trees. Staff Liaison Harder will follow up with Maint. Super. Barajas and report on status at the next regular meeting.

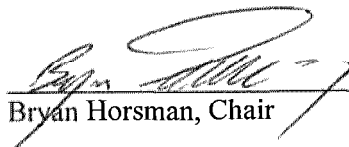
COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS - . By consensus the Commission set a date of Thursday, June 21 for a special NRC meeting to discuss the Commission's new charter, the Tree Ordinance, and Tree Planting policies and procedures. An agenda will be mailed to all commissioners one week prior to the meeting.

STAFF LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS - Staff Liaison Harder passed out a DVD and information about "Smart Gardening" provided by Los Angeles County Public Works.

COUNCIL LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS - Council Liaison Schneider explained that as a result of the special City Council meeting, the Natural Resources Commission has an expanded role and an increased membership to seven members. He asks that the Commission re-examine the Tree Ordinance and re-direct tree applications to public works staff. He explained that the Council is considering becoming a "Carbon Off-Set Program" provider and that SCE is continuing its efforts to provide an energy audit of city facilities.

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

NEXT MEETING - The next regular meeting of the Natural Resources Commission will be held on Monday, June 25, 2007 at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers Conference Room.



Bryan Horsman, Chair

MINUTES
NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION
June 21, 2007

ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m. Present were Chair Bryan Horsman, Vice Chair David Beadle, Commissioner Whitman and Commissioner Kelly. Commissioner Bissner was absent. Maintenance Superintendent Barajas and Staff Liaison Diana Harder were present. City Council Liaison Dr. Richard Schneider was present.

MINUTES

Vice Chair Beadle made a motion to approve the minutes of May 21; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Kelly and the minutes were approved, 3-1 (abstaining).

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS – Sam Burgess, Re: 99 Pasadena Avenue, suggested that new development consider draught tolerant indigenous plants in their landscape plans.

ENERGY, NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE

Staff Liaison Harder handed out the staff report to City Council regarding the new commission roles and responsibilities. The item did not go to City Council as scheduled.

TREE REMOVAL PERMITS

Commissioner Kelly suggested a “Tree City” header and opener for the hand-out. There is consensus to prepare an educational video to promote trees. The hand-out should include pre-qualifications to application processing included type of tree, size of tree, questions asking whether the tree could be trimmed or roots pruned to relieve the interference problems, a statement that trees would not be removed for plumbing problems, etc. Commissioners will take the work sheet home and send suggestions to Staff Liaison to compile for the next discussion meeting.

TREE REPLACEMENT REQUIREMENTS

The Commission came to consensus not to change the tree replacement requirements. Staff Liaison Harder may allow additional time to plant replacement trees to provide some flexibility. The Commission will continue to prefer the planting of native species.

AESTHETICS AND TREE PRESERVATION

The Commission came to consensus not to recommend a change to the Tree Ordinance to allow the removal of trees for aesthetic reasons.

EDISON ENERGY SURVEY

This matter has been tabled as the Edison Survey is not ready.

CLEAN AIR CAR SHOW AND FILM FESTIVAL – JULY 22, 2007

Staff Liaison explained that the t-shirts must include the car show logo if they are going to be worn at the Car Show and that the logo can be obtained from Jeannie Chiu. Commissioners will volunteer to man the city booth and hand out tree brochures and recycling information.

CHAIR COMMUNICATIONS

Chair Horsman asked that a certificate of appreciation be issued to Natalia to honor her for her dedication to developing a tree committee in the City of Arcadia. He also explained that the commission is required to take an ethics course and it is available on-line.

COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS

Vice Chair Beadle asked that a carbon off-set program for filming companies be placed on the agenda for the July regular meeting. Commissioner Kelly explained that the Green Building Standards sub-committee is gathering information and would be prepared to report back soon.

STAFF LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS

- . The NRC Dedication trees have been planted at Arroyo Vista School. There are 2 cork oaks planted there. Staff Liaison will schedule a photo shoot for a press release on a Monday early morning, 7:00 a.m. Dennis Chiappetta of Athens Services offered the Commission a MRF tour and by consensus this will be scheduled for a Monday evening in the future. A Water Tour of facilities will also be arranged during daytime hours and an announcement will be forthcoming on that.

COUNCIL LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS

- Councilman Dr. Schneider asked that Staff Liaison Harder contact Dave Ford of Edison regarding the status of the Energy Report.

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

NEXT MEETING - The next regular meeting of the Natural Resources Commission will be held on Monday, June 25, 2007 at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers Conference Room.


Bryan Horsman, Chair

MINUTES
NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION
June 25, 2007

ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m. Present were Chair Bryan Horsman, Vice Chair David Beadle, Commissioner Lela Bissner and Commissioner Bill Kelly. Commissioner David Whitman was absent. Maintenance Superintendent Barajas and Staff Liaison Diana Harder were present. City Council Liaison Dr. Richard Schneider was present.

MINUTES

No minutes.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS – Paul Antolch, 609 Prospect #24, a former scientist with aerospace shared his comments on incandescent bulbs and expressed his concerns that these bulbs should not be banned as they serve certain applications and cannot be substituted. Should the Commission address the issue of incandescents it should consider lighting applications.

APPLICATION FOR TREE REMOVAL – 1120-22 FREMONT

This application has been withdrawn.

APPLICATION FOR TREE REMOVAL PERMIT – 1148 OXLEY STREET

The applicant has asked to re-schedule.

APPLICATION FOR TREE REMOVAL PERMIT – 1215 KOLLE AVENUE

The applicant, Lucio Franco, presented his request for tree removal for construction and shared photos of his trees. Discussion ensued. Maintenance Superintendent Barajas explained that the trees are shallow rooted and both trees are within 3 to 4 feet of the new construction. Vice Chair Beadle made a motion to approve removal of two (2) Monterey Pine trees and two (2) Date Palm trees with the planting of twelve (12), 24-inch box minimum size “canopy” replacement trees. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kelly and was passed, 4-0.

APPLICATION FOR TREE REMOVAL PERMIT – 1715 LA SENDA PLACE

The applicant, Bob Murdock, shared reasons for requesting the removal of an ash tree on his property. Maint. Super. Barajas explained that the tree is fast growing and the roots while not impacting the foundation at this time could in the future. It is a multi-trunk 3-4 feet from the house measuring 22.2” in diameter. Three times the diameter of trunk puts tree on foundation. It is a young tree and too close to mitigate interference with use of root barriers. Vice Chair Beadle made a motion to remove the 22” diameter ash tree with the planting of three (3) 24-inch box minimum size replacement trees, the motion was seconded by Commissioner Bissner and all members were in favor, 4-0.

APPLICATION FOR TREE REMOVAL PERMIT – 1955 MERIDIAN AVENUE

The applicant requested that the item be re-scheduled.

CITY TREE REMOVALS

Maintenance Superintendent Barajas reports that there is a coast live oak tree coming out of a palm tree at 1315 Milan. It is a 6” diameter coast live oak. He is monitoring the situation and asked for Commissioner comments. There are also 2 oak trees that are declining in the 1200-1300 block of Brunswick and he is monitoring them. The commissioners will view the trees and report back with comments at the next regular meeting.

4TH OF JULY PARADE PARTICIPATION

Commissioners discussed final planning for parade. Commissioner Bissner will get the balloons and Vice Chair Beadle will confirm car entry. The banner for 4th of July preparation was discussed. All commissioners and families are invited to march in the parade.

CLEAN AIR CAR SHOW AND FILM FESTIVAL – JULY 22, 2007

Vice Chair Beadle will order the t-shirts to say “South Pasadena Volunteer Clean Team”. Schneider asked if the show will have dedicated bicycle parking. Staff Liaison Harder will inquire about that. Commissioners will volunteer at the city table/booth as follows:

- 11-12:30 - Vice Chair Beadle
- 12:30 to 3pm – Commissioner Kelly
- 3pm to 6pm – Commissioner Bissner

CHAIR COMMUNICATIONS

Chair Horsman asked that the Clean Air Car Show be on the agenda for the special meeting as a final planning item on Monday, July 16.

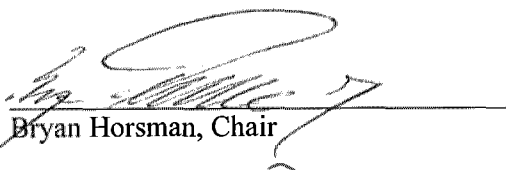
COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS - Vice Chair Beadle explained his interest in having a carbon off-set program for film companies. Vice Chair Beadle and Commissioner Kelly will have an update on Green Buildings at the next regular meeting.

STAFF LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS - None.

COUNCIL LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS - Council Liaison Schneider asked that the Commission be allowed to review the preliminary energy study, whatever is ready by the next regular meeting, and to incorporate fluorescent bulbs into the conversation or presentation on that subject.

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

NEXT MEETING - The next regular meeting of the Natural Resources Commission will be held on Monday, July 23, 2007 at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers Conference Room. There will be a special meeting to continue discussions regarding streamlining the permit removal process on Monday, July 16.



Bryan Horsman, Chair

MINUTES
NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION
July 16, 2007

ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m. Present were Chair Bryan Horsman, Vice Chair David Beadle, Commissioner David Whitman, Commissioner Bill Kelly and Commissioner Lela Bissner. Staff Liaison Diana Harder was present. Maintenance Superintendent Barajas was absent. City Council Liaison Dr. Richard Schneider was present.

MINUTES

Commissioner Bissner made a motion to approve the minutes of the special meeting of June 21; the motion was seconded by Vice Chair Beadle and the minutes were approved, 5-0.

Vice Chair Beadle made a motion to approve the minutes of June 25; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Bissner and was passed 4-1 (Whitman abstaining)

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS – None.

ENERGY, NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

The Commission discussed the name of the new commission and came to a consensus that the name was too long. They felt that “Energy” in the title was redundant and could be included in those environmental issues that include energy, water, etc. Discussion ensued. Vice Chair Beadle made a motion to name the new commission the “Natural Resources and Environmental Commission”; the motion was seconded by Chair Bryan Horsman and all members were in favor, 5-0. They asked for a special organizational meeting with Community Development Director David Watkins regarding Green Building Standards when the new Commission is adopted by City Council. The Commission expects to have regular, on-going agenda items to discuss including: landscaping, Green Buildings and water conservation issues. Commissioner Kelly wishes to bring grant opportunities to the commission.

TREE REMOVAL PERMITS

Staff Liaison Harder consolidated commissioner comments into a “tree guide” for residents to help them better prepare for commission meetings to present requests for tree removals. Several changes were recommended and Staff asked to revise the Tree Guide for final consideration at the next regular meeting.

CLEAN AIR CAR SHOW AND FILM FESTIVAL – JULY 22, 2007

Commissioner Whitman will bring Tree City flag and Reduce, Reuse, Recycle banner to the City/Commission table at the event. Staff Liaison Harder will establish a location for the trash bin and cardboard trash cans that will be provided by Athens. The Commission will have volunteers empty cans and monitor the event. Vice Chair Beadle will provide the “Clean Team” t-shirts for litter patrol at the event.

CHAIR COMMUNICATIONS

Chair Horsman said the 4th of July event went well and good photos were taken commemorating the event. Council Liaison Schneider, Commissioner Bissner and Chair Horsman met at the Arroyo Vista Elementary School for Commission Dedication trees this morning.

COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS

- . Commissioner Whitman asked that the City look into the recent removal of trees at 1901 Via del Rey and 2 trees on Harriman. He also suggested the commission look into new controls for use of plastic bottles and plastic bags taking place in other communities. Commissioner Bissner knows a commission candidate with legal background when the commission expands its membership. Commissioner Kelly suggests the commission show environmental films at the Library Community Room 1 or 2 times per year. Vice Chair Beadle said he would contact

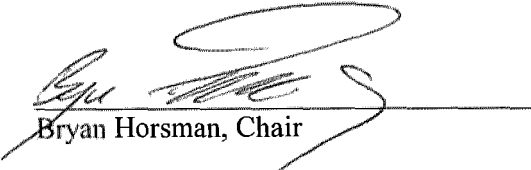
Linda Krauss who is currently doing this with her organization. They ask that this matter be placed on the August regular agenda for further discussion. Commissioner Kelly will provide a list of films.

STAFF LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS - Staff Liaison Harder passed out flyers regarding the local Household Hazardous Waste Satellite Event to be held at the School District Parking Lot on Saturday, September 15; a Free Tire Recycling Event to be held on Saturday, July 28; and the Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District for Water Fest, 2007. The election of Chair and Vice Chair to the commission will be held at the July regular meeting. Staff Liaison Harder provided the Draft Energy Audit for commissioner review. The Edison Energy Audit will be on the regular agenda for the next meeting.

COUNCIL LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS - Council Liaison Schneider distributed articles from the Institute for Local Government including: California Climate Action Network, Energy Efficiency Q&A, Building Deconstruction, Glendale's Trash Exclusion Program and Links to Energy Assistance Resources. .

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

NEXT MEETING - The next regular meeting of the Natural Resources Commission will be held on Monday, July 23, 2007 at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers Conference Room.



Bryan Horsman, Chair

MINUTES
NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION
July 23, 2007

ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m. Present were Commissioner David Whitman, Commissioner Lela Bissner and Commissioner Bill Kelly. Chair Bryan Horsman and Vice Chair David Beadle were absent. Maintenance Superintendent Barajas and Staff Liaison Diana Harder were present. City Council Liaison Dr. Richard Schneider was present. In the absence of the Chair and Vice Chair, Commissioner David Whitman was Acting Chairman for the meeting.

MINUTES

None.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS – None.

APPLICATION FOR TREE REMOVAL – 1148 OXLEY STREET

The applicant, Joseph Rusch and his architect, Staci Nesbitt, shared photos and explained reasons for requesting the removal of a 26-inch diameter palm tree on the property. The tree is not diseased, but is encroaching on the upper roof of a room addition. Acting Chair David Whitman made a motion to approve removal of the 26-inch diameter palm tree (tree #2 on the application) with the planting of seven (7) 24-inch box replacement trees (4 trees for the Staff-approved 36-inch diameter diseased tree on the application as tree #1 and 3 trees for the 26-inch diameter palm tree); the motion was seconded by Commissioner Bissner and all members were in favor, 3-0.

APPLICATION FOR TREE REMOVAL PERMIT – 536 FREMONT AVENUE

The applicant, George Wood, explained reasons for requesting the removal of an approximate 24-inch diameter date palm tree on his property due partially to crowding a jacaranda tree. He wishes to remove the tree as nursery stock. Acting Chair Whitman made a motion to approve removal of the tree as nursery stock with the planting of three (3) 24-inch box replacement trees; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Kelly and all members were in favor, 3-0.

APPLICATION FOR TREE REMOVAL PERMIT – 1705 FLETCHER AVENUE

The applicant, Edward Price, explained reasons for requesting the removal of an approximate 82-inch diameter Tree of Heaven on his property including the recommendation of Finch Tree Surgery that the tree had sustained tree limb loss at a point very low on its trunk. Maintenance Superintendent Barajas explained that the Tree of Heaven is a weed-type tree; that he had not measured the limb to determine a dire tree condition and it appeared healthy. Acting Chair Whitman made a motion to approve removal of the 82-inch diameter Tree of Heaven with the planting of eight (8) 24-inch box minimum size replacement trees including one recommended for planting on the property; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Bissner and all members were in favor, 3-0. By consensus the commission felt that trimming the tree would be a more cost effective solution to the property owner.

APPLICATION FOR TREE REMOVAL PERMIT – 2049 AMHERST DRIVE

The applicant, Don Watson and his arborist, Steve Tepe, shared photos and explained reasons for requesting the removal of a 14-16-inch diameter liquid ambar tree on the property. They have treated the tree for infestation for several years and feel it is a hardship to continue treatments to keep the tree healthy. Maintenance Superintendent Barajas explained that the tree is not dead, dying or diseased but must be treated for a condition annually and persistently or the tree will decline. Acting Chair Whitman made a motion to approve removal of the liquid ambar tree with the planting of two (2) 24-inch box replacement trees; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Kelly and all members were in favor, 3-0.

APPLICATION FOR TREE REMOVAL PERMIT – 1404 LAUREL STREET

The builder for the project, Richard Wang, shared reasons for requesting the removal of two deodar trees on the property due to relocation of the garage and garage access requirements. Commissioner Bissner made a motion to approve removal of the deodar trees with the planting of replacement trees based on trunk measurements to be obtained by Maint. Super. Barajas; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Kelly and all members were in favor, 3-0.

CITY TREE REMOVALS

Maintenance Superintendent Barajas asks that commissioner look at silver maple trees at Kolle & Brunswick that may require removal. By consensus the commission agreed that an oak tree should be removed in the 1300 block of Milan that is growing out of a palm tree.

GREEN BUILDING UPDATE

Tabled.

EDISON'S ENERGY AUDIT

Dave Ford, Regional Manager of Edison, and Brad Bergman of Intergy Corporation, introduced themselves and answered questions regarding the Energy Efficiency Assessment Report. They explained the energy costs are about \$1,000,000 per year for city facilities and that the report focused on an initial energy savings for lighting, HVAC systems and water pump operations. The energy savings for these fairly minor upgrades is \$86,199 per year. Program incentives are available to only 2 cities out of 30, so South Pasadena is being selected to take a lead in this energy effort. The cost for various upgrades is made up for in the energy savings over a short period of time. The report represents an initial energy savings and Edison anticipates further measures after this initial report to provide greater energy savings to other systems including street lighting and traffic signals. The City of Alhambra is currently saving 3 million kwh on a street lighting and traffic signal conversion project. The estimated 65 hours of operation at city facilities (page 9, 2.3 Historical Energy Consumption) was discussed and Mr. Bergman explained that more accurate operational hours can be found in the tables for each facility. The Commission would be interested in a program to help residents recycle CFL lights as incentives are offered to the general public for lighting change-outs. Dave Ford invited commissioners to classes held at Edison's Irwindale offices that teach energy saving technologies. Council Liaison Schneider suggested that Acting Chair David Whitman make himself available to answer questions when the report is presented to City Council. Discussion ensued with a general consensus that the Edison report has excellent pay back in a short term for the implementation of simple energy saving projects. Commissioner Kelly made a motion to accept Edison's Energy Efficiency Assessment Report and to recommend to City Council that they approve the report and implement its programs to take advantage of current incentives offered by Edison. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bissner and all members were in favor, 3-0.

Dave Ford invited commissioners to the Big Creek High Sierra Workshop on August 8-10 to tour Edison's Big Creek San Joaquin River Hydroelectric Project, one of the world's greatest hydroelectric power developments. They will have discussions on various energy topics including: The Contribution of Edison's Hydroelectric Project; Energy Market Update; Energy Efficiency Programs for Local Governments; and other topics of interest to local cities. Acting Chair Whitman showed interest and may attend as a representative of the Commission.

Dave Ford presented the Commission with a San Gabriel Energy Wise Partnership Resolution for review and comment. The Resolution would establish a partnership between 30 San Gabriel Valley cities, SCAG, SGVCOG and Edison in the furtherance of completing energy-efficiency projects and to adopt guidelines and explore incentives to encourage use of energy-efficiency incentive offered by the Partnership. Acting Chair Whitman asked that the Resolution be placed on a future agenda for discussion and recommendation.

RESIDENT'S GUIDE FOR TREE REMOVALS

Tabled.

ANNUAL ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Tabled.

CHAIR COMMUNICATIONS

None.

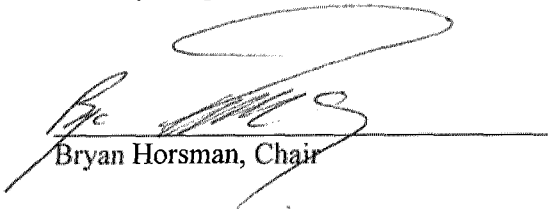
COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS - Commissioner Kelly shared a press release from Southern California Gas Co. on energy efficiency programs for businesses offering rebates and incentives.

STAFF LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS - Staff Liaison Harder explained that the City Prosecutor, Joan Jenkins, would like to attend the next regular meeting to introduce herself. Staff Liaison Harder will present a report of the latest violations of the tree ordinance that have occurred as part of the agenda item. Staff Liaison Harder provided copies of articles from Council Liaison Schneider from the Institute for Local Government including: California Climate Action Network, Energy Efficiency Q&A, Building Deconstruction, Glendale's Trash Exclusion Program and Links to Energy Assistance Resources.

COUNCIL LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS - None.

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

NEXT MEETING - The next regular meeting of the Natural Resources Commission will be held on Monday, August 27, 2007 at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers Conference Room.



Bryan Horsman, Chair

MINUTES
NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION
August 29, 2007

ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 6:34 p.m. Present were Chair Bryan Horsman, Vice Chair David Beadle and Commissioner David Whitman, Commissioner Lela Bissner and Commissioner Bill Kelly. Maintenance Superintendent Barajas was absent. Staff Liaison Diana Harder was present. City Council Liaison Dr. Richard Schneider was present.

MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting of July 16, 2007 were approved as motioned by Vice Chair Beadle and seconded by Chair Horsman and all members were in favor, 5-0. Minutes of the meeting of July 23 were approved as motioned by Commissioner Bissner and seconded by Commissioner Kelly with a vote of 3-2 (abstaining).

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS – None.

SOLAR POWER

Richard LaBrie gave a presentation regarding various methods to fund solar energy for the City including solar lease and solar power purchase agreements. He provided a handout showing the various options for a sample project of \$500,000 as provided by California Green Designs. The electric savings are based on a budget that must be increased to keep up with rising costs of electricity at the rate of 6.5% per year. Commissioner Whitman asked about maintenance and repair costs. Mr. LaBrie explained that a ¼ to ½% of cost of system charge would be added for a maintenance agreement. Dave Ford of SCE added that Edison may be providing incentives for solar power installations in the future.

DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION PROJECT

Pat Ford, Chair of the Community Redevelopment Commission, gave a presentation regarding the Downtown Revitalization Project. She expects to take comments to City Council in the future and is sharing the information with several commissions. The status is that the schematics are done and next they will do the EIR that will be available for public comment sometime in mid-September. This is the only time that the Commission can provide comments so the Commission will hold a special meeting to prepare comments when the report comes out. Pat Ford provided handouts regarding parking numbers and project facts. She is seeking Natural Resources comments on open space issues including trees. The CRC did find that there is currently sufficient park open space with 5% of the City acreage or 1.8 acres already designated as parkland open space. Commissioner Kelly asked whether the EIR will address energy use. Pat Ford said it would not. Commissioner Kelly asked whether the report would address green house gas emissions. Pat Ford said she didn't know. Commissioner Kelly asked about spaces for residential units and it was explained that only one parking space is required for senior housing units. He asked about bike racks and Pat Ford explained that they are in the plan for the plaza. The Commission should consider recommending Green Building incentives for the Decoma project at its special meeting. The website and source of information for the Decoma project is www.downtownsopas.org.

INTRODUCTION OF CITY PROSECUTOR

Joan Stein Jenkins introduced herself and explained a little about how she manages violations of the Tree Ordinance. Staff Liaison Harder reviewed current and pending tree violations and provided copies of letters produced before and following office conferences to resolve tree violations. The Commission was pleased to meet Joan Jenkins and expressed its appreciation of her work to help promote trees in the community.

APPLICATION FOR TREE REMOVAL PERMIT – 1313 MOUNTAIN VIEW

The applicant has requested postponement of its request pending additional information and support of the tree removal(s).

APPLICATION FOR TREE REMOVAL PERMIT – 2025 LA FRANCE

The applicant has requested postponement of its request pending additional information and support of the tree removal(s).

CITY TREE REMOVALS

Maintenance Superintendent Barajas was absent.

GREEN BUILDINGS UPDATE

Commissioner Kelly provided an update and handout regarding the process by which green buildings standards can be implemented by the City. He will draft a report for discussion at the next regular meeting for continued discussion.

SAN GABRIEL VALLEY ENERGY WISE PARTNERSHIP

Dave Ford, Regional Manager of Edison, and Brad Bergman of Intergy Corporation, were present. Dave Ford thanked the commission for its support. He announced that in mid-September they will be holding a workshop for senior to teach energy conservation and they have been helping local businesses with tips on refrigeration energy savings techniques and lighting improvements free of charge. Vice Chair Beadle asked about LED lights and asked why they were not recommended in the energy audit. Mr. Bergman explained that they didn't see an immediate application for such lights and that other turn-key solutions to lighting that could be most easily implemented were included in the report. Commissioner Kelly made a motion to recommend that the City Council adopt a resolution entering into the San Gabriel Valley Energy Wise Partnership, the motion was seconded by Chair Horsman and all members were in favor, 5-0.

RESIDENT'S GUIDE FOR TREE REMOVALS

Vice Chair Beadle made a motion to approve the Resident's Guide for Tree Removals; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Whitman and all members were in favor, 5-0. Dr. Schneider asked that the guide be presented to the City Council as an informational item.

ANNUAL ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Chair Horsman nominated Vice Chair Beadle as Chairman to the Commission. Vice Chair Beadle accepted the nomination. The nomination was seconded by Commissioner Kelly and all members were in favor, 5-0. Vice Chair Beadle nominated Commissioner Bissner as Vice Chair to the Commission. Commissioner Bissner accepted the nomination. The nomination was seconded by Chair Horsman and all members were in favor, 5-0.

CHAIR COMMUNICATIONS - None.

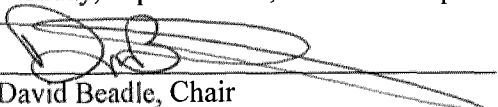
COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS - Vice Chair Beadle explained that he had cellulose pumped into walls in this house and received a \$500 rebate from Edison for reducing energy costs for air-conditioning. Commissioner Kelly would like to promote waterwise. Com and other water conservation items at the Toilet Exchange Event.

STAFF LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS - Staff Liaison Harder shared flyers for the High Efficiency Toilet event, the Household Hazardous Waste event and Mission West Festival.

COUNCIL LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS - None.

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

NEXT MEETING - The next regular meeting of the Natural Resources Commission will be held on Monday, September 24, 2007 at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers Conference Room.


David Beadle, Chair

MINUTES
NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION
September 24, 2007

ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. Present were Chair David Beadle, Vice Chair Lela Bissner, Commissioner Bryan Horsman and Commissioner Bill Kelly. Commissioner David Whitman was absent. Maintenance Superintendent Barajas was present as was Staff Liaison Diana Harder. Council Liaison Dr. Richard Schneider arrived shortly thereafter.

MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting of August 29, 2007 was approved as motioned by Chair Beadle and seconded by Commissioner Kelly and all members were in favor, 4-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS – Scott Feldman, CEO of the Chamber of Commerce, announced his interest in soliciting tree donations as part of his Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony again this year. This matter will be on the agenda at the October regular meeting.

APPLICATION FOR TREE REMOVAL PERMIT – 1007 COLUMBIA

The applicant, Kerri Nouriani, shared photos and explained reasons for requesting the removal of a canary island pine tree on her property including its interference with power lines, rootball on foundation of renovation, rodent problems, etc. and a second tree that is a pepper she feels is termite infested and in the footprint of a driveway that she wants to widen. Discussion ensued. The Commission recommended that she consider removing the tree as nursery stock using Pacific Tree Brokers or another tree nursery company. They also asked her to explore the need for a permit for driveway widening and at a minimum to return with a to-scale drawings showing where the tree is in relation to the driveway widening project.

APPLICATION FOR TREE REMOVAL PERMIT – 2025 LA FRANCE

The applicants, Budd and Patricia Johnson, explained reasons for requesting the removal of a camphor tree that is leaning and encroaching on the foundation of the house. They submitted a foundation report that recommends tree removal as a permanent solution. It was also explained that Mr. Johnson is handicapped and it is difficult to navigate his property. Chair Beadle made a motion to approve removal of the camphor tree, due to hardship, with the planting of two (2) 24-inch box minimum size replacement trees; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Horsman and all members were in favor, 4-0.

APPLICATION FOR TREE REMOVAL PERMIT – 245 FAIR OAKS

The applicants, Peter Tolkin of Tolkin Associates, Emily Gillmar and Leigh Jerrard, explained reasons for requesting the removal of 10 trees on their development and the transplanting of 4 trees to accommodate a parking lot. Chair Beadle made a motion to approve the removal and transplanting of 14 trees for the development; the motion was seconded by Vice Chair Bissner and the motion failed: 2 Yes, 1 No, 1 Abstaining. Discussion continued with regard to the survivability of transplanting oak trees. Commissioner Kelly will research this topic and the matter will be re-agendized next month. The Commission also asked the Tolkin Associates bring their arborist to the next meeting.

CITY TREE REMOVALS

Maintenance Superintendent Barajas plans to remove a magnolia tree at 420 Orange Grove due to change in grade that resulted in suffocation of the tree. He hoped that it would recover, but it is leaning and not recovering well.

ARROYO SECO WATERSHED MANAGEMENT FEASIBILITY STUDY

Dan Sharp with Los Angeles County Public Works Department, representing the Flood Control District, explained the agreement between the Flood Control District and cities within the Arroyo Seco Watershed

to share costs for a study for the Arroyo Seco Watershed Management Plan to improve the water course. The County is the lead local sponsor with 50% local share and they are distributing that cost with other entities involved who will benefit. The cost for South Pasadena would be \$51,745 within the next 2 years. Mr. Sharp provided a handout identifying the types of potential environmental restoration projects that can be done in the .4 mile length of the Arroyo Seco that is within the South Pasadena limits.

Funding for such projects would be supported by federal grants covering 65% to 75% of the cost, with the remaining money coming from the City. For example a \$1,000,000 project would cost the City between \$250,000 and \$350,000 to complete. Mr. Sharp further explained that funding would be at least 3-4 years out.

The Natural Resources and Environmental Commission sees potential *regional* benefits that may flow from the study and resulting waterway restoration projects. These include new recreational areas, enhanced wildlife habitat, enhanced water supply, and help for local governments in meeting future storm water discharge requirements. However, *direct* benefits to the city stemming from the study would entail additional city expense. Commissioner Bill Kelly will attend the October 3rd City Council meeting to elaborate on the commission's review of this matter.

STRATEGIC PLANNING THREE-YEAR GOALS

The Commission studied the table for the three-year goal to preserve and improve the environment and can be helpful in these areas as follows:

- The Commission will handout flyers about water conservation at the toilet exchange event as well as other environmental events in the City.
- Chair Horsman appointed Commissioner David Beadle and Bill Kelly to a Green Buildings subcommittee to study and report on green building standards recommendations for South Pasadena. This subcommittee will provide valuable information for the environmental goal to amend development code and design guidelines for green development later this fall.
- In addition, the Commission is reviewing the EIR for the Downtown Revitalization Project to make specific recommendations on storm water runoff, energy use, bike racks in the open space areas, as well as energy efficient lighting, deconstruction of the old nursery building as opposed to demolition, and solar lighting and energy considerations.
- The Commission has researched solar photovoltaic energy options for the City, including funding sources for cities, and plans to research and make any warranted recommendations on installing solar hot water systems to save on gas heating costs at city buildings.
- The Commission supports and would be help in developing green purchasing programs that reduce the overall carbon footprint by using green products, such as cars, recycled paper, recycled ink cartridges, etc.

GREEN BUILDING UPDATE

This matter has been tabled to the October regular meeting.

EMERGENCY ITEM – GWEN MCLAIN COMPLAINT

Commissioner Kelly motioned to add an emergency item to the agenda to discuss Gwen McLain's complaint before the City Council on Wednesday, September 19 regarding the tree ordinance. She complained that the tree ordinance needs to be made clearer, needs wider distribution to improve public awareness and needs harsher penalties. Chair Beadle added that she is concerned with the loss of trees in the City. Chair Beadle agreed to contact Gwen McLain to ask her help to distribute the Resident's Tree Guide in the community. In addition, a portion of the Tree Guide will be printed in the Winter Issue of Neighbor's Community Newsletter as well as posted on the website.

CHAIR COMMUNICATIONS - None.

COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS - Chair Beadle explained that there is an art benefit to provide medical care to children in New Orleans being planned for December 2. He asks that

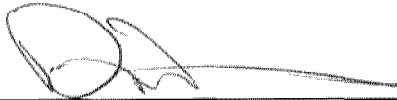
the benefit be on the October agenda to discuss what NREC can do to participate. Vice Chair Bissner explained that South Pasadena Beautiful is planning many projects to improve water fountains, the canopy over the picnic area at Garfield Park. Commissioner Kelly reported that there are 5 stumps in the front yard of a property on Diamond, west side of the street, south of the High School pool that should be investigated for illegal tree removal. Commissioner Beadle explained that Natalia received a certificate of appreciation at the September 19 City Council meeting and plans have begun to initiate changes in the City of Arcadia to preserve and protect trees. He also shared a letter he received from Edward Price of 1705 Fletcher asking that tree replacement requirements be reduced as well as the response letter from the City.

STAFF LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS - Staff Liaison Harder shared flyers for Dumpster Day and Water Fest 2007. She will include an item on next month's agenda to discuss a new meeting day and location; taking into consideration what city facilities are available and when the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy meets so that there are no meeting conflicts.

COUNCIL LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS - Councilman Dr. Schneider announced that the draft EIR was released and that the Commission would be required to provide their comments within 45 days.

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned at 10:30 p.m.

NEXT MEETING - The next regular meeting of the Natural Resources Commission will be held on Monday, October 22, 2007 at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers Conference Room.



David Beadle, Chair

**MINUTES
NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION
October 10, 2007**

ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. Present were Chair David Beadle, Vice Chair Lela Bissner, Commissioner David Whitman and Commissioner Bill Kelly. Commissioner Bryan Horsman was absent. Maintenance Superintendent Barajas was present as was Staff Liaison Diana Harder. Council Liaison Dr. Richard Schneider attended part of the time.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS – Kristen Dube, 822 Summit, Calvary Preschool representative, expressed concerns with the Downtown Revitalization Project EIR as it relates to the preschool. Ross Silverman, 1008 Mound, resides south of the Project and participated in item discussion. Robert Conte, 1335 Oakhill, expressed his concerns with the draft EIR that has a large impact on the environment and asked that the Commission do everything they can to make the project environmentally friendly.

EIR FOR DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION PROJECT

Discussion included concerns with air quality because of the additional amount of cars, around 2300 car trips per day, required by the project. There is a distinct lack of open space and the development is not found to be pedestrian friendly in its current form. The town square does not exist and there are density issues with the project. NREC will ask Decoma to provide the LEED standards they are going to use and provide complete itemization for the project. Introductory paragraphs to be provided by Commissioner Kelly for overview of NREC concerns regarding Green House Gasses, Water Conservation, etc.

The following comments and concerns were noted in the order of the Environmental Checklist in the EIR:

AESTHETICS:
Describe specific technical data for lighting and glare to compare to what is there now and areas affected by changes.
AIR QUALITY:
Develop On-Site Particulate Monitoring Program
Describe anti-idling ordinance and how they will comply with trucks moving earth or bringing supplies to job sites. Mound Avenue should be off-limits for trucks; also, any locations up-wind of truck line-up areas.
Dust control measures should be in place to minimize amount of earth disturbance; small areas should be excavated at one time and any area exposed should be treated with sealer (a cellulose coating) to assist with water conservation efforts.
Require Risk Screening Analysis for daycare and adjacent residences to measure exposure to diesel soot and toxic emissions.
Erect barriers at adjacent residential areas to minimum height of 10' to control dust.
Measure concentration of carbon monoxide in below ground garages.
Create electrical supply parking spaces for electric plug-in hybrid vehicles – 10 spaces.
BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES:
Tree replacements for project to be as determined by Natural Resources and Environmental Commission.
HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS:
Mitigate oil spills from vehicles that may occur in parking areas.
HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY:
Identify storm water impacts and how the project will comply with L.A. Regional Water Quality NPDES Permit for storm water and run-off issues.
NOISE:
Use quiet air-conditioning equipment and insulate adjacent daycare and residential areas from noise pollution. Enforce noise ordinance and hours of construction – post notices on all construction area fences.
PUBLIC SERVICES: 4) Parks

Require two thousand (2,000) – 24-inch minimum size trees be planted.
UTILITIES AND SERVICES SYSTEMS:
Minimize water use by installing top-of-the-line water efficient fixtures, including waterless fixtures and appliances; utilizing the various incentives offered by USGVMWD and MWD.
Use technology to create a downspout water system to fountains in courtyards.
Install solar power on available roof space (using Edison incentives) for energy and water heaters and thermal storage water heating systems.
Use LED Street Lighting, LEDs and CFs for maximum energy efficiency and Energy Star appliances
13 SEER air conditioning using PureOn to cool buildings.

TREE RELOCATING PROCESS

Chair Beadle introduced discussion on the relocation of oak trees. Maintenance Superintendent Barajas explained that the ISA standard for determining container size is approximately nine inches (diameter) of root ball to each inch of trunk diameter. While some tree species may survive with smaller root balls than recommended, others species are very sensitive to box size. On the more sensitive species, it is recommended the largest box allowable; the greater the root mass the greater the likelihood of success. Discussion ensued. Commissioner Whitman made a motion to recommend that any tree agreeable to transplanting be subject to the 9” of root ball for each inch of trunk diameter rule; and, if transplanting is not possible that one (1) -36” box replacement tree be required for each 2” in diameter, or portion thereof, for oak tree removals for construction. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Bissner and all members were in favor, 4-0.

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned to the Monday, October 22, 2007 Planning Commission Meeting.

NEXT MEETING - The next regular meeting of the Natural Resources Commission will be held on Tuesday, October 30, 2007 at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers Conference Room.



David Beadle, Chair

**MINUTES
NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
October 22, 2007**

ROLL CALL

Planning Commission Meeting convened at: 6:40 PM

Commissioners Present:

Richard Tom, Chair
Steve Friedman, Vice-Chair
J. Stephen Felice, Secretary
Vijay Sehgal, Commissioner
Claude Stewart, Commissioner

Staff Present:

David G. Watkins, Director of Planning and Building
Richard L. Adams, II, City Attorney
John Mayer, Senior Planner
Paul Garnett, Assistant Planner
Debby Linn, Planning Consultant
Julie Patino, Recording Secretary

PUBLIC COMMENT – DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION PROJECT DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT (EIR)

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Comm. Friedman.

Chair Tom announced that this item would also be discussed before the Community Redevelopment Commission, Natural Resources and Environmental Commission and the Transportation Commission. City Attorney Adams explained the public hearing process for all four commissions and invited each Commission to call their meeting to order.

Natural Resources and Environmental Commission (NREC)

David Beadle, Vice-Chair of the Natural Resources and Environmental Commission (NREC), called the meeting of the NREC to order. Present were Commissioners Beadle, Bissner, Kelly, and Whitman. Commissioner Horsman was absent.

Mr. Mayer presented his staff report for this item and explained that the purpose of this hearing was to take public comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the City's Downtown Revitalization Project. Mr. Mayer provided a brief background and described the proposed project in detail. At the conclusion of his report, he asked that the Commission open the public portion of the hearing to allow public comment on the DEIR.

The Planning Commission had no questions at this time. Chair Tom invited members of the other Commissions to ask questions of staff and/or the consultants.

Natural Resources and Environmental Commission

NREC Chair David Beadle stated that the NREC was still in the process of drafting their

written response to the DEIR. On behalf of the NREC, he asked that the Planning Commission extend the response period an additional 30 days to allow the NREC to meet with the consultant in order to complete their response. Chair Beadle also expressed concern that this item was not noticed in the City of Pasadena. He felt the deadline was too rushed and that his request for an extension was reasonable.

Chair Tom briefly addressed Mr. Beadles question regarding the extension and informed him that the Planning Commission could only recommend an extension to the City Council and ultimately, the City Council would make the final decision.

NREC Commissioner Kelly expressed concern regarding impacts of global warming, traffic, and noise and stated that these specific concerns would be addressed in the NREC's written response to the DEIR.

NREC Commissioner Whitman expressed concern regarding water consumption. He felt that this issue had not been addressed in the DEIR and stated that the Downtown project would greatly reduce South Pasadena's water supply.

Natural Resources and Environmental Commission

NREC Chair Beadle stated that the project was too dense and needed more open space.

NREC Comm. Kelly stated he would like to see an economic study showing how the city will benefit from the downtown project.

Planning Commission

Comm. Friedman briefly addressed some of the comments made by the public. He felt that the DEIR should address the following: 1) Rogan Fund and the Multi-mode Low Build Plan; 2) incorporating green technology and methods as part of the formal mitigation plan; and 3) Historic Resources in more detail. He anticipated formal comments from the CHC regarding this issue. Comm. Friedman also expressed concern that the DEIR did not address potential parking that could support the various uses of the Rialto. Finally, Comm. Friedman suggested that the DEIR contain an economic analysis that explains how and why the project was designed.

Comm. Stewart thanked the public speakers for their comments. He agreed with Comm. Friedman that the green methods should be discussed within the DEIR. Comm. Stewart expressed concern regarding traffic and felt that the traffic could not be completely mitigated but rather only maintained.

Comm. Felice urged the consultants to address all of the issues brought up by the public speakers. He stated that traffic was the biggest issue. He suggested that the DEIR also take into consideration public transportation, water usage and water runoff.

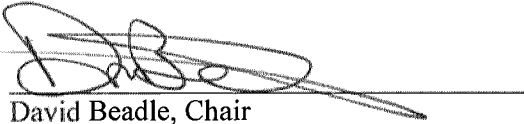
Chair Tom stated that the open process of having public comments on this kind of development is very important and agreed that several issues mentioned by the public need to be looked at further. He agreed with Comm. Friedman that it is important to include the issue of overriding considerations and documenting the reasons why the City wants to move forward with this development.

At the conclusion of Planning Commissioner Comments, City Attorney Adams invited the other Commissions to adjourn their meetings.

Natural Resources and Environmental Commission (NREC)

A motion was made by Vice-Chair Beadle and seconded by Comm. Kelly to adjourn to the next regular meeting of the NREC. Motion passed 4-0.

NEXT MEETING - The next regular meeting of the Natural Resources and Environmental Commission will be held on Monday, November 26, 2007 in the Council Chambers Conference Room.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Beadle', is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and cursive.

David Beadle, Chair

MINUTES
NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
October 30, 2007

ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. Present were Chair David Beadle, Commissioner Bryan Horsman, Commissioner David Whitman and Commissioner Bill Kelly. Vice Chair Lela Bissner was absent. Maintenance Superintendent Barajas was present as was Staff Liaison Diana Harder. Council Liaison Dr. Richard Schneider was absent.

MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting of September 24, 2007 was approved as motioned by Chair Beadle and seconded by Commissioner Whitman and all members were in favor, 4-0.

Minutes of the meeting of October 10, 2007 was approved as motioned by Chair Beadle and seconded by Commissioner Kelly and passed 3-1 (Horsman abstaining).

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS – Gwen McLain submitted a letter and photos of illegal tree removals on school property. Chair Beadle asked that the matter be placed on the next available agenda for discussion.

APPLICATION FOR TREE REMOVAL PERMIT – 1007 COLUMBIA

The applicant, Kerri Nouriani, shared information on the sale of a 36” diameter palm tree as nursery stock (Valley Crest Tree Company) and shared plans showing the proximity of a 12-inch diameter pepper tree to a driveway widening project. Commissioner Whitman made a motion to approve the removal the 36” diameter palm tree as nursery stock and to remove the 12” diameter pepper tree due to its interference with driveway widening with the planting of six (6) 24-inch box minimum size replacement trees. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Horsman, and all members were in favor, 4-0.

APPLICATION FOR TREE REMOVAL PERMIT – 245 FAIR OAKS

The applicants, Peter Tolkin and Emily Gillmar of Tolkin Associates and John Mote of Senna Tree Company, shared photos and explained reasons for requesting the removal and transplanting of various trees on the lot. John Mote explained survivability of transplanted trees as it relates to box size and how important it is to install automatic watering systems. Discussion ensued. Chair Beadle made a motion to approve transplanting Tree #5 and Tree #7 on site (a 36” holly oak and an 18” oak, respectively), container size to be largest allowable for Tree #5 and a 96” box for Tree #7; both trees are to include survival warranties and bonds, as appropriate. The motion continued with its recommendation to allow the removal of Tree #10 and #3 with the planting of thirteen (13) 36-inch box replacement trees for Tree #10 and the planting of fourteen (14) 36-inch box replacement trees for Tree #3 (the formula is one (1) 36-inch box tree for each 2-inch in diameter). The Chair motioned for the removal of Trees #8, #9, #11, #12 and #13 with the planting of fourteen (14) 24-inch box non-native species; and the removal of Trees #1, #2, #4, and #6 with the planting of eleven (11) 36-inch box native species. The actual number of replacement trees is to be determined following actual measurements submitted by the City’s Maintenance Superintendent. The motioned was seconded by Commissioner Whitman and all members were in favor, 4-0.

APPLICATION FOR TREE REMOVAL PERMIT – 1305 GARFIELD

The applicants, Robert and Lois Boardman, shared photos and explained reasons for requesting the removal of a 24-inch diameter oak tree on their property due to its proximity to the house and severe encroachment on the property. Commissioner Horsman made a motion to approve the removal of the 24-inch diameter oak tree with the planting of three (3) 36-inch box native species; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Beadle and all members were in favor, 4-0.

APPLICATION FOR TREE REMOVAL PERMIT – 2012 FAIR OAKS

Steve Tepe, arborist, shared photos and explained reasons for requesting the removal of a 17.5” diameter eucalyptus tree on behalf of Diane and Michael Burr, applicants. The tree is leaning against a wall and over the public right of way and is in a state of accelerated decline. Commissioner Whitman made a motion to approve removal of the 17.5” diameter eucalyptus with the planting of two (2) 24-inch box minimum size replacement trees. The motion was seconded by Chair Beadle and all members were in favor, 4-0.

HOLIDAY LIGHTING EVENT – DEDICATION TREE PROGRAM

Scott Feldman solicited support of the Commission for the Holiday Lighting Event to be held on December 6 at Heritage Park. He asked for input for tree species and location for permanent planting of dedication trees for that ceremony. By consensus, the Commission deferred to Maintenance Superintendent Barajas to provide that information. The Christmas tree for the celebration will be a Sequoia Gigantica, as in previous years. The Commission discussed support of a Community Tree Program to provide funds to plant a large tree in Garfield Park (to replace an oak tree that was lost there) by Earth Day, 2008.

CITY TREE REMOVALS

Maintenance Superintendent Barajas plans to remove a carob tree at 900 Buena Vista because it is split and does not have enough holding wood; a dead liquid ambar tree in the 600 block of Fairview; a small dead camphor tree at 1011 Mound. A Magnolia tree at 410 Orange Grove is on hold for the moment, but is planned to be removed in the near future. There is also a camphor tree that has declined in health in the 1800 block of Oxley. Chair Beadle reported a dead parkway tree on Diamond south of Monterey Road.

Commission David Whitman had to leave the meeting at 9pm.

ART BENEFIT

This matter has been tabled to the November regular meeting.

NEW MEETING DATE/TIME/LOCATION

This matter has been tabled to the November regular meeting when a full commission can be present. There is a desire to look at meeting in the Fire Department’s Emergency Operations Center (EOC) room due to its proximity to the current location. The desired day is still Monday, but possibly the first or second Monday of the month so that Commissioners may attend occasional Santa Monica Conservancy meetings that are always held on the 4th Monday of the month.

GREEN BUILDING UPDATE

This matter has been tabled to the November regular meeting.

EIR FOR DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION PROJECT

Chair Beadle explained that the City Council has authorized an extension for comment on the Draft EIR to Tuesday, November 20. The Commission will hold a Special Meeting to discuss final comment on the EIR on Tuesday, November 13 at 7:00 p.m. at a meeting location to be determined. Chair Beadle will prepare a press release to notify and invite the public to the meeting. Staff is directed to bring the full EIR report to the meeting and to copy the checklist, NREC charter and minutes of 10/10 to everyone with the agenda. Chair Beadle commented that the amount of open space is an issue with the project and the town square is inadequate. The project will only add to the deficit of open space in the City. There should be a comment added to the current draft response regarding deconstruction versus demolition for the project.

Scott Feldman made public comment on this item to express his concern that the Commission was coming off as divisive to some people. Chair Beadle and Commissioner Kelly responded with interest in the economic benefit study for the project and reassured Mr. Feldman that it is not in the Commissions interest to stop the project, but only to have sufficient time to comment in accordance with their Charter.

CHAIR COMMUNICATIONS - None.

COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS - Commissioner Horsman explained that Natalia had met with the City and Mr. Finch of Finch Tree Surgery is helping to identify policies and practices in the City of Arcadia.

STAFF LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS - Staff Liaison Harder shared the tree city growth award application and qualifying categories for the Commission to consider and recommend on at its November regular meeting.

COUNCIL LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS - None.

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned at 10:15 p.m.

NEXT MEETING - The next regular meeting of the Natural Resources Commission will be held on Monday, November 26, 2007 at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers Conference Room.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Beadle', written over a horizontal line.

David Beadle, Chair

MINUTES
NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
November 13, 2007

ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. Present were Chair David Beadle, Vice Chair Lela Bissner, Commissioner David Whitman and Commissioner Bill Kelly. Commissioner Bryan Horsman was absent. Council Liaison Dr. Richard Schneider and Staff Liaison Diana Harder were present. Maintenance Superintendent Barajas was absent.

MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting of October 30, 2007 was approved as motioned by Chair Beadle and seconded by Commissioner Kelly and all members were in favor, 4-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS – Scott Feldman, CEO of the Chamber of Commerce, handed out flyers for the 2007 Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony to be held on Thursday, December 6 from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. He explained that Maint. Super. Barajas had selected Mission Street from fair Oaks to Garfield as the planting area for dedication trees and the species are to be: Ginkgo Biloba, Crape Myrtle or Pink trumpet tree.

EIR FOR DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION PROJECT

Chair Beadle started the meeting by reading the Natural Resources and Environmental Commission Charter regarding his duties and responsibilities to the City Council. He provided the LEED standards checklist for reference during discussions.

Public Comment was received at various times during the evening.

The Commission read and made amendments to their Draft memo providing comments on the DEIR.

Chair Beadle made a motion to approve the NRECs comment memo to the DEIR, as amended; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Kelly and all members were in favor, 4-0.

Staff Liaison Harder will make the amendments and asked for attachments from Commissioner Kelly and review and signature of Chair Beadle when the memo is finalized later in the week. The final comments are due to John Mayer in Building & Planning Department by Tuesday, November 20, 2007.

CHAIR COMMUNICATIONS - Chair Beadle thanked everyone for helping draft the comment document. He looks forward to introducing new commissioners that have been appointed by the Mayor at the next regular meeting.

COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS - None

STAFF LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS - Staff Liaison Harder shared a flyer from SCE on the San Gabriel Valley Energy Wise Program – a workshop to train planners about energy efficiency standards for new construction to be held on Monday, December 3, 2007 at 10:00 a.m. She also shared that 99 Pasadena Avenue would be powering up its solar panels at a ceremony on Thursday, November 15 at 11:00 a.m. and NREC was invited to attend.

COUNCIL LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS - Councilman Dr. Schneider said that the Commission did an excellent job responding to the DEIR with its comments. He provided a clipping from the November issue of Western City announcing that Riverside is offering incentives to builders who meet California Green Builder program by allowing them to be first in line for inspections on projects.

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

NEXT MEETING - The next regular meeting of the Natural Resources Commission will be held on Monday, November 26, 2007 at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers Conference Room.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'D. Beadle', written over a horizontal line.

David Beadle, Chair

MINUTES
NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
November 26, 2007

ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 6:40 p.m. Present were Chair David Beadle, Commissioner Bryan Horsman and Commissioner Bill Kelly. Chair Beadle welcomed new commissioner Brian Knight and he took his oath of allegiance. Maintenance Superintendent Barajas was present as was Staff Liaison Diana Harder. Council Liaison Dr. Richard Schneider was present. New commissioner Harry Atwater arrived at 8:00 p.m. and Staff Liaison Harder administered his oath of allegiance. Commissioner David Whitman arrived at 8:30 p.m. Vice Chair Lela Bissner was absent.

MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting of November 13, 2007 were deferred to the next regular meeting when a majority of members are expected to be present to approve them.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS – None.

APPLICATION FOR TREE REMOVAL PERMIT – 2024 ASHBOURNE

The applicant, Tom Sadler, and his architect, Susan Masterman, shared information and photos to support a request to transplant two olive trees on the property. The third tree on the application was permitted for removal by the Public Works Department because it was a hazard. Maint. Super. Barajas explained that the olive trees are good candidates for transplanting and success rates for these types of trees are good. Discussion ensued. Chair Beadle made a motion to recommend approval of the relocation of the two olive trees on the property with conditions of approval to include a two-year inspection and proper transplanting requirements. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kelly and all members were in favor, 4-0.

APPLICATION FOR TREE REMOVAL PERMIT – 1444 INDIANA

The applicant's general contractor, Eric Telleison, shared photos and explained reasons for requesting the removal of a Siberian elm tree and a shamel ash tree on the property. Maint. Super. Barajas explained that the Siberian elm tree has 70% of the weight supported on the top side of the tree so that root pruning is not an option to resolve the resident's issues. In addition he explained that the shamel ash has shallow roots and a negative slope toward the garage that creates a berm that cannot be resolved easily with root pruning. Discussion ensued. Commissioner Horsman made a motion to recommend approval of the removal of the Siberian elm with the planting of two (2) 24" box replacement trees of which at least one should be a canopy tree. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kelly and all members were in favor, 4-0. Chair Beadle made a motion to recommend approval of the removal of the shamel ash tree with the planting of two (2) 24" box replacement trees; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Horsman and all members were in favor, 4-0.

APPLICATION FOR TREE REMOVAL PERMIT – 1409 MISSION

The applicant's representative, Darren Bailey, shared photos and explained reasons for requesting the removal of a ~26" dia. multi-trunk pepper tree and ~24" dia. palm tree on the property; both of which are located within the footprint of new construction. The landscape plan includes the planting of three (3) 36-inch box trees and four (4) 24-inch box trees. Commissioner Kelly made a motion to approve removal of the trees with the planting in accordance with the landscape plan; the motion was seconded by Chair Beadle and all members were in favor, 4-0.

APPLICATION FOR TREE REMOVAL PERMIT – 1315 INDIANA

Claudia Lugo and Banu Ataman of Spark L.A., designers for the applicant, presented plans requesting the removal of trees in the footprint or where construction would occur within the root structure of the trees. Discussion ensued. Chair Beadle made a motion to recommend approval of the removal of Trees #11, 10 and 4 on the plans (oaks and a native species) measuring 26", 13" and 16", respectively; a total of 55" that

would require six (6) 36-inch box native replacement trees. Trees # 1, 2, 3, 5, 12, 17, 24, 25, 26 are Significant trees measuring 25", 30", 13", 32", 10", 24", 11", 15" and 12", respectively; a total of 172" that would require the planting of eighteen (18) 24-inch box minimum size replacement trees. Measurements are to be verified by Maint. Super. Barajas; especially the two trees that may be less than 12". The developer is given the option of planting replacement trees on the development site; an alternate development site in South Pasadena; or to pay the City \$330 for 24-inch box trees or \$1049 for 36-inch box trees to meet requirements of a permit. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Horsman and all members were in favor, 4-0.

CITY TREE REMOVALS

Maintenance Superintendent Barajas reported that he removed a hazard tree in Legion Park and a second tree that was struck by a truck at Oak and Diamond.

ART BENEFIT

Chair Beadle provided a flyer to commissioners on the Art Benefit for children impacted by Hurricane Katrina. He asked for the Tree Dedication application and program details to provide at the event. All commissioners are invited to participate on Sunday, December 2, 2007 from 1pm to 4pm.

NEW MEETING DATE/TIME/LOCATION

Commissioners reviewed the Schedule of City and Commission Meetings for available locations for the newly formed NREC to meet. The Commission agreed by consensus that they would like to meet in the Council Chambers on the 4th Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. Staff Liaison Harder will submit the change to the City Clerk's office.

TREE CITY USA AND GROWTH AWARD 2007

The Commission selected categories to meet the 2007 Growth Award this year including A2: Literature Distribution (Car Show); A4 Local Awards Program; A7 Youth Education (Arbor Day tour at nature park); A8 Continuing Education for Tree Workers (check with Barajas); B10 Citizen Training Program (Nature Park Adopt-a-Park Program). These categories will more than meet the 10-point requirement for Tree City's Growth Award this year. Staff Liaison Harder will gather materials and submit applications by the end of December.

GREEN BUILDINGS UPDATE AND "GREEN ISSUES" WORK PLAN

Paul Garnett, Associate Planner and David Watkins, Director of Planning & Building, shared a "Green Issues" work plan and requested comments from the commission. Commissioner Kelly asked to combine his item with this item and provided a handout including a step-by-step plan to develop a green building ordinance. Chair Beadle removed himself from the Green Buildings Subcommittee and appointed Commissioner Brian Knight to serve with Commissioner Bill Kelly. At some point in the future subcommittees from the various commissions will arrange to meet. Discussion ensued including staff training in LEED certification, creative ideas on solar energy financing options; cost of implementation as well as savings that can be realized through various energy efficient installations; focus on easy to implement items including communication on the website regarding energy rebates and incentives. Commissioner Atwater asked about bicycle and pedestrian accommodation to reduce vehicle trips; and to facilitate mass transit use. Commissioner Kelly will prepare a master list of grant opportunities to help fund various energy efficiency programs.

SOLAR TECHNOLOGIES FOR NEW CONSTRUCTION

Director Watkins explained that solar technologies will be placed on the December 19 City Council agenda for staff to report. Discussion ensued. It was generally felt that the real intent is to reduce power usage that can be achieved using a number of different ways including solar energy. Commissioner Kelly made a motion in support of the Mayor's interest in incorporating solar power for new construction and recommending the adoption of such programs or policies in concert with the development of Green Building standards for energy efficiency, water efficiency and other environmental reasons and is pleased to work on such standards; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Whitman and all members were in favor, 5-0.

LETTER FROM GWEN MCLAIN

Maintenance Superintendent Barajas explained that Mike Trebizo of the School District didn't feel that the removal of dead limbs required a permit. Staff Liaison Harder explained that this matter is being reviewed by the City Attorney and may be placed on a future agenda as information is available.

CHAIR COMMUNICATIONS - Chair Beadle said he will miss Commissioner Bryan Horsman as it is his last meeting – he has moved to Sierra Madre. Chair Beadle welcomed new commissioners Brian Knight and Harry Atwater. Chair Beadle asked that the matter of streamlining tree removals be placed on the January agenda for an update.

COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS - Commissioner Horsman said he has enjoyed his service on the commission and feels that they have made a real difference. Commissioner Whitman's term has also expired; he has agreed to stay on until he is replaced.

STAFF LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS - Staff Liaison Harder announced that the Tree Aesthetics item would be on the special agenda for City Council consideration at its meeting on Wednesday, November 28, and handed out information on Pasadena's Green City website and a letter to Honorable Barbara Boxer for Support of the Marine Vessel Emissions Reduction Act submitted by the Chamber of Commerce.

COUNCIL LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS - None.

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned at 10:15 p.m.

NEXT MEETING - The next regular meeting of the Natural Resources Commission will be held on Tuesday, January 22, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.



David Beadle, Chair

MINUTES
NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION
December 18, 2006

ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 6:00p.m. Present were Chair Bryan Horsman, Vice Chair David Beadle and Commissioner David Whitman. Commissioner Ron Mitchell was absent. Maintenance Superintendent Barajas and Staff Liaison Diana Harder were present.

MINUTES

Chair Horsman made a motion to approve the minutes of October 23; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Whitman and all were in favor, 3-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS – None.

APPLICATION FOR TREE REMOVAL PERMIT – 147 Monterey Road

The applicant's representative, Sara with Ewing Architects, explained reasons for requesting the removal of a 20-inch diameter Ash tree on the property located at 147 Monterey Road. Sara explained *property line set back requirements and access issues with existing tree*. The Ash tree is found to be too close to the foundation. Discussion ensued. Commissioner Whitman made a motion to approve removal of the Ash tree with the planting of three (3) 24-inch box minimum size "canopy" replacement trees. It is preferred that the maximum number of trees possible remain on the property. The motion was seconded by Chair Horsman, and all members were in favor, 3-0.


CHAIR COMMUNICATIONS - None.

COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS - None.

STAFF LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS - None.

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

NEXT MEETING - The next regular meeting of the Natural Resources Commission will be held on Monday, January 22, 2007.


Bryan Horsman, Chair

MINUTES
NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION
October 23, 2006

ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 6:35p.m. Present were Chair Bryan Horsman, Vice Chair David Beadle and Commissioner Ron Mitchell. Commissioner David Whitman was absent. Maintenance Superintendent Barajas and Staff Liaison Diana Harder were present. City Manager Lilian Myers was also present for a time.

MINUTES

Commissioner Mitchell made a motion to approve the minutes of September 25; the motion was seconded by Vice Chair Beadle and all were in favor, 3-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS – Scott Feldman of the Chamber of Commerce distributed a memo he had prepared for the Commission outlining his request for a Christmas Tree planting site and suggesting a “Christmas Forest” program.

APPLICATION FOR TREE REMOVAL PERMIT – 617 Indiana Terrace

The applicant, Richard Wang, the property owner Helen Cha, and arborist, Vance Tucker, explained reasons for requesting the removal of a 20-inch diameter Blue Gum tree (No. 4 on plan) growing in the footprint of the proposed driveway to the property. Mr. Tucker reports the tree to be decayed. Maint. Super. Barajas verified condition of the tree and discussion ensued. They also wish to preserve a 5-7-inch diameter Coast Live Oak (No. 12 on plan). Vice Chair Beadle made a motion to approve removal of the 20-inch diameter Blue Gum tree with the planting of two (2) 24-inch box minimum size broadleaf replacement trees; and to protect the Coast Live Oak tree during construction with the installation of a border fence a minimum of 12-feet from the base of the tree and to submit written progress reports on the condition of the tree every 30 days. The motion was seconded by Chair Horsman, and all members were in favor 3-0.

APPLICATION FOR TREE REMOVAL PERMIT – 1323 Stratford Avenue

The applicants, Douglas and Jennifer Shinno, explained reasons for requesting the removal of a 10-inch diameter, 10-15 year old, Coast Live Oak tree over the roof of the property. Maintenance Superintendent Barajas inspected the tree and found it to be in an extreme condition of lean with its entire canopy over the roof of the property in a permanent bend that cannot be corrected by tree trimming. Discussion ensued. Chair Horsman made a motion to approve removal of the 10-inch diameter Coast Live Oak with the planting of one (1) 36-inch box minimum size Coast Live Oak tree as replacement. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Beadle, and all members were in favor, 3-0.

APPLICATION FOR TREE REMOVAL PERMIT – 201 Hillside Road

The applicant, Peter Whitford, and his building contractor, Bill Armstrong, explained reasons for requesting the removal of two (2) Elm trees measuring 18-inches and 22-inches in diameter near a room addition on the property. Maint. Super. Barajas explained that it is impossible to remove only one tree because of the congestion of trees at this side of the property. Discussion ensued. Commissioner Mitchell made a motion to approve removal of the two (2) Elm trees with the planting of five (5) 24-inch box minimum size replacement trees; the motion was seconded by Vice Chair Beadle and all members were in favor, 3-0.

CITY TREE REMOVALS

Maint. Super. Barajas explained the continuing problem with “pink rot” in palm trees and need to remove two (2) additional palm trees in the 600 block of Stratford. Chair Horsman asked that the matter of replacement trees in these areas be addressed on the agenda at the next regular meeting; each commissioner should come with 2 or 3 species for residents to choose from. Jesse also shared a photo of a Giant Sequoia that the Chamber may use for a Christmas tree for its tree lighting ceremony this year.

TREE ORDINANCE AND TREE PLANTING POLICY

Vice Chair Beadle encouraged commissioners to consider a tree planting policy that takes into consideration the location (construction site or not part of construction) and condition of tree (dead, dying, diseased, declining or hazardous) as part of the replacement tree policy and to bring ideas to the next regular meeting when all members may be present.

CHRISTMAS "TREE LIGHTING" CEREMONY

Scott Feldman of Chamber of Commerce asked for the Commission's input on where to plant a Christmas tree on City property following ceremonies at Heritage Park; asked if the Commission is interested in publicity photos; and introduced a "forest of trees" concept to encourage dedication tree planting. Commissioner Mitchell explained that Christmas trees are non-native to Southern California, and would not wish to promote planting as part of a long term "forest of trees" in South Pasadena. As far as this year's ceremony and donation of a tree; Commissioners suggested Pine Street where other pine trees are planted as an appropriate location; or another street that contains pine trees. The Commission would be interested in a promotional photo at the Dedication Tree Planting. It was suggested that Maint. Super. Barajas may provide a list of the top three (3) parkway tree species for South Pasadena for a "Forest of Trees" at the Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FIELD TRIP TO NATURE PARK

Commissioner Mitchell expressed interest in bringing more children to the nature park field trips. He asked Vice Chair Beadle to work with Arroyo Vista School and Chair Horsman to work with Marengo School to organize trips that do not require the use of a city bus. This matter is tabled until January for further discussion after the holidays.

SCHOOL DISTRICT TREE PLANTING

Commissioner Whitman is absent and will address this matter next time.

CHAIR COMMUNICATIONS

- Chair Horsman explained that the Commissioners are required to take an Ethics class and to explore an on-line process. The annual report to City Council on Commission activities will be presented at the City Council meeting on November 1.

COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS

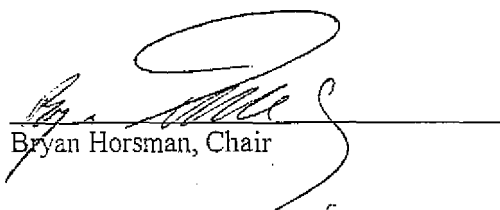
- Vice Chair Beadle plans to present the annual report to the City Council on November 1. He has a suggestion for the Earth Day event next year and plans to speak with Gil Cedillo for a joint effort to promote alternative fuel vehicles including participation by surrounding cities and a film at the Rialto Theatre. Commissioner Mitchell said clean up at the nature park was successful on Saturday, Oct. 21, but participation was down and some of the follow-up was not completed by the City.

STAFF LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS

- Staff Liaison Harder announced that there is a HHW Round Up in Monterey Park on November 18 and shared a Resolution issued by the CIWMB showing completion of the Biennial Review process for City's compliance with AB 939 with a 50% diversion rate for 2003 and 2004. Next agenda will include Tree City USA and Earth Day. Staff Liaison Harder explained that the 4th Monday in November is day after Thanksgiving weekend and 4th Monday in December is Christmas. Commissioners considered a middle meeting to be held on Monday, December 4. Staff Liaison Harder is to check with Commissioner Whitman to see if he may attend.

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

NEXT MEETING - The next regular meeting of the Natural Resources Commission is expected to be held on Monday, November 4, 2006 at 6:30 p.m. at a location to be determined.


Bryan Horsman, Chair

MINUTES
NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION
September 25, 2006

ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 6:36p.m. Present were Chair Bryan Horsman, Vice Chair David Beadle and Commissioners Ron Mitchell and David Whitman. Maintenance Superintendent Barajas and Staff Liaison Diana Harder were present.

MINUTES

Vice Chair Beadle made a motion to approve the minutes of August 28; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Mitchell and all were in favor, 4-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS – None.

APPLICATION FOR TREE REMOVAL PERMIT – 1807 Camden Avenue

The applicant, Earl Weiss, and his architect, Leo Estudillo, explained reasons for requesting the removal of a 16-inch diameter Pecan tree near the footprint of a room addition on the property. Discussion ensued. Commissioner Whitman made a motion to approve removal of the Pecan tree with the planting of two (2) 36-inch box minimum size canopy replacement trees, species to be approved by the City if planted on City property; the motion was seconded by Vice Chair Beadle and the motion passed, 4-0.

CITY TREE REMOVALS

Maint. Super. Barajas explained that the transplanted oak tree at 1935 Fremont is approximately 50% dead and he would write a report. He explained a health crises currently occurring with palm trees with soft cylinders that are causing many to decline and be removed. He will be "sounding-off" palm trees in the vicinity of the 2000 block of Milan Avenue.

ELASTOMETRIC ROOFING FOR IMPROVED ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Commissioner Whitman expressed his interest in energy efficient roofing and asked for the square footage of the City Hall roof. He reports that Elastometric roofing improves the life expectancy of roofs, reduces electrical consumption and improves the environment. Staff Liaison Harder requested additional information be sent via e-mail.

RESOLUTION TO ADOPT A NATIONAL PLUG-IN HYBRID ELECTRIC VEHICLE (PHEV) PROGRAM

Commissioners reviewed the Draft Resolution. Commissioner David Whitman made a motion recommending approval of a Resolution to Adopt a National Plug-In Hybrid Electric Vehicle (PHEV) Program; the motion was seconded by Vice Chair David Beadle and the motion passed, 4-0.

CONSIDER DEVELOPMENT OF LOT #118 AS A CITY PARK

Commissioners shared ideas regarding the development of city-owned land known as Lot #118 on Illinois Drive in the Monterey Hills area of the City including planting trees, installing benches, plumbing water, creating a lush green space or small pocket-park. Ingress & egress options were discussed. Chair Horsman appointed Commissioner David Whitman to a subcommittee to explore the development. A commissioner to the Parks and Recreation Commission is similarly to be appointed to the subcommittee and Staff will follow-up to make sure they make contact and set up a time to meet. Commissioner Mitchell suggested that this park may suit the needs of Chris Calvin for a School Children Memorial Park.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS AND ELECTRONIC WASTE SATELLITE EVENT – AFTER ACTION REPORT

Staff Liaison Harder shared results of this year's household hazardous waste event. Each year the event is more popular with more vehicles attending and more materials diverted and properly disposed of. Commissioners reviewed five years of data that is updated with each event.

ANNUAL REPORT TO CITY COUNCIL

Vice Chair David Beadle will be available to attend the City Council meeting to present the Annual Report. Commissioners shared accomplishments including: Festival of Balloons, Tree City USA & Growth Award, Earth Day, Nature Park Field Trip, Friends of the Nature Park, Tree Dedications, Trees and Construction Activities.

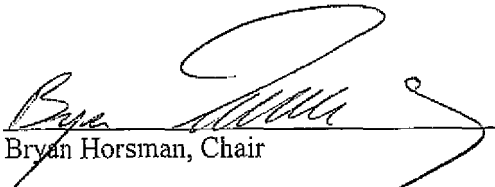
CHAIR COMMUNICATIONS - Chair Horsman explained that the City Council approved an appeal of the Commission's denial of a tree removal at 1949 Huntington Drive. He requested that an agenda item be placed on the October regular meeting agenda to discuss the Tree Ordinance and Tree Planting Policies in light of the City Council's decision.

COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS - Commissioner Whitman expressed his interest in presenting the School District with a letter requesting they plant a replacement tree for a tree the High School removed at Fremont & Bank some years ago. This matter will be on the agenda for the October regular meeting. Commissioner Mitchell announced that the Friends of the Nature Park will be meeting on Saturday, September 30 and expressed his desire to host another field trip for elementary school children to visit the nature park. Councilman Mike Ten offered his discretionary funds and would like to see all three elementary schools participate. The Commission may target the other 2 schools this year. Nature Park Field Trip Planning will be on the agenda for the October regular meeting.

STAFF LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS - Staff Liaison Harder announced that the California Integrated Waste Management Board had completed its Biennial Review and that South Pasadena is officially at 50% diversion. Dumpster Day and Water Fest 2006 flyers were distributed to all members - both events occurring same day on Saturday, October 14th this year.

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

NEXT MEETING - The next regular meeting of the Natural Resources Commission will be held on Monday, October 23, 2006 at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers Conference Room.


Bryan Horsman, Chair

MINUTES
NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION
August 28, 2006

ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 6:32p.m. Present were Chair Bryan Horsman, Vice Chair David Beadle and Commissioners Ron Mitchell and David Whitman. Maintenance Superintendent Barajas and Staff Liaison Diana Harder were present.

MINUTES

Commissioner Mitchell made a motion to approve the minutes of July 24; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Whitman and all were in favor, 4-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS – None.

APPLICATION FOR TREE REMOVAL PERMIT – 111 Warwick

The applicant, Katie Henderson, and her architect, Anders Troedsson, explained reasons for requesting the removal of a 14-inch diameter Chinese elm tree in the footprint of the addition, and a 22-inch diameter pepper tree in the way of proposed parking. Discussion ensued. Commissioner Whitman made a motion to approve remove of the Chinese elm tree with the planting of two (2) 24-inch box minimum size replacement trees and removal of the pepper tree with replacement trees based on its diameter; pending identification of who the tree belongs to (tree could be a City-owned parkway tree); the motion was seconded by Vice Chair Beadle and the motion passed, 4-0.

APPLICATION FOR TREE REMOVAL PERMIT – 1807 Camden Avenue

The applicant did not come to the meeting. Commissioner Whitman questioned the proximity of the tree to the structure. Commissioner Mitchell considers the tree a specimen tree and valuable for its species. The Commission questioned alternative floor plans that may be developed to accommodate the tree in the building design. By consensus, the item is tabled to the next meeting having no applicant to answer questions.

APPLICATION FOR TREE REMOVAL PERMIT – 1121 & 1123 Grevelia Street

The applicant, Norman Schwab, explained reasons for requesting the removal of a 14-inch diameter Chinese elm and a 15-inch diameter Chinese elm on the construction site. Discussion ensued. Vice Chair Beadle made a motion to approve the removal of the 15-inch diameter Chinese elm tree (located in the middle yard, west side between the structures) with the planting of two (2) 24-inch box minimum size "canopy" replacement trees; and to deny the request for removal of the 14-inch diameter Chinese elm tree (middle yard, east side). The "canopy" trees are recommended to have a mature height of 30-40' like the existing. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Whitman and all members were in favor, 4-0.

PARKWAY TREE REMOVAL – 617-625 ORANGE GROVE AVENUE

Maintenance Superintendent Barajas explained reasons for removal of a parkway tree in the driveway entrance to 617-625 Orange Grove Avenue. Judy Schmir, resident at the address, expressed her long history of efforts to have the tree removed as a nuisance that encroaches over 1/3 of driveway entrance and has no canopy. Discussion ensued. Commissioner Whitman made a motion to approve removal of the parkway tree and recommend that the Home Owners Association for the condo complex be financially responsible to restore the driveway following tree removal by the City; the motion was seconded by Chair Horsman and all members were in favor, 4-0.

CITY TREE REMOVALS

Maintenance Superintendent Barajas plans to remove a dead tree at 827 Meridian and a dead oak at Saeta's house.

CHAIR COMMUNICATIONS

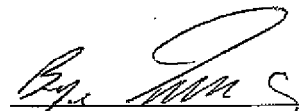
Chair Horsman shared an article that shows cities that have met the 50% diversion rate in 2004. South Pasadena is not on the list. Staff Liaison Harder explained that it is probably one year later that the City met its goal. He also shared the Dedication Tree planting went well at the Monterey Hills Elementary School.

COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS - Commissioner Whitman expressed his desire to share a good experience using elastometric white roof coating and asked that the matter be placed on the September agenda as a good alternative for flat roofs and energy conservation

STAFF LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS - None.

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

NEXT MEETING - The next regular meeting of the Natural Resources Commission will be held on Monday, September 25, 2006 at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers Conference Room.



Bryan Horsman, Chair

MINUTES
NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION
July 24, 2006

ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 6:40p.m. Present were Chair David Beadle, Vice Chair Bryan Horsman and Commissioner Ron Mitchell. Commissioner David Whitman and Maintenance Superintendent Barajas were absent. Staff Liaison Diana Harder was present.

MINUTES

Chair Beadle made a motion to approve the minutes of July 10; the motion was seconded by Vice Chair Horsman and all were in favor, 3-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS – Chair Beadle welcomed Lilian Montalvo to the Commission as a possible candidate for a position on the Commission and she told the Commission a little about herself and interest.

APPLICATION FOR TREE REMOVAL PERMIT – 1300 MILAN

The applicant, Sean Hunter, and his architect, Conrad Lopez, explained reasons for requesting the removal of two (2) Shamel ash trees for construction. Staff Liaison Harder explained, on Jesse's behalf, that construction around the 50-inch diameter ash tree was within 3 times the diameter and would damage the root structure; but, the construction was well outside 3 times the diameter for the 64-inch diameter tree. Discussion ensued. Commissioner Mitchell made a motion to approve removal of the 50-inch diameter Shamel ash tree with the replacement of five (5) 24-inch box minimum size replacement trees and to deny removal of the 64-inch diameter tree; the motion was seconded by Vice Chair Horsman and the motion carried by a vote of 2-1.

APPLICATION FOR TREE REMOVAL PERMIT – 1001 STRATFORD

The applicants, Mr. Stephan Cain and Ann Crigler, explained reasons for requesting the removal of a palm tree for the construction of a garage on the property. Vice Chair Horsman made a motion to approve removal of the palm tree with the replacement of two (2) 24-inch box replacement trees; the motion was second by Chair Beadle, and all members were in favor, 3-0.

PARKWAY TREE REMOVAL – 617-625 ORANGE GROVE AVENUE

This matter has been tabled to the meeting of Monday, August 28.

SCHOOL CHILDREN MEMORIAL GARDEN

Kris Calvin explained her interest in creating a memorial garden as a place where school children can go and mourn the loss of a classmate. She further explained the need for such a garden because of a high incidence of students who have passed away in recent years; including an 8th grader from South Pasadena Middle School who passed away suddenly this past year. The desired location is in Garfield Park next to the youth house when it is built. Commissioner Mitchell made a motion endorsing, in concept, the idea of creating a memorial garden for school children; the motion was seconded by Vice Chair Horsman, and all members were in favor, 3-0.

CITY TREE REMOVALS

Maintenance Superintendent Barajas was absent.

ANNUAL ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Chair Beadle nominated Bryan Horsman as Chair to the Commission. Vice Chair Horsman accepted the nomination; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Mitchell and all members were in favor, 3-0. Vice Chair Horsman nominated Chair Beadle as Vice Chair to the Commission. Chair Beadle accepted the nomination; the motion was seconded and all commissioners in favor, 3-0.

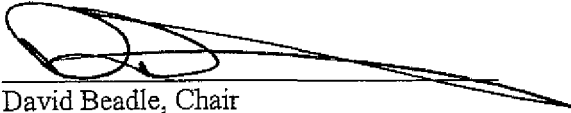
CHAIR COMMUNICATIONS - None

COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS - Vice Chair Horsman asked the status of the Dedication Tree for Monterey Hills School.

STAFF LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS - Staff Liaison Harder shared flyers for a High Efficiency Toilet and \$225 Rebate for purchase of a high efficiency clothes washer; both programs offered by the Upper San Gabriel Valley MWD.

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

NEXT MEETING - The next regular meeting of the Natural Resources Commission will be held on Monday, August 28, 2006 at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers Conference Room.



David Beadle, Chair

MINUTES
NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION
May 22, 2006

ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 6:33 p.m. Present were Vice Chair Bryan Horsman and Commissioners David Whitman and Barbara Eisenstein. Commissioner Ron Mitchell arrived shortly thereafter. Chair David Beadle was absent. Staff Liaison Diana Harder and Maintenance Superintendent Jesse Barajas were present. Council Liaison Mayor Philip Putnam was also in attendance.

MINUTES

Vice Chair Horsman made a motion to approve the minutes of May 1; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Whitman and all were in favor, 3-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS – Public mention was made of a dead fruit tree in the City Hall courtyard.

APPEAL OF DENIAL FOR TREE REMOVAL PERMIT – 1801 LA MANZANITA

The meeting was attended by Maurice Wong, applicant; and his neighbors: Barbara Klein and Jane Schirmeister. Mr. Wong addressed the Commission and explained his position on the tree removal and a fire that occurred at his home on July 12, 2005. Maint. Super. Barajas explained that the notice from the Fire Dept. did not include a recommendation to remove the trees and that the interference could be mitigated by tree trimming and maintaining a vertical clearance under the trees so that fire could not jump to adjacent branches; root interferences as described can be mitigated by root pruning and the placement of root barriers.

Jane Schirmeister spoke in favor of the tree removals because she says the property is “overplanted”.

Barbara Klein spoke in favor of the tree removal for the same reason as her neighbor.

Discussion ensued. Vice Chair Horsman made a motion to deny the appeal for tree removals at 1801 La Manzanita; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Whitman, and all members were in favor, 4-0.

CITY TREE REMOVALS

Maint. Super. Barajas explained the need to remove a Cherisia tree on Charter Oak because of root decline and would report more on this next time. Also, a coast live oak is declining at Court & Oak Street and would require removal in the near future.

4th OF JULY PARADE PLANNING

Commissioner Whitman expressed his desire to use a “Mow Down Pollution” theme for the Commission’s entry in the parade this year. Staff Liaison Harder shared a note from the Festival of Balloons committee explaining that a mower demonstration would not be allowed in the park following the parade. Commissioner Whitman will be preparing a special banner for the event. They request one trash container for green waste demonstration in the parade. Commissioner Eisenstein will not be able to participate as she will be out-of-town. Staff Liaison Harder will submit the Commission’s application to participate in the parade and request that Athens Services provide “Mighty Mike” for the parade.

HIGH SCHOOL PARTICIPATION PROJECTS

The Commission made the following initial list for activities that youth could participate in related to natural resources:

- Earth Day Event (David Whitman)
- Mulch Give-Away projects (David Whitman)
- Friends of the Nature Park (Barbara Eisenstein)
- Elementary School Field Trips (Ron Mitchell)
- Picking up trash in parks (David Whitman)
- Distributing door hangers w/ yard waste information (Barbara Eisenstein)

This item will continue as an agenda item as the list develops.

REVIEW LANDSCAPE BID SPECIFICATIONS

Staff Liaison Harder distributed copies of the landscape specifications for commission review. Commissioner Whitman will send specific information on the leaf blower to include in the specifications. All additional work outlined in the specs. for the nature park was accepted with enthusiasm. No further changes or additions were suggested.

CHAIR COMMUNICATIONS - Vice Chair Horsman explained that the City of Los Angeles has a new tree ordinance.

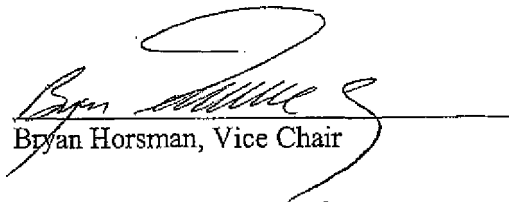
COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS - Commissioner Eisenstein explained that she has submitted her resignation immediately from the Commission. She announced the next "Friends" clean up at the nature park for Saturday, May 27. Whitman expressed his opinion against certain elements of the development at 245 Fair Oaks and recent developments on Elephant Hill adjacent to South Pasadena.

STAFF LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS - Staff Liaison Harder announced the Development Trends Meeting for June 8 at the Library Community Room at 6:30 p.m. for anyone interested in attending. She shared an article written by Vice Chair Horsman for the editorial section of the Review thanking all those who participated in this year's Earth Day, and announced the return of Dr. Freije's request for tree removal at 1949 Huntington Drive. She also announced the Chair Beadle dedication tree planting at 350 El Centro and other tree dedications that are pending.

COUNCIL LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS - None

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

NEXT MEETING - The next regular meeting of the Natural Resources Commission will be held on Monday, June 26, 2006 at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers Conference Room.


Bryan Horsman, Vice Chair

MINUTES
NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION
May 1, 2006

ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m. Present were Vice Chair Bryan Horsman and Commissioners David Whitman, Barbara Eisenstein and Ron Mitchell. Chair David Beadle was absent. Staff Liaison Diana Harder and Maintenance Superintendent Jesse Barajas were present. Council Liaison Mayor Philip Putnam was also in attendance.

MINUTES

Vice Chair Horsman made a motion to approve the minutes of March 27; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Mitchell and all were in favor, 4-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS – None.

TREE REMOVAL FOR CONSTRUCTION – 1836 HANSCOM DRIVE

The meeting was attended by Charles Greenhall, applicant; Rock MacKenzie, owner of Rock's Tree & Hillside Service; as well as Albert and Peter Kwong, developers for neighboring property at 1832 Hanscom Drive. Commissioner Eisenstein asked what the likelihood was of the tree remaining standing during excavation. Maint. Super. Barajas explained his recommendation that excavation not occur within 5 x's the diameter of the 36" diameter trunk of the subject pine street. The tree is located 4' from the property line and excavation is planned well within the protected zone identified by Barajas. Mr. MacKenzie next spoke regarding the current status of the tree including its southbound lean toward the roadway. Discussion ensued. Commissioner Whitman made a motion to approve the removal of the pine tree with the planting of three (3) 24-inch box minimum size replacement trees. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Horsman, and all members were in favor, 4-0.

ARBOR DAY DEDICATION TREE

Maint. Super. Barajas presented three options to the Commission for the Arbor Day Dedication Tree: a magnolia cultivar for Via del Rey in front of the Monterey Hills Elementary School; an Evergreen Pear for a vacant parkway location on La Manzanita; or a Sweet Shade tree for a vacant parkway on Camino del Sol. He made a selection for largest species in the Commission's desired area for planting. (The West Coast Arborist Dedication Tree in honor of Arbor Day was planted at Indiana & El Centro and is a Cork Oak.) Discussion ensued. Commissioner Whitman made a motion in favor of planting a magnolia cultivar in front of the Monterey Hills School, the motion was seconded by Commissioner Mitchell and the vote passed, 3-1. Staff Liaison Harder will be calling all commissioners when the tree is planted for a photo opportunity at both dedication tree locations.

CITY TREE REMOVALS

Maint. Super. Barajas explained the need to remove 2 palm trees at Meridian & Monterey Road (trunk standing) and in 1000 blk. Fremont (desiccated tree). He also removed a Bottle Tree in front of the Meridian Iron Works Museum on Meridian because it was desiccated. A Charisia tree on Charter Oak is scheduled for removal because of a strangled trunk in a very narrow parkway. Barajas will provide a report on that tree at the next regular meeting.

4th OF JULY PARADE PLANNING

Commissioner Whitman explained his idea for promoting the Electric Lawn Mower at this year's 4th of July Parade. He owns one, the City owns one and several others may be solicited to run down the parade route. Following the parade the operation of the mowers may be demonstrated in Garfield Park. Staff Liaison Harder will look into the possibility of hosting a table in the park for such demonstrations. Staff Liaison Harder was asked to e-mail all commissioners with the 4th of July "theme" for this year's event. Staff Liaison Harder will inform the South Coast Air Quality Mgt. District of the Mow Down Pollution promotion at the 4th of July event should they wish to promote or participate.

EARTH DAY AFTER ACTION REPORT

All commissioners agreed that this year's event was a great success. Improvements for next year include:

- History of nature park literature
- How to Join "Friends" handouts
- Annual Mulch Give-Away Program
- Flyers to Businesses – a minimum 1 month prior to the event.
- Small first aid kit
- Deliver Athen's bins to center of park via park roadway at stables
- Add location of nature park to Earth Day Banner (100 Pasadena Avenue)

CHAIR COMMUNICATIONS - None.

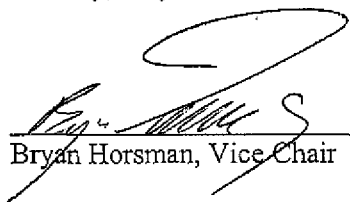
COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS - Commissioner Whitman expressed his opinion against certain elements of the development at 245 Fair Oaks (previously approved by the Commission for tree removals). Commissioner Mitchell explained that the Elementary School Field Trip to the Nature Park was very successful and they would like to schedule another event before the end of the school year. Commissioner Whitman expressed his irritation that the Gold Link Bus is left idling at the Meridian Station for long periods of time and plans to share his concern at the May 3rd City Council meeting. Commissioner Whitman would like to see an agenda item next month to brainstorm projects that High School students may be able to participate in. Commissioner Eisenstein will send an e-mail to all regarding the next "Friends" clean up activity at the nature park.

STAFF LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS - None.

COUNCIL LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS - Council Liaison Putnam asked the commission to consider high school students for projects. Com. Whitman recommended an agenda item next month to discuss and possibly generate a list of projects.

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

NEXT MEETING - The next regular meeting of the Natural Resources Commission will be held on Monday, May 22, 2006 at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers Conference Room.



Bryan Horsman, Vice Chair

MINUTES
NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION
March 27, 2006

ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 6:32 p.m. Present were Chair David Beadle, Vice Chair Bryan Horsman and Commissioners David Whitman, Barbara Eisenstein and Ron Mitchell. Staff Liaison Diana Harder was present. Maintenance Superintendent Jesse Barajas was absent. Council Liaison Mike Ten attended near the end of the meeting.

MINUTES

Chair Beadle made a motion to approve the minutes of February 27; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Mitchell and all were in favor, 5-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS – Mayor Pro Tem Cacciotti announced an electric lawnmower exchange program he is coordinating with AQMD to be held at the School District parking lot on Saturday, May 20 and asks that it be announced or promoted at the Commission's Earth Day Event in April.

TREE REMOVAL FOR CONSTRUCTION – 838 BRAEWOOD COURT

Staff Liaison Harder shared a letter submitted by the applicant withdrawing their request for tree removal and assuring the Commission that the tree would be preserved during construction.

TREE REMOVAL FOR CONSTRUCTION – 1216 ORANGE GROVE

Suzette Gabriel, representing the applicant, explained her request for the removal of a 17-inch diameter maple tree in the front yard of the subject property for the purpose of room addition. Discussion ensued resulting in a motion by Commissioner Eisenstein to recommend removal of the maple tree with the requirement that two (2) 24-inch replacement trees be planted; suggested species for planting on the lot include: a chitalpa tree (small/requires less water), a California bay tree, a ginko (golden color, male species), or liquidambar. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Whitman and all members were in favor, 5-0.

CITY TREE REMOVALS

Water Manager Ken Kittridge explained the reason for scheduling the removal of a magnolia tree at 539 Grand Avenue that had grown around a service valve preventing water system maintenance, and shared photos of the site. The City will plant a replacement tree as feasible and if such is desired by the affected resident.

EARTH DAY EVENT PLANNING

Commissioner Whitman explained that the Earth Day banner is almost complete. Commissioner Eisenstein offered to supply gardening gloves for earth day projects. Commissioner Horsman will solicit water and cookie donations from Trader Joes. Commissioner Mitchell will solicit a coffee donation from Starbucks. Staff Liaison Harder will coordinate for the delivery of sufficient tables, chairs, trash cans and a portable toilet as well as a green waste dumpster (Athens) and six (6) 33-gallon trash (labeled for green waste). Lily Dong will secure an arts 'n crafts table at the event, the AQMD will have a table, there will be a lawnmower demonstration and the High School will host a table. Tree species will be identified for a walk along the trail and the City will provide an information table at the event. Commissioner Eisenstein requested that the City pull poison oak that is on the main trail to the horse trail on the right hand side (shoots of poison oak). Commissioner Eisenstein will use Kinkos to prepare 20 Earth Day booklets, Chair Beadle will bring and erect an "easy-up" and all members will bring weeding tools.

CHAIR COMMUNICATIONS

Chair Beadle asks if any commissioners were interested in making a presentation at the Senior Center regarding Earth Day; and that his daughter's girl scout troop is interested in planting a dedication tree using money from cookie sales.

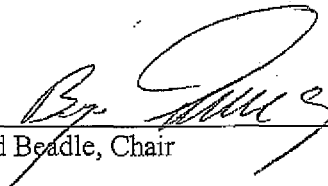
COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS - Commissioner Eisenstein announced that the Friends of the Nature Park group had a very successful first clean up event at the park and that 8 people helped out. She also announced that April 1st is a plant sale at the Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Gardens from 10-2 (open to public) – more information is available at www.rsabg.org. Commissioner Mitchell reminded staff to remove homeless in the nature park prior to Earth Day and to check inside the stone bench area; the Arroyo baseball field near the tunnel; and, bushes near the river. Commissioner Horsman announced that Arbor Day was a great success with attendance of 40 children. He prepared an Arbor Day booklet that included tree dedication program and he will e-mail everyone with the materials that he shared. Commissioner Whitman is advocating tree planting with the South West Hillside Committee and will e-mail commissioners with information for the next meeting.

STAFF LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS - None.

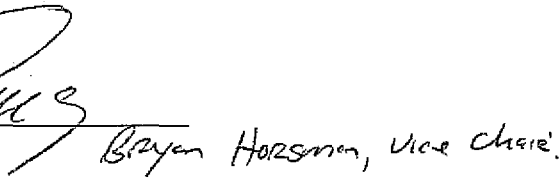
COUNCIL LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS - Council Liaison Ten explained that with re-organization of the City Council, he suspects that a new Council Liaison will be appointed to the Commission and expressed his pleasure at attending. In leaving he would like to see the Commission promote quieter, cleaner burning gardening equipment.

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned at ~~9:45 p.m.~~ 8:45 pm

NEXT MEETING - The next regular meeting of the Natural Resources Commission will be held on Monday, April 24, 2006 at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers Conference Room.



David Beadle, Chair


Bryan Horsman, Vice Chair

MINUTES
NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION
February 27, 2006

ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 6:32 p.m. Present were Chair David Beadle, Vice Chair Bryan Horsman and Commissioners Ron Mitchell and Barbara Eisenstein. Commissioner David Whitman arrived shortly thereafter. Staff Liaison Diana Harder and Maintenance Superintendent Jesse Barajas were present. Council Liaison Mike Ten attended near the end of the meeting.

MINUTES

Chair Beadle made a motion to approve the minutes of January 23; the motion was seconded by Vice Chair Horsman and all were in favor, 4-0. Vice Chair Horsman made a motion to approve the minutes of the special meeting of January 31; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Whitman and all members were in favor, 5-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS – None.

APPEAL OF DENIAL FOR TREE REMOVAL PERMIT – 1105 MERIDIAN

Gina Phelps provided a letter and photos supporting her request for tree removal and expressed her feelings that the tree ordinance is too restrictive. She shared a site plan and explained tree planting and care of other property trees. She explained that the pecan tree drops a lot of branches and hasn't been trimmed in last few years. Maint. Super. Barajas explained that he looked for defects or hazards due to health reasons, but found none and recommended the tree be trimmed. Commissioner Eisenstein asked Barajas how often pkwy. Pecan trees are trimmed by the City. Barajas explained that they do well on a 5-year trimming schedule. Phelps did not know the date the pecan was last trimmed. Discussion ensued. Chair Beadle made a motion to deny the removal of the pecan tree and recommended the tree be trimmed to remove dead branches; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Eisenstein and the motion passed, 4-1. Phelps made final comment that she feels the tree ordinance is too restrictive, asked for clarification for Significant trees in section 34.3(a) and believes backyard trees should not be regulated.

CITY TREE REMOVALS

Maint. Super. Barajas responded to Gwen McLain's letter regarding tree removals as follows (as numbered in her letter):

- #1.) tree was trimmed without a permit, tree was not badly damaged and property owner was advised;
- #2/3&4.) dead eucalyptus previously reported to Commission – bores, photos shared;
- #5, 6, 7, 8.) tree failed and tree crew called by police department to assist in removal;
- #9.) 293 – topped some time back – tree maintained by pollarding branches;
- #12) 353 Alta Vista – Edison practices discussed;
- #13.) 1115 Oak – pictures of decay and conks shared – reported at prior Com. Mtg.;
- #16.) 1521 Meridian – not regulated;
- #18.) Convalescent Hospital – tree removed because it split;
- #20.) 608-26 Orange Grove – not regulated, less than 12" dbh;
- #22/23.) 505 Mission – pkwy tree collapsed;
- #24.) 400 Alta Vista (on trim schedule)
- #25.) 1330 Mountain View (on trim schedule)
- #26.) 1316,14,24 Mountain View (on trim schedule)

In addition to above tree issues; Com. Mitchell reports a jacaranda on Gillette Cres. that is split. A Sycamore at Beech & Meridian had a horizontal branch removed because it was split. 1629 Wayne is a pkwy. Oak tree that is dead. On Mission close to San Marino Com. Eisenstein asks Barajas to remove old stakes and tethers.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FIELD TRIP TO NATURE PARK

Commissioner Mitchell explained that the field trip is cancelled due to rain. Commissioner Whitman, Vice Chair Horsman and Commissioner Mitchell will attend the March 1 City Council meeting to request funding for the trip. The plan is for a regular event. Com. Whitman suggest use of Commission funds.

FRIENDS OF THE SOUTH PASADENA NATURE PARK

Commissioner Eisenstein is organizing a pre-Earth Day weed party at the nature park on Saturday, March 25. The Friends has 15 members. At the groups first meeting at the park they found that mulch needs to be spread; request that no more mulch be dumped there and that mulch be removed from beneath the oak and sycamore trees. She plans to get So. Pas. Beautiful involved with the Friends group. Boy Scouts have volunteered to do some erosion control. Staff Liaison Harder suggested they contact Maint. Super. Barajas to discuss project details. She also reports that an irrigation line is broken by the fence near the golf course. She submitted an Adopt-a-Park application and dates of service.

ARBOR DAY PLANNING

Vice Chair Horsman announced the Arbor Day program to join the Library and add a few items to the schedule of events at the Library Community Room on March 7. Vice Chair Horsman, Commissioners Whitman and Mitchell will attend Wednesday's City Council meeting to accept the Arbor Day Proclamation. The Commission and SPB will contribute equal amounts towards the purchase of a dedication tree for Arbor Day this year. The desired species is Chinese fringe tree and desired location is in the Monterey Hills bounded by Monterey Rd., Via del Rey and Camino del Sol, west of Indiana. Should West Coast Arborists wish to donate a tree for Arbor Day the Commission suggested a coast live oak, holly or cork oak be planted on El Centro at a vacant location near Trader Joes.

WEBSITE DEVELOPMENT

Tabled.

EARTH DAY EVENT PLANNING

Commissioner Whitman asked for feedback on language for the new street banner over Fair Oaks to announce Earth Day this year. The banner will include an oak tree and a globe of the earth.

OPEN SPACE & HABITAT PRESERVATION

This matter is deferred to the next regular meeting. Chair Beadle asks that a member of Building & Planning be invited to answer development questions relative to open space.

CHAIR COMMUNICATIONS

- Chair Beadle suggests the City adopt an electronic newsletter format for the Community Newsletter and allow residents to sign up to receive updates. He will develop a short DVD on trees and when ready will put it on the agenda for discussion.

COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS

- Commissioner Whitman joined the South West Monterey Hills Development Committee with 10 other people – a City Council Subcommittee looking into the area specific plan. Commissioner Mitchell explained that he is following the development project on Oneonta Drive and attended the Planning Commission meeting for that item.

STAFF LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS

- Staff Liaison Harder read the quantity report from L.A. County on Christmas trees that were recycled for participation in the Christmas Tree Recycling program.

COUNCIL LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS

- Council Liaison Ten suggests the Commission develop a Tree Owner Manual to let new homeowners know tree requirements and to contact Public Works before performing any work to trees. Chair Beadle asks that this item be placed on the March agenda for discussion.

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

NEXT MEETING - The next regular meeting of the Natural Resources Commission will be held on Monday, March 27, 2006 at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers Conference Room.



David Beadle, Chair

**MINUTES
NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING
JANUARY 31, 2006**

ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:50 p.m. Present were Vice Chair Bryan Horsman and Commissioners Ron Mitchell, Barbara Eisenstein and David Whitman. Chair David Beadle was absent. Staff Liaison Diana Harder was present. Maintenance Superintendent Jesse Barajas was absent. Council Liaison Mike Ten was absent.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS – None.

INTRODUCTIONS

Commissioner Eisenstein asked that everyone introduce themselves around the room and tell everyone a little about their interest in the nature park.

BACKGROUND OF SOUTH PASADENA ARROYO SECO WOODLAND AND WILDLIFE PARK DEVELOPMENT

Commissioner Mitchell explained the process by which the nature park was funded and developed including community outreach and participation. Development plans of the site were posted on presentation boards.

ADOPT-A-PARK PROGRAM GOALS

Commissioner Eisenstein introduced the subject and goals that she has for activities that volunteers can do to improve the nature park. Activities included litter clean-up, graffiti removal and weed removal. She then turned discussion over to the group for ideas.

ACTIVITIES

Commissioner Eisenstein wrote the following ideas for activities and improvements at the park on the writing pad:

- 1.) Evaluate grading. Re-engineer upper retention basin. Evaluate erosion on trails.
- 2.) Mulch
- 3.) Mow Grassland area periodically
- 4.) Weed abatement
- 5.) Consider concept of Garden vs. Wildlife Area
- 6.) Create Community Bulletin Board
- 7.) Coordinate volunteer activities
- 8.) Identify financial resources; fundraiser activities
- 9.) More interpretive signs (plants)
- 10.) More usage of Outdoor Classroom
- 11.) Info. for public on how to care for park on non-work days – how to abate litter and graffiti
- 12.) Sign on street leaks
- 13.) Check irrigation (work with city)
- 14.) City communication on maintenance
- 15.) Share flora (high school); expand list
- 16.) School tours; summer kids tours; Boy/Girl Scouts – merit badges
- 17.) Fenced area next to golf course (lease) – future preservation.

SUMMARY OF IDEAS

Commissioner Eisenstein explained the structure for communication with the group including utilizing the City's website to share information on activities and scheduling. Staff Liaison Harder explained the process by which the Nature Park would be adopted by the Friends of the South Pasadena Nature Park in the form of an Adopt-a-Park Agreement awarded by the City Council. The plan is to schedule 6 activities in the park each year to accomplish the tasks identified in the Adopt-a-Park program.

WRAP UP

Commissioner Eisenstein reviewed with the group the list of 17 ideas that were generated and added these ideas to those she originally identified. She set a tentative date for a meeting at the nature park for Saturday, March 18 and will contact participants to join her in a walk through the nature park.

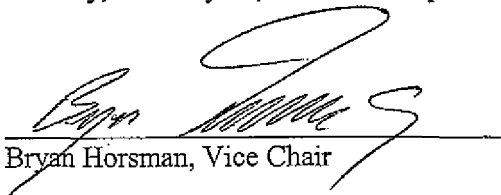
CHAIR COMMUNICATIONS - None.

COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS - Commissioner Horsman announced the tentative date for Arbor Day festivities is Saturday, March 11. Commissioner Whitman announced that the Earth Day Celebration will be at the nature park this year on Saturday, April 22 – details to follow.

STAFF LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS - None.

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

NEXT MEETING - The next regular meeting of the Natural Resources Commission will be held on Monday, February 27, 2006 at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers Conference Room.



Bryan Horsman, Vice Chair

MINUTES
NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION
January 23, 2006

ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m. Present were Chair David Beadle, Vice Chair Bryan Horsman and Commissioners Ron Mitchell, Barbara Eisenstein and David Whitman. Staff Liaison Diana Harder and Maintenance Superintendent Jesse Barajas were present. Council Liaison Mike Ten arrived some time later.

MINUTES

Chair Beadle made a motion to approve the minutes of December 15; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Mitchell and all were in favor, 5-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS – Gwen McLain, Mike Degles and Sue Matz of Mountain View Avenue in South Pasadena presented a letter and photos of tree activities in their area for Commission review. The letter and photos have been referred to staff for follow-up.

TREE REMOVAL FOR CONSTRUCTION – 867, 871, 879, 883 ONEONTA DRIVE

The meeting was attended by Richard Wang, Applicant, Ren Zhao, Architect and Vance Tucker, Certified Arborist. The Arborist presented a report that included additional trees for removal. Commissioners eliminated trees from the applicant's removal list that were less than 12-inches in diameter. Chair Beadle shared photos of the site. A 40-inch diameter Eucalyptus tree was added to Lot #8 for removal; a 5-inch diameter Coast Live Oak was added to Lot #9 for removal. A multi-trunk native Toyon tree on Lot #8 was identified to remain as well as a 12-inch diameter Toyon on Lot #9. A 60-inch diameter multi-trunk Peru Pepper on Lot #8 was identified to remain. It should be noted that all trees not specifically permitted for removal are to remain whether or not listed or identified on the plans. Commissioner Whitman made a motion to approve the removal of 13 (thirteen) trees on the development including 2 oaks trees and 2 native species conditional on the planting of seven (7) 36-inch box native species trees and twenty (20) 24-inch box trees, pending City verification of dbh; the motion was seconded by Chair Beadle and the motion passed, 3-2. The Commission asks that the applicant consider planting native species and habitat-friendly plantings in the upper green belt of the development.

CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY

The Chamber of Commerce has asked that the Commission consider a planting location for this year's Christmas tree, assign a member to the ad hoc Holiday Decorations Committee, and suggest a species and location for future Christmas Tree Lighting events. By consensus the Commission made a recommendation to plant the 36-inch box Redwood tree at the entrance to the Arroyo Park on Stoney Drive. Chair Beadle appointed Commissioner David Whitman to the Chamber's Holiday Committee to assist in the selection of a tree species and a permanent location for future ceremonies.

CITY TREE REMOVALS

Maintenance Superintendent Barajas has no tree removals to report at this time.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FIELD TRIP TO NATURE PARK

Commissioner Mitchell announced that the field trip tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, January 25 was cancelled and is exploring the date of Thursday, February 23rd. When the event is confirmed by the elementary school, Staff will announce the event to City Manager and related/affected departments in the City for follow-up and support.

FRIENDS OF THE SOUTH PASADENA NATURE PARK

Commissioner Eisenstein shared the Press Release that will be printed in the South Pasadena Review on Wednesday, January 25 inviting the public to attend an informational meeting for the adoption of the nature park. The meeting is a legally, posted special meeting of the Natural Resources Commission to be held on Tuesday, January 31 at the Library Community Room. All commissioners are encouraged to attend and take part in the organization and planning of the new group. Staff will prepare a sign-in sheet for participants and arrange the room in a "round-table" format for discussion and sharing.

ARBOR DAY PLANNING

Vice Chair Horsman spoke with representatives of South Pasadena Beautiful and Norma LeValley regarding Arbor Day and shared the Commissions ideas for Tree Dedication planting that was accepted with enthusiasm. Maintenance Superintendent Barajas explained that West Coast Arborists would be interested in donating a tree for the planting ceremony and kick-off for the event that may be planted near the entrance to the nature park.

EARTH DAY EVENT PLANNING

Commissioners discussed simple events for Earth Day including a clean up activity, nature walk and banner language. Any items that require a budget will be shared next time. Commissioner Eisenstein brought the Earth Day Booklet to the meeting. Council Liaison Ten shared the "Celebrate our Parks" brochure and suggested the Earth Day Booklet may utilize some of its elements.

WEBSITE DEVELOPMENT

This matter is deferred to the next regular meeting.

CHAIR COMMUNICATIONS - Chair Beadle suggests the City adopt an electronic newsletter format for the Community Newsletter and allow residents to sign up to receive updates.

COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS - Chair Beadle asked that an agenda item for February be added to discuss Habitat and Open Space issues.

STAFF LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS - None.

COUNCIL LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS - Council Liaison Ten suggested several items to the Commission including the production of an owner's manual for trees in South Pasadena.

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

NEXT MEETING - The next regular meeting of the Natural Resources Commission will be held on Monday, February 27, 2006 at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers Conference Room.



David Beadle, Chair

MINUTES
NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION
November 28, 2005

ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 6:41 p.m. Present were Commissioners Barbara Eisenstein, David Whitman and Ron Mitchell. Chair David Beadle arrived at 7:30 p.m. Vice Chair Bryan Horsman was absent. Council Liaison Mike Ten was present and Councilman Michael Cacciotti. Staff Liaison Diana Harder was present and Maintenance Superintendent Jesse Barajas.

MINUTES

Commissioner Whitman made a motion to approve the minutes of October 24; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Eisenstein and all were in favor, 3-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS – Councilman Cacciotti asked the Commission to consider various alternatives to leaf blowers, lawnmowers and other environmentally friendly devices for landscaping as well as to consider low-emission vehicles. He explained activity in the arroyo and meetings planned; and, suggested that materials/incentive programs may be shared on Earth Day.

ARBOR DAY PLANNING

This item is tabled as Vice Chair Horsman is absent.

FRIENDS OF THE NATURE PARK

Commissioner Eisenstein provided a list of goals and objectives for improvements to the nature park. She and Commissioner Whitman will work on a press release to invite interested members of the public to a special meeting in January to discuss a plan for improving the park. She introduced Sonia Nicholson of North East Trees. Sonia explained that North East Trees would be engaging in a project to plant 1800 trees/shrubs in the arroyo. She has between 300-400 1-gallon shrubs to plant in next 2 weeks. Discussion ensued on irrigation systems, weed control, mulch availability. Maint. Super. Barajas described work necessary to clean up and prepare for projects including mowing, application of pre-emergents, mulching, skirting and weed abatement among other tasks. On-going maintenance and costs were discussed.

Councilman Cacciotti asked that the Commission provide a program and maintenance addendum to the park maint. contract when it expires; Councilman Ten added maintenance to the Oaklawn bridge (trash/graffiti).

CITY TREE REMOVALS

Maint. Super. Barajas explained that he is continuing to monitor an ash tree at 1228 Diamond that may be declining; and has scheduled 323 Alta Vista for removal of a eucalyptus tree at the request of the Edison Company although he will ask for replacement trees.

TREE PLANTING ON EL CENTRO

Commissioner Eisenstein developed a list of desirable species for planting on El Centro as trees decline and must be replaced. She will show pictures at the next regular meeting and explain the pros and cons of the recommended street trees.

WEBSITE DEVELOPMENT

Commissioner Mitchell explained that he has categorized ideas into environmental areas including trash, trees, water, etc. and will bring materials to share at the next regular meeting.

TREE CITY U.S.A. AND GROWTH AWARD

A list of qualifying tasks was generated by the Commission as follows:

- A3: Interpretive Program is 3 points for growth award
- A2: Literature Distribution is 2 points
- B8: Land-Use Planning Coordination is 5 points
- C10: Wildlife Habitat for the Northeast Trees project is 3 points

B10: Citizen Training Program is 6 points and
C3: Sidewalk/Curb Policy is worth 5 points.

Tree City Awards will be on the January agenda to consider programs and projects for 2006.

EARTH DAY EVENT PLANNING

Commissioner Whitman supports the litter clean-up efforts at the event along the Bridle Trail. The group plans to meet at the Nature Park and not to use Arroyo Park next year with program and activities at the nature park only with a walk along the bridle trail for litter clean up and to identify tree/shrub species. Consider updating banner next time to reflect the new event.

CHAIR COMMUNICATIONS - Chair Beadle asked if commissioners would consider an alternative meeting date in December as the 4th Monday is a holiday. The Commission established Thursday, December 15 as the alternative date, same time; and location TBD.

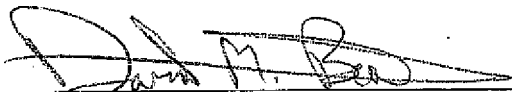
COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS - Commissioner Mitchell asked Maint. Super. Barajas to look into the removal of a large limb of an oak tree at the top of Camino del Sol and to report back on any violations. Commissioner Eisenstein shared a publication "Invite Wildlife Into Your Backyard!" and other Rancho activities coming up.

STAFF LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS - Staff Liaison Harder announced that the Christmas Tree Recycling program will be on Monday and Tuesday, January 9 and 10 this year and a brochure is being prepared for mailing to all households before Christmas.

COUNCIL LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS - Councilman Ten asked Commission to consider more restrictions on noise and pollution of gardening equipment; including offering a list of alternatives and incentives to gardeners for using them. He suggested further that student volunteers be used for code enforcement on Saturdays with distribution of informational flyers while at the same time noting the addresses of offenders to turn in to City Hall for official follow-up.

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

NEXT MEETING - The next regular meeting of the Natural Resources Commission will be held on Thursday, December 15, 2005 at 6:30 p.m. at a place to be determined. Monday, December 26th is a holiday.



David Beadle, Chair

MINUTES
NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION
October 24, 2005

ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 6:37 p.m. Present were Chair David Beadle and Commissioners Ron Mitchell and David Whitman. Commissioner Barbara Eisenstein and Vice Chair Horsman arrived shortly thereafter. Council Liaison Mike Ten was absent. Staff Liaison Harder was present as was Maintenance Superintendent Barajas.

MINUTES

Chair Beadle made a motion to approve the minutes of September 26; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Whitman and all were in favor, 3-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS – None.

TREE REMOVAL APPLICATION – 1331 INDIANA AVENUE

Chava Danielson, Architect, shared photos and explained the desire to relocate a 4" oak tree and to remove a 20-inch diameter avocado tree for development of the site. Commissioner Eisenstein upon her site visit did locate another significant native species in the footprint of the new development and a ~4-inch diameter Mexican Elderberry was added to the request for removals. Discussion ensued. Commissioner Whitman made a motion to approve transplantation of the oak in one of two ways:

- 1.) Move the tree on site with a multi-year survival warranty including a stipulation that two (2) 24-inch minimum size oak trees be planted as replacement trees should the tree fail; or
- 2.) Move the tree to the nature park as a Dedication tree to the City and provide a 15-gallon oak tree replacement on the property site as replacement;

to approve the removal of the 20-inch diameter avocado tree with two (2) 24-inch minimum size box replacement trees (native species preferred) and the removal of a ~4-inch diameter Mexican Elderberry with one (1) 24-inch box native species replacement tree; the motion was seconded by Chair Beadle and all were in favor, 5-0.

TREE REMOVAL APPLICATION – 145 PASADENA AVENUE

Brian Cravens, Architect, and Cy Carlberg, Certified Arborist, explained the request to remove thirteen (13) trees for the development of a Live/Work project on the subject site. Of the 13 trees, 9 are oaks and native species and 4 are palm trees. Maint. Superintendent Barajas examined the site and found two (2) additional 12-inch diameter trees (an almond and apricot) that were in the construction footprint. Discussion ensued. Commissioner Mitchell made a motion to approve the removal of six (6) oak trees, three (3) native elderberry trees, six (6) palm trees, one (1) apricot tree and one (1) almond tree with the planting of nine (9) 36-inch box minimum size native species replacement trees for the oak and native species removals and multiple 24-inch box minimum size replacement trees on other removals (based on dbh of removals); in addition, in order to offset the loss of habitat it is recommended that the northwest corner of the development be converted to a woodland area (like the nature park across street) and to minimize turf areas; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Whitman and the vote carried, 4-1.

CITY TREE REMOVALS

Maint. Super. Barajas explained that a camphor tree on Oxley & Avon is dying and plans to remove it soon. Also he is monitoring an ash tree at 1228 Diamond that may be declining.

FESTIVAL OF BALLOONS

Chair Beadle made a motion to rescind the motion last month to send a letter to Festival of Balloons regarding use of balloons in the 4th of July parade; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Whitman and all members were in favor, 5-0. Chair Beadle requested that this item be tabled to a future date, undetermined.

TREE PLANTING ON EL CENTRO

Chair Beadle tabled this item until next month.

WEBSITE DEVELOPMENT

Commissioner Mitchell shared his outline for content for the website. Staff Liaison Harder shared a list of top 10 questions for the website. This matter will continue to the next meeting as content is developed for the new website design.

USED OIL RECYCLING CENTERS

Commissioner Whitman named several used oil recycling centers with a half mile radius to South Pasadena including Autozone on Huntington, York and Figueroa and Union 76 Station at Monterey Road and Avenue 60. These locations will be posted to the website for public referral for disposal of used oil and filters.

TREE CITY U.S.A. AND GROWTH AWARD

Staff Liaison Harder provided a handout outlining all categories that the City may use to qualify for the Tree City Growth Award. Commissioners will review and come to the next meeting with recommendations on how the City will qualify in 2005.

EARTH DAY EVENT PLANNING

Staff Liaison Harder explained that the Relay for Life has requested to hang a banner over Fair Oaks for an event on April 22/23 next year. That is the same weekend as Earth Day. Discussion ensued with consensus that they cannot move Earth Day as it is an international event on that weekend every year and banner space is necessary to promote their event.

CHAIR COMMUNICATIONS

- Chair Beadle suggested commissioners look at an environmental website for PBS Kids known as EkoWorld and will send the website address via e-mail.

COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS

- Commissioner Eisenstein shared a postcard for the Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden's Fall Plant Sale coming up on Saturday and Sunday, November 5 & 6. Vice Chair Horsman spoke with President of South Pasadena Beautiful regarding a joined Arbor Day event in 2006 and Arbor Day Planning will be on next agenda.

STAFF LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS

- Staff Liaison Harder will add Friends of the Woodland and Wildlife Park to November agenda per Commissioner Eisenstein's request. She announced that the Chamber of Commerce is planning a Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony that would result in the donation of a 36-inch box tree to the City as part of that celebration. Dumpster Day was successful with 88.13 tons of bulky items collected and collection at 140 senior citizen's homes this year. This compares to 114.81 tons and 135 senior homes last year. She spoke with the Senior Center regarding use of the bus for an elementary school field trip to the nature park and that is being discussed as well as possible use of the Gold Link bus.

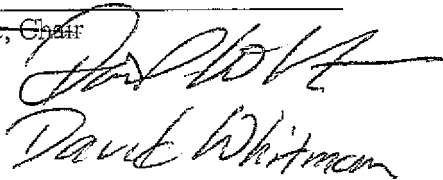
COUNCIL LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS

- None

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned at 10:05 p.m.

NEXT MEETING - The next regular meeting of the Natural Resources Commission will be held on Monday, November 28, 2005 at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers Conference Room.

David Beadle, Chair



MINUTES
NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION
September 26, 2005

ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 6:42 p.m. Present were Chair David Beadle, Vice Chair Bryan Horsman, and Commissioners Ron Mitchell and Barbara Eisenstein. Commissioner David Whitman arrived shortly thereafter. Council Liaison Mike Ten was absent as was Maintenance Superintendent Barajas. Staff Liaison Harder was present.

MINUTES

Commissioner Mitchell made a motion to approve the minutes of August 22; the motion was seconded by Vice Chair Horsman and all were in favor, 4-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS – Elizabeth Plunkett, 1317 Milan, spoke as a concerned citizen regarding the proposed removal of valuable trees at her neighbor's property. Staff Liaison Harder will ask Maintenance Superintendent Barajas to re-check the diameter of proposed tree removals on the property located at 1311 Milan.

WEB SITE DEVELOPMENT

Reference Librarian Rebecca Ryan gave a presentation on the City's web site development. She explained that she can accept PDF documents and JPGs, 25kb in size, links can be included and unlimited text (converted to PDF as needed, but smaller docs would be HTML). She explained the web site layout for the Natural Resources Commission page. Discussion ensued. Chair Beadle appointed Commissioners Ron Mitchell and Barbara Eisenstein to a Web Site Subcommittee to explore what the Commission may want to include on their web page. This matter will continue to the next agenda with discussion expected on the Top 20 Questions (to be composed by Staff Liaison Harder), and four (4) seasonal documents that could be included on the "What's New" portion of the web page.

FESTIVAL OF BALLOONS

The Commission reviewed a letter drafted by Commissioner Eisenstein to alert the Festival of Balloons committee on the use of balloons for the 4th of July parade. Discussion ensued. Commissioner Whitman made a motion to approve the letter and attachment to be addressed to the Chair of the Festival of Balloons Committee and cc'd to the City Council, All City Commissions and All City Departments. The motion was seconded by Chair Beadle and all members were in favor, 5-0.

TREE PLANTING ON EL CENTRO

Commissioner Eisenstein has taken a lead on this item and will bring pictures of desired species for El Centro Street to the next meeting for discussion.

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION CHARTER

Chair Beadle read the Commission's Charter from City Municipal Code to refresh the Commission on its charged duties and expects that the charter should be read at least one time each year.

CITY TREE REMOVALS

Maintenance Superintendent Barajas was absent so item is tabled to the next regular meeting.

USED OIL RECYCLING CENTERS

Commissioner Whitman plans to do an audit of all recycled oil centers within a ½ mile radius to the City of South Pasadena. A public communication piece will be reviewed and considered for adoption by the Commission at the next regular meeting.

ANNUAL REPORT TO CITY COUNCIL

Chair Beadle gave a Powerpoint presentation on the accomplishments of the Commission for the annual report. Corrections will be noted and the presentation fine-tuned for the City Council meeting on October 5.

ARROYO SLOPE FAILURE

Staff Liaison Harder gave a brief update on the status of repairs to the slope that failed in Arroyo Park. The Slope Stabilization Study was completed and includes many alternatives for slope repair. One long term solution involves the installation of retaining walls and is estimated to cost \$100,000. A less expensive alternative is the construction of fifty (50) feet of gravity wall along the base of the slope, including a drainage system to address the spring water concern. This work could be accomplished with City staff. In the meantime, the slope will remain covered in case of rain. Planting to include slope stabilization-type groundcover – no trees. Staff Liaison Harder is asked to return to the Commission with more detail on the groundcover when that information is available.

CHAIR COMMUNICATIONS - Chair Beadle attended the City Council meeting addressing conceptual approval of the "Scout House" and voiced his concerns as a citizen.

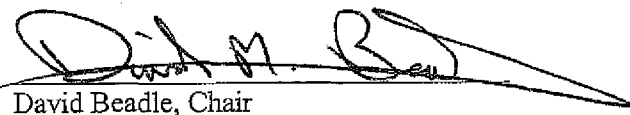
COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS - Vice Chair Horsman provided publications from the National Arbor Foundation: "What Tree is That?" Commissioner Whitman shared information on the moratorium taking place in the Monterey Hills and expressed concerns with the preservation of Open Space; a matter to be on the agenda for continued discussion. Commissioner Eisenstein will participate in the Water Fest on October 1 (flyers distributed); also at the L.A. County Fair with cuttings last Sunday and expressed her concerns and communications with Maint. Super. Barajas on the maintenance and care of oak trees in Garfield Park; a matter for a future agenda. Commissioner Mitchell expressed his concern for the transplanted oak tree at 1935 Fremont and asked for a full report at the next Commission meeting. Commissioner Eisenstein asked for care of crepe myrtle trees that are out-growing their stakes at various locations. Staff Liaison Harder is asked if the Commission can use the Gold Link bus for an elementary school field trip to the nature park.

STAFF LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS - Staff Liaison Harder shared information on the results of the South Pasadena HHW & E-Waste Round Up and provided a table comparing prior year collections. On Agenda in October is Tree City USA & Growth Award, Earth Day Event Planning and in November; Arbor Day Even Planning.

COUNCIL LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS - None

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

NEXT MEETING - The next regular meeting of the Natural Resources Commission will be held on Monday, October 24, 2005 at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers Conference Room.


David Beadle, Chair

MINUTES
NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION
August 22, 2005

ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 6:41 p.m. Present were Chair David Whitman, Vice Chair David Beadle and Commissioners Bryan Horsman, Barbara Eisenstein and Ron Mitchell. Council Liaison Mike Ten was present. Staff Liaison Harder and Maintenance Superintendent Barajas were present. Community Services Director Veronica Dolleschel was present.

MINUTES

Commissioner Mitchell made a motion to approve the minutes of July 25; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Eisenstein and all were in favor, 5-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS – None

CONSTRUCTION OF SCOUT HOUSE IN GARFIELD PARK

Community Services Director Veronica Dolleschel provided an overview of the process by which the Youth House in Garfield Park had been proposed and now planned for City Council adoption of conceptual development of the site next month. She explained further that an environmental review initial study would be needed to evaluate the site and that the structure would be 600-800 square feet – slightly less than the existing concrete slab so that they would not infringe on Edison property adjacent to the site. Discussion ensued. Commissioner Mitchell expressed concern with bushes and trees; Chair Whitman asked to review landscape plan when it is proposed; Commissioner Eisenstein has issue with reducing green space even though the structure is planned on an existing concrete slab.

Randy Lake, 633 Milan, made public comment not opposed to a city facility that serves youth of the city that city staff would manage, but against the process by which it developed. He asked that the commission consider open space.

Community Services Director Dolleschel will share again when the initial environmental study is completed or when a landscape plan is to be considered.

RESIDENT REQUEST FOR REVIEW OF TREE REQUIREMENTS

Gwen McLain, 1324 Mountain View, presented her issue related to loss of trees in her area of town. Maintenance Superintendent Barajas explained that there have not been any city tree removals during his tenure (last six years). The remaining eucalyptus trees were identified in the City's Tree Inventory in 1999 and will be maintained by the City. Discussion ensued regarding the process by which the city pursues illegal tree removals and the planting of replacement trees to preserve tree canopy. Gwen McLain requested additional city trees be planted in her area. Barajas explained that the planting locations are only 3' wide and not ideal for planting city trees. Chair Whitman suggested that the resident encourage planting of trees on private property in her area. Barajas is asked to provide her with a copy of the tree inventory in her area so that she can continue to police her area and make necessary reports to the City. Chair Whitman thanked her for her support of the community urban forest and continued efforts to preserve her neighborhood. Commissioner Eisenstein emphasized the need for community education regarding trees and discussed briefly the methods by which information could be distributed to the public via community newsletter, water bills, public counter, etc.

TREE PLANTING ON EL CENTRO

Maintenance Superintendent Barajas explained that the planting pallet for El Centro included Australian Willow, Magnolia and Bracychiton. Councilman Margrave was given this selection for replacement trees at his site (835 El Centro) and selected the Australian Willow for the 2 spots in front. The Commission supports the planting of the 2 trees in front of 835 El Centro. The Commission would like to review other varieties that may be considered for El Centro plantings that may come up in the future. Commission will share on species selection at the next regular meeting.

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION CHARTER

This matter was tabled by the Chair.

CITY TREE REMOVALS

Maintenance Superintendent Barajas reported on the removal of a dead incense cedar tree at 1920 Primrose and a dead canary island pine at 2024 Primrose as well as a camphor tree in the parkway on Meridian north of Buena Vista that suffered from leaf bacteria.

USED OIL RECYCLING CENTERS

Chair Whitman plans to bring a list of used oil recycling sites to the next regular meeting and to make this information more available to the public.

FRIENDS OF THE NATURE PARK

This matter was tabled by the Chair.

ANNUAL ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Chair Whitman made a motion to nominate Vice Chair Beadle as Chair to the Commission. Chair Beadle accepted the nomination. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Horsman and all were in favor, 5-0. Chair Whitman made a motion to nominate Commissioner Horsman as Vice Chair to the Commission. Commissioner Horsman accepted the nomination. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Eisenstein and all members were in favor, 5-0.

EARTH DAY EVENT PLANNING

This matter was tabled by the Chair.

ANNUAL REPORT TO CITY COUNCIL

Chair Whitman and Vice Chair Beadle plan to prepare a Powerpoint presentation to City Council for the annual report that is due at the October 5, 2005 City Council meeting. They will make the presentation to the Commission at the next regular meeting.

CHAIR COMMUNICATIONS - None


COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS - Commissioner Eisenstein met with Community Services Director Dolleschel and Maintenance Superintendent Barajas at the nature park to discuss a planting and weed abatement project that Northeast Trees has proposed for the site. Chair Whitman and Vice Chair Beadle ask that the Arroyo Slope - status of replanting or retaining the slope that failed in last year's rainfall - be a matter for discussion on the next agenda. Vice Chair Beadle shared a certificate recognizing the Commission for participating with the Keep California Beautiful campaign. Commissioner Horsman shared a publication on *How to Celebrate Arbor Day* and plans to develop a program next year to celebrate Arbor Day. Commissioner Eisenstein wrote a letter regarding use of balloons at the Festival of Balloons 4th of July parade and it will be on the agenda for discussion next month.

STAFF LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS - Staff Liaison Harder shared information regarding Water Fest 2005 that will be held at Arcadia Park on October 1st this year. The Tree City application has been received and will be on a future agenda for discussion.

COUNCIL LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS - None

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

NEXT MEETING - The next regular meeting of the Natural Resources Commission will be held on Monday, September 26, 2005 at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers Conference Room.


David Whitman, Chair
DAVID BEADLE

MINUTES
NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION
June 27, 2005

ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 6:44p.m. Present were Chair David Whitman and Commissioners Bryan Horsman, Barbara Eisenstein and Ron Mitchell. Vice Chair David Beadle was absent. Council Liaison Mike Ten was absent. Staff Liaison Harder was present. Maintenance Superintendent Barajas was absent.

MINUTES

Commissioner Mitchell made a motion to approve the minutes of May 23; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Horsman and all were in favor, 4-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS – None.

4TH OF JULY PLANNING

Commissioner Mitchell shared punch balls and earth balls that will be used in the parade. Chair Whitman suggested the construction of a support for banners and earth balls in the parade. Everyone will wear Earth Day t-shirts. Two messages from the Commission for the announcement booth are "Keep the Earth Trash Free and Be Water Wise(.com).

Commissioner Horsman left at 7:25 p.m.

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION CHARTER

Chair Whitman shared some thoughts including the idea that each commissioner would take on small projects related to areas of interest and that he be added to the mailing list for the Parks & Recreation Commission agendas to keep the Commission abreast of their activities and interests. This item is tabled until the next regular meeting when full Commission can attend.

CITY TREE REMOVALS

Staff Liaison Harder shared Jesse's list of tree removals that includes the removal of a dead camphor tree at 930 Buena Vista and an elm tree over a roadway at Hill Drive and Harriman Avenue. In addition, trees at 835 El Centro were removed. The Commission would like to see no replacement trees planted on El Centro from Meridian Avenue to Pasadena Avenue until a tree species plan is developed for the area.

USED OIL RECYCLING CENTERS

This matter is deferred to the next regular meeting.

RESOLUTION OF NATIVE SPECIES FOR TREE ORDINANCE REGULATIONS

A recommendation in this matter has been made at the May regular meeting.

FRIENDS OF THE NATURE PARK

Commissioner Eisenstein is researching other groups and organizations that support of public parks. She has also contacted community activities including Bee Simpson, Ray Ramirez, Pat Massey (equestrian involvement) and Councilman Cacciotti, who supports the concept. Part of the support program may include the cleaning of small planting beds that were part of the redevelopment every month or every other month, excluding the summer months. She has confirmed that there is no maintenance expected by the Santa Monica Conservancy who was responsible for the initial start-up funding for the project. She seeks guidance from Maint. Superintendent Barajas on Nature Park maintenance going forward and asks that he share at the next regular meeting.

CHAIR COMMUNICATIONS

Chair Whitman shared a letter he received regarding the construction of a scout house at the north end of Garfield Park and requests that this item be on the agenda for the next regular meeting. David Whitman would like to see Earth Day Planning on the agenda next month and suggests the Commission join the Mission West Festival, set up a booth and incorporate associated events (like the mower exchange program) at their station. Chair Whitman attended a Planning

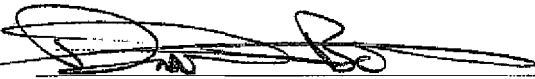
Commission meeting and expressed his feelings regarding development in the Monterey Hills area such that the City would maintain City-owned open space and protect it from further development of the area.

COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS - None.

STAFF LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS - Staff Liaison Harder shared flyers for the September local household hazardous waste round up in South Pasadena and that the Mower Exchange Program will have an event scheduled in South Pasadena in the future due to the efforts of Councilman Cacciotti. Also, a public notice to residents within a 100-foot radius of 1836 Peterson were given an opportunity to write comments on the approved removal of trees at this development site. Several letters were received that were not in favor of the development and removal of trees in the area.

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

NEXT MEETING - The next regular meeting of the Natural Resources Commission will be held on Monday, July 25, 2005 at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers Conference Room.



David Whitman, Chair

DAVID BEROLE

VICE CHAIR

**MINUTES
NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION
March 28, 2005**

D R A F T

ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 6:37p.m. Present were Chair David Whitman, Vice Chair David Beadle and Commissioners Ron Mitchell and Bryan Horsman. Commissioner Barbara Eisenstein has an excused absence. Council Liaison Stamps was absent. Staff Liaison Harder and Maintenance Superintendent Jesse Barajas were present.

MINUTES

Commissioner Mitchell made a motion to approve the minutes of February 28 and March 19; the motion was seconded by Vice Chair Beadle and all were in favor, 4-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS – None.

NEIGHBORHOOD GARDEN

Vice Chair Beadle invited Debbie McCurdy to present a community garden concept to the commission in hopes that she can draw interest to the project and see if anyone knows the property owner to make contact. The empty lot is at the northeast corner of Cawston and Hawthorne. Ms. McCurdy has written a letter to the property owner and cc'd the Arroyo Vista School principal on the letter. She also shared project development that is modeled by the California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB). Discussion ensued. Chair Whitman appointed Vice Chair Beadle to continue to monitor the community garden project and report back on its progress.

CITY FOLLOW-UP TO PERMITS AND TREE REMOVALS

Chair Whitman expressed his concern with follow-up on tree permits. Staff Liaison Harder explained the tree permit process and violations process and distributed copies of the latest tree violation notices. Discussion ensued. Chair Whitman asked that each commissioner come up with a couple paragraphs to include in a letter from the commission that could be attached to compliance letters and applications expressing the benefits of tree preservation and compliance with the tree ordinance.

ST. JAMES CHURCH TREE REPLACEMENT PARKWAY TREE REMOVALS

Chair Whitman expressed his concerns with the removal of trees on the church property that resulted in a penalty permit. Staff Liaison Harder explained that the violation resulted in an office conference with the city's prosecutor and a request that the church consider planting additional trees as part of their landscape plan. The planting of replacement trees on the church property was something that the city asked they consider; and not a matter for enforcement.

SOUTH PASADENA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT MAGNOLIA TREE REMOVAL AND SPUSD TREE POLICY

Chair Whitman shared a photo he took of the magnolia tree removal on school property that was done without a permit. Maintenance Superintendent Barajas explained that he had been contacted to inspect the tree prior to its removal and had concurred that the tree was diseased. The permit process was explained to the school, a permit application sent to them, and staff plans to follow up to see that a permit is obtained and replacement trees planted to compensate for the loss. The Tree Ordinance will be provided to all maintenance staff in charge of school property tree removals so that they are fully knowledgeable of city permit requirements.

“WATER, WATER, EVERYWHERE” EARTH DAY EVENT PLANNING

Final plans for Earth Day were discussed including who is attending/participating, advertising, stenciling project and how to distribute public notice of project (on door hanger notices), earth day walk booklet, water department materials, portable toilet location next to entrance of nature park, banner over Fair Oaks, final count on tables, chairs, trash cans needed at various stations and in the park; and the configuration of the parking lot to allow set up by the Pasadena Humane Society – 4 parking spaces are needed. Staff will ask for park reservation signs for Arroyo Park so that picnic tables are reserved for the event.

RESOLUTION OF NATIVE SPECIES FOR TREE ORDINANCE REGULATIONS

This item is tabled until the next regular commission meeting when Commissioner Eisenstein can attend.

CHAIR COMMUNICATIONS - None.

COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS - Agenda items for April meeting will include the Earth Day After Action Report, 4th of July Planning and Used Oil Centers.

STAFF LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS - Staff Liaison Harder distributed copies of the Pasadena Rose Bowl HHW Event to be held on June 11 this year, Storm Drain Articles, Tree City Article, Arbor Day Proclamation Article, Electric Lawn Mower Exchange program, and a copy of the Natural Resources Commission Charter establishing powers and duties for all commissioners.

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

NEXT MEETING - The next regular meeting of the Natural Resources Commission will be held on Monday, April 25, 2005 at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers Conference Room.

David Whitman, Chair

**MINUTES
NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION
February 28, 2005**

ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 6:32p.m. Present were Chair David Whitman, Vice Chair David Beadle and Commissioners Ron Mitchell, Barbara Eisenstein and Bryan Horsman. Council Liaison Stamps, Staff Liaison Harder and Maintenance Superintendent Jesse Barajas were present.

MINUTES

Commissioner Mitchell made a motion to approve the minutes of January 24; the motion was seconded by Vice Chair Beadle and the motion passed, 4-1 (Horsman abstaining).

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS – None.

TREE REMOVAL APPLICATION – 245 FAIR OAKS AVENUE

Present were applicants Peter Tolkin, Tinka Rogic of Tolkin Associates, and the landscape architect on the project, Wade Graham. Peter Tolkin presented the building plan. Wade Graham discussed details of the plan involving the removal and transplantation of sixteen (16) trees on the property for development, eight (8) of which are oak trees. They plan to connect walkways existing on city parkland property adjacent to the site to create a continuous parkland area with walkways, picnic areas, and a grove of existing eucalyptus and transplanted oak trees. Chair Whitman established a list to consider the trees one at a time. Evaluations of the condition of trees was made by Valley Crest and Senna Tree Company and verified or confirmed by Maint. Super. Barajas.

Council Liaison Odom Stamps left the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Discussion ensued. Commissioner Eisenstein expressed her desire that the parkland area that is developed between city and developers property become a grove of oak trees over time as eucalyptus trees are replaced. Chair Whitman made a motion to approve the removal of nine (9) trees as follows (as numbered on plans):

Plan Number	Size and Species	Replacement Tree Size	Species for Replacement	Quantity
1.	26-28" oak	36-inch box	Native Southern California species	3
2.	26" oak	36-inch box	Native Southern California species	3
3.	28" oak	36-inch box	Native Southern California species	3
9.	16" carrotwood	24-inch box	Any variety	2
10.	18" carrotwood	24-inch box	Any variety	2
11.	48" pepper	24-inch box	Any variety	5
12.	20" holly oak	36-inch box	Native Southern California species	2
13.	56" date palm	24-inch box	Any variety	6
14.	58" date palm	24-inch box	Any variety	6

Chair Whitman made a motion to approve the transplantation of four (4) trees as follows (as numbered on plans):

Plan Number	Size and Species	Replacement Tree Size	Species for Replacement	Quantity
4.	26" oak	36-inch box	Native Southern California species	3
5.	48" holly oak	36-inch box	Native Southern California species	5
6.	12" oak	36-inch box	Native Southern California species	2
7.	18" oak	36-inch box	Native Southern California species	2

Chair Whitman made a motion to deny the removal of one (1) 16" diameter parkway carotwood tree, No. 8. on the plan as it is a live, healthy tree and not in the footprint of the development. Trees No. 15. and 16. on the plan were removed because they are less than 12-inches in diameter and not regulated by the Tree Ordinance. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Eisenstein and all members were in favor, 5-0.

GARFIELD PARK FALLEN OAK TREES

Commissioner Eisenstein asked about the watering schedule for the park and for information regarding the root structure and any damages that may have occurred to the trees in question as the result of a pathway that was built through the area. Maintenance Superintendent Barajas explained that the trees had weak root structure; that the path in the park did not disturb any tree roots when it was constructed; that the watering schedule in the park is set by the Cimis system for parkland areas. Discussion ensued. The Commission by consensus makes note that the letters of Robert English in this matter are received and filed and will consider the issue of maintenance of oak trees in city parks on a future agenda after considering park use.

PARKWAY TREE REMOVALS

Maintenance Superintendent Barajas explained the need to remove a parkway elm tree at 2070 Stratford Avenue because it is split at the base.

"WATER, WATER, EVERYWHERE" EARTH DAY EVENT PLANNING

Vice Chair Beadle explained his storm drain stencil project details. The Commission reviewed the budget and consolidated plans for earth day. Staff is directed to prepare a memo to the City Manager to request permission to hold the event and expend City funds. Commissioner Eisenstein asked for permission to gather volunteers to weed the nature park before earth day and provided a flyer that she has made to distribute. Staff will plan to remove any homeless camps in the arroyo. Vice Chair Beadle will contact a local public radio station to ask about advertising the event "KPCC" radio. Commissioner Mitchell will explore materials and maps for the earth day walk and stations.

RESOLUTION OF NATIVE SPECIES FOR TREE ORDINANCE REGULATIONS

This item is tabled until the next regular commission meeting.

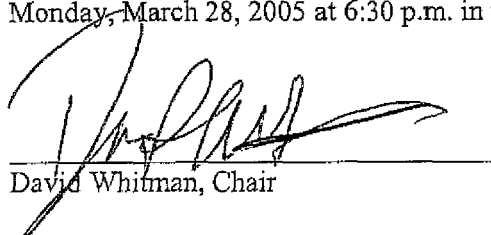
CHAIR COMMUNICATIONS - None.

COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS - New Commissioner Bryan Horsman introduced himself and explained some of his background and experience.

STAFF LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS - Staff Liaison Harder announced that the Arbor Day Proclamation would be presented to Chair Whitman at the March 2 City Council meeting; that there will be a Household Hazardous Round Up Event at Southern California Edison Company in Rosemead on Saturday, April 9 and distributed flyers regarding the event; and shared a press release regarding a coast live oak dedication tree that was planted in the parkway at 331 Pasadena Avenue.

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned at 10:20 p.m.

NEXT MEETING - The next regular meeting of the Natural Resources Commission will be held on Monday, March 28, 2005 at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers Conference Room.



David Whitman, Chair

MINUTES
NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION
November 22, 2004

DRAFT

ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 6:32p.m. in the Council Chambers as the Council Conference Room was occupied. Present were Chair David Whitman, Vice Chair David Beadle and Commissioners Ron Mitchell and Barbara Eisenstein. Commissioner Ken Weinberg arrived shortly thereafter. Council Liaison Stamps, Staff Liaison Harder and Maintenance Superintendent Jesse Barajas were present.

MINUTES

Commissioner Mitchell made a motion to approve the minutes of October 25; the motion was seconded by Chair Whitman and all were in favor, 4-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS – None.

POWER YARD MAINTENANCE EQUIPMENT - UPDATE

Police Chief Watson presented his memo regarding power yard maintenance equipment and provided background and history on the subject. Discussion ensued. Chair Whitman suggested exchange program require gardener to produce a client list and usage levels. Other suggestions were to make sure the leaf blower is a commercial grade for gardener business use and to send out public outreach materials in English and Spanish and to consider sending program information in the City's utility bill. Chair Whitman made a motion in favor of the leaf blower exchange program; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Weinberg and all members were in favor 5-0.

RESOLUTION OF NATIVE SPECIES/HOW TO SELECT REPLACEMENT TREES

Commissioner Eisenstein shared her draft resolution of native species with the Commission for comments. Maintenance Superintendent Barajas explained the he is opposed to the poplar and cottonwood on the list because the trees have weak branch structures, are short-lived and susceptible to bores and other diseases that would make preservation difficult for long term. Discussion ensued. Commissioner Eisenstein made a motion to recommend that the City Council adopt a new/updated list of native species for tree regulations; the motion was seconded by Chair Whitman and all members were in favor, 5-0. Staff Liaison Harder will prepare the item for City Council approval in January '05.

Chair Whitman had a business engagement and left the meeting at 7:05 p.m.

TREE CITY U.S.A. AND GROWTH AWARD

Staff Liaison Harder explained requirements for Tree City U.S.A. and growth award due the end of December for the 2004 calendar year. Discussion ensued. Commissioners recommended the Nature Park under categories C10, C11 and Earth Day under categories A8, A2, C8, C9.

EARTH DAY EVENT PLANNING

Vice Chair Beadle explained his storm drain stencil project that he would like to complete one week before Earth Day. Commissioner Mitchell requested that the theme "Water, Water, Everywhere" be included in all future agendas. Commissioner Weinberg suggested a viewing of the movie "China Town" that may be played simultaneously with a children's movie "Fern Gully" possibly at the Rialto Theatre and will explore this for next meeting. Commissioner Eisenstein said she may contact a speaker on sustainable landscape. Commissioner Eisenstein also suggested a weed removal project at the Nature Park. It was requested that Jim Van Winkle or Ken Kittridge be invited to lecture on where South Pasadena water comes from (like the water tour). Vice Chair Beadle requested a contact phone number for Greta Dunlap of the Mission West Association. Other ideas included a silent auction and demo leaf blower.

"HALL OF SHAME" – PUBLIC NOTICE OF ILLEGAL TREE REMOVALS

This item is deferred to the next regular meeting when Chair Whitman is present.

CHAIR COMMUNICATIONS - None.

CHAIR COMMUNICATIONS - Chair Whitman enjoyed attending the Woodland & Wildlife Park dedication ceremony and Dumpster Day over the weekend.

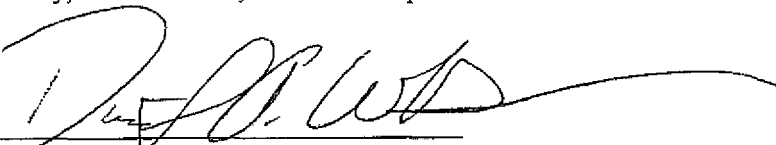
COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS - Commissioner Eisenstein toured Athens' Material Recovery Facility and attended the Rivers Watershed Council meeting recently.

STAFF LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS -- Staff Liaison Harder announced the promotion of Jesse Barajas to Maintenance Superintendent; the appointment of Mike Copp as the City's new City Manager and reminded all that the Tree City USA and Growth Award application is due the end of December and will be on the next agenda. She also announced that the Director of Public Works Albert Carbon had given his resignation and would be leaving the end of the month. Edward Hitti, the City's Deputy Public Works Director, will be Acting Public Works Director until the position is filled.

COUNCIL LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS - Councilman Stamps enjoyed the Woodland & Wildlife Park dedication ceremony.

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

NEXT MEETING - The next regular meeting of the Natural Resources Commission will be held on Monday, November 22, 2004 at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers Conference Room.



David Whitman, Chair

MINUTES
NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION
October 25, 2004

D R A F T

ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 6:36p.m. Present were Chair David Whitman and Commissioners Ron Mitchell and Barbara Eisenstein. Commissioner Ken Weinberg arrived shortly thereafter. Vice Chair David Beadle was absent. Council Liaison Stamps, Staff Liaison Harder and Maintenance Superintendent Jesse Barajas were present.

MINUTES

Chair Whitman made a motion to approve the minutes of September 27; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Mitchell and all were in favor, 3-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS – None.

CONSIDER TREE REMOVAL REQUESTS

Chair Whitman addressed the tree removal requests as follows:

4.A.) 424 Grand Avenue

The applicant requested to defer until better prepared.

4.B.) Parkway Tree Removals

Maintenance Superintendent Barajas explained reasons for tree removals at various locations due to conks (a condition that causes decay), separation of limbs and severe lean.

DUMPSTER DAY – AFTER ACTION REPORT

Staff Liaison Harder shared a report prepared by Athens Services showing quantities and man hours for Dumpster Day. The average wait in line was 15 minutes. The initial line-up of cars went through the line at 8:00 a.m. and they were able to drop off loads of bulky goods within 17 minutes. Athens was ready to go with sufficient manpower and dumpsters to manage even the most difficult to unload items. Athens reports that they hauled 30 loads of bulky goods for a total of 114.81 tons and all was processed at Athens' Material Recovery Facility so that recyclable materials will be removed from the waste stream; such as metal, wood and green waste. This is the highest tonnage in my records going back to 1996 when the event drew 32.88 tons; a sign that participation is high and the event is more popular than ever. In addition, Athens collected bulky goods from 135 senior citizen's homes free of charge during the week of October 11. This is the highest number of seniors to participate and a record-breaker as well. It compares to 132 senior homes last year and 109 the year before that.

RESOLUTION OF NATIVE SPECIES/HOW TO SELECT REPLACEMENT TREES

Commissioner Eisenstein shared her findings regarding tree selection for parkway planting – guidelines that she researched. The native species list will be presented at the next regular meeting for adoption. She plans to develop an action plan that includes public outreach materials.

TREE ORDINANCE PENALTIES

Staff Liaison Harder shared information provided by the City Attorney regarding penalties.

EARTH DAY EVENT PLANNING

Chair Whitman introduced ideas for Earth Day including a storm drain stencil project and volunteer clean up at Garfield Park. He plans to interface with the local schools and solicit logo ideas from High School students and will work up some guidelines for the next regular meeting.

“HALL OF SHAME” – PUBLIC NOTICE OF ILLEGAL TREE REMOVALS

Chair Whitman spoke with Bill Glazier of the Review regarding a regular article to inform the public of tree violations. A draft article will be presented to staff and run by the City Attorney before publication.

CHAIR COMMUNICATIONS - Chair Whitman enjoyed attending the Woodland and Wildlife Park dedication ceremony and Dumpster Day over the weekend.

D R A F T

COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS - Commissioner Eisenstein toured Athens' Material Recovery Facility and attended the Rivers Watershed Council meeting recently.

STAFF LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS -- Staff Liaison Harder announced the promotion of Jesse Barajas to Maintenance Superintendent; the appointment of Mike Copp as the City's new City Manager and reminded all that the Tree City USA and Growth Award application is due the end of December and will be on the next agenda. She also announced that the Director of Public Works Albert Carbon had given his resignation and would be leaving the end of the month. Edward Hitti, the City's Deputy Public Works Director, will be Acting Public Works Director until the position is filled.

COUNCIL LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS - Councilman Stamps enjoyed the Woodland & Wildlife Park dedication ceremony.

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

NEXT MEETING - The next regular meeting of the Natural Resources Commission will be held on Monday, November 22, 2004 at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers Conference Room.

David Whitman, Chair

Memo

To: City Council
VIA: City Manager *me*
From: Chief of Police *B. Watson*
Date: November 11, 2004
Re: Update on Power Yard Maintenance Equipment

The purpose of this Memorandum is to update the City Council on progress made towards the direction given at the Council meeting of October 6, 2004. At that meeting, the Council repealed the prohibition on Gas Powered Leaf Blowers. The Council also directed staff to "investigate the issue of efficiencies to establish a standard for equipment use in South Pasadena as related to sound and pollution."

I have surveyed other police departments through the California Police Chiefs Association and have not learned of any cities that have an ordinance that restricts the use of this type of equipment based on exhaust pollution. Several cities have an outright prohibition on Gas Powered Leaf Blowers, similar to what South Pasadena recently repealed. But, I'm unaware of any cities that have an ordinance that prohibits leaf blowers that operate above a specific decibel level.

At this time it does not appear practical to introduce an ordinance that would prohibit Power Yard Maintenance Equipment that operates above a certain decibel level, or emits pollutants above a certain level. This is because equipment isn't labeled and our officers aren't trained or equipped to measure decibel levels or pollutants. Even if they were, the public wouldn't be aware if a machine being used in their neighbor's yard was legal or not. This would result in a false expectation that would end up in disappointment when, after a response and examination, it was determined that the piece of equipment met the established standards.

For these reasons, I don't recommend trying to address this issue through enforcement. There is another alternative, though. Instead of trying to manage noisy and polluting Power Yard Maintenance Equipment through negative sanctions, we should look at incentives that encourage people to purchase new models that are quieter and pollute far less. I have learned that the EPA has established stringent pollution standards for all small engines. The standards get increasingly more stringent each year until 2007. For example, a new gas powered leaf

blower is two times cleaner than one that was manufactured just two years ago. The newer models are also quieter than older versions.

I have had several discussions with Douglas Kim who's a consultant to Beatrice LaPisto-Kirtley, the Mayor Pro-Tem for Bradbury, and our representative to the Board of the Southern California Air Quality Management District (AQMD) and the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments (COG). I have learned that the AQMD has had a successful lawn mower exchange program for several years. The AQMD purchases new, electric mowers and exchanges them for gas powered mowers. This program is aimed towards homeowners and the AQMD covers approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ of the cost of the new mower and the homeowner pays for the rest. This program has been very successful in getting rid of many gas powered lawn mowers.

Mr. Kim and I discussed the possibility of a similar program aimed at commercial gardeners. He presented this idea to Ms. LaPisto-Kirtley who is very supportive. She presented it at both the most recent COG meeting and AQMD Board meeting. The ideas was received favorably at both meetings, and the AQMD Board voted unanimously to endorse this program.

The program would work as follows: The AQMD will determine how much funding is available. This will be done by about January 1, 2005. Then, they will go out to bid and purchase as many low polluting, quiet gas powered leaf blowers as their budget allows. They would advertise through a variety of ways, including the Spanish speaking media. A date would be selected to exchange the leaf blowers some time in the Spring. On the day of the exchange, the participants would be required to bring in a working gas-powered leaf blower and exchange it for a new one. The AQMD would cover the cost of approximately $\frac{2}{3}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ of the new leaf blower and the recipient would pay the balance. The AQMD would handle all the funds, distribute the new leaf blowers, and destroy the old ones.

According to Mr. Kim, the AQMD is proceeding towards making this idea a reality. Ms. LaPisto-Kirtley is very supportive of the City of South Pasadena taking a role in this program. The City could participate in several ways. The simplest would be to hold a press conference in South Pasadena to announce the program. We could also coordinate the exchange at one of our parks. Or, we could provide an additional financial incentive to offset a portion of the remaining cost not covered by the AQMD.

I recommend another alternative. We could help coordinate the exchange at a location in South Pasadena. Instead of a financial contribution, we could offset the cost of a business license. Commercial gardeners are required to have a business license to work in South Pasadena. There are currently 88 gardeners registered with licenses, and many more operating without licenses. We could include a program where we would offset the cost of the license. In other words, they get a business license at the same time at no cost. This would result in currently unlicensed gardeners becoming licensed at no cost to them. Since the City is not currently receiving any revenue from these gardeners, we are not losing any revenue. But, in one year, they would get a renewal notice and undoubtedly some of them would continue to purchase a business license.

This concept gives us the benefit of genuinely supporting this program, at virtually no cost to the City. It would also be directed to gardeners that work in South Pasadena and would license them, resulting in potential future revenue. The cost of an annual business license is \$110.

I have discussed this with Councilmember Cacciotti and he is supportive of proceeding in this manner. I have also discussed with Josh Betta, Veronica Dolleschel, and David Watkins, all of whom also support the concept.

The next step will be to wait to hear from the AQMD regarding how much funding they have available, how many leaf blowers that will purchase, and a timeline for moving forward. The City will be responsible for helping market the idea, licensing the participants, and coordinating a location for the exchange. I recommend moving forward on this program.

It should be noted that this will only address gas powered leaf blowers. It will not have any impact on other types of Power Yard Maintenance Equipment. But, since leaf blowers are what got us here, and they are the greatest source of complaints, this program will address the greatest nuisance, and have a positive impact on air and noise pollution.

Please advise me of any concerns or recommendations regarding this program.

C: Director, Community Services Department
Director, Finance Department
Director, Planning and Building Department
Director, Public Works
Natural Resources Commission
Douglas Kim, AQMD

Native and Protected Tree Species for South Pasadena Tree Ordinance

<i>Botanical Name</i>	<i>Common Name</i>	<i>Natural Geographic Range</i>	<i>Cultivation</i>	<i>Ornamental Traits</i>
Trees Native to Southern California				
<i>Acer negundo</i>	Box Elder	CA-FP	Requires some irrigation	Deciduous
<i>Alnus rhombifolia</i>	White Alder	CA-FP	Requires irrigation (riparian)	Deciduous
<i>Heteromeles arbutifolia</i>	Toyon	CA-FP (chaparral, oak wldnd)		Showy red berries, winter.
<i>Juglans californica</i>	So. California Walnut	SCo	Requires some irr.	Deciduous
<i>Platanus racemosa</i>	Western Sycamore	SW	Requires some irr.	Deciduous. Susceptible to some diseases.
<i>Populus balsamifera</i> ssp. <i>tricarpa</i>	Black Poplar	CA-FP	Requires irrigation (riparian)	Deciduous
<i>Populus fremontii</i>	Fremont Cottonwood	CA	Requires irrigation (riparian) Old trees, no summer water. Specimens grown in nursery conditions accept home garden conditions.	Deciduous
<i>Quercus agrifolia</i>	Coast Live Oak	SW		Magnificent branching structure.
<i>Quercus chrysolepis</i>	Canyon Live Oak	CA-FP (cyns, shade, chap)		
<i>Quercus engelmannii</i>	Mesa Oak	SCo (slopes, fthills, wldd)		Beautiful specimens in S. Pas
<i>Quercus lobata</i>	Valley Oak	nw SCo (slopes, vall., grass)		Deciduous. Large upright tree.
<i>Quercus wislizenii</i>	Interior Live Oak	SW (valleys and chaparral)		
<i>Salix gooddingii</i>	Black Willow	SCo (riparian)	Requires irrigation (riparian)	Deciduous
<i>Salix lasiolepis</i>	Arroyo Willow	CA	Requires irrigation (riparian)	Deciduous
<i>Sambucus mexicana</i>	Mexican Elderberry	CA-FP	Needs pruning of dead branches.	Deciduous. Can form large tree.
<i>Umbellularia californica</i>	California Bay	Scattered TR, PR (canyons, valleys, chaparral)	Requires some irr.	

Trees Native to California (outside of So. Cal.) and Native Hybrids

<i>Aesculus californica</i>	California Buckeye	N. Cal		Deciduous. Beautiful small, broad tree.
<i>Cercis occidentalis</i>	Western Redbud	Penninsular Range		Not to be confused with Eastern Redbud. Western is more shrubby, multi stemmed.
<i>Chilopsis linearis</i>	Desert Willow	D adj to TR and PR	Needs exc drainage and little water.	Nice shape, beautiful flowers
<i>Chitalpa tashkentensis</i>	Chitalpa	X genus hybrid.	Good street tree. Don't over water.	Cult: x Chilopsis and Catalpa. Summer flowers, deciduous. "Pink Dawn" and "White Cloud"
<i>Lithocarpus densiflora</i>	Tanbark Oak	No. Cal.		
<i>Lyonothamnus floribundus</i>	Catalina Ironwood	Channel Islands		ssp. aspleniifolius in cultivation
<i>Quercus douglasii</i>	Blue Oak	No. Cal.		
<i>Quercus kelloggii</i>	California Black Oak	Probably not here.		
<i>Quercus x morehus</i>	Oracle Oak	Q. kelloggii x Q. wislizenii.		
<i>Quercus palmeri</i>	Palmer Oak	N. slope of SG Mts.		
<i>Sambucus caerulea</i>	Blue Elderberry	No. Cal		Similar to S. mex. but doesn't occur this far south.

<i>Sequoia gigantea</i>	Giant Redwood	Southern Sierras		
<i>Sequoia sempervirens</i>	Coast Redwood	No. Cal. Coast		

Protected Non-native Trees

<i>Sequoia glyptostroboides</i>	Dawn Redwood	China		
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MINUTES
NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION
September 27, 2004

DRAFT

ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 6:37p.m. Present were Chair David Whitman and Commissioners Ron Mitchell and Ken Weinberg. Vice Chair David Beadle arrived shortly thereafter. Commissioner Weinberg left the meeting at 7:05 p.m. due to an emergency. Commissioner Barbara Eisenstein was absent. Council Liaison Stamps, Staff Liaison Harder and Maintenance Superintendent Jesse Barajas were present.

MINUTES

Commissioner Mitchell made a motion to approve the minutes of August 23; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Weinberg and all were in favor, 3-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS – The meeting was attended by Sonja Nicholson of Northeast Trees who is interested in partnering with the Commission for grants for open space in the arroyo.

CONSIDER TREE REMOVAL REQUESTS

Chair Whitman addressed the tree removal requests as follows:

4.A.) 1010 Sycamore

Matt Fisher, of Palisades Development Group, and Mike William, of Land Images acting as landscape architect for the project, showed architectural drawings and landscape plans and explained parking requirements and entryway improvements that warrant the removal of eleven trees, 10 non-native and one native sycamore tree at the site. They plan to plant 43 replacement trees on the site including 8 or 9 sycamore trees. Discussion ensued.

Public Comment:

Sonja Nicholson of 1209 Oakhill Avenue spoke in support of the development.

Chair Whitman made a motion to approve the removal of eleven trees contingent on the October 7, 2004 deadline for public comment; and, conditioned on the planting of 43 replacement trees including the replacement of 2 Red Bud trees with 2 Coast Live Oak trees, and the replacement of 10 Ficus trees with a more suitable, non-evasive root system, tree species in the proposed landscape plan; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Mitchell, and all members were in favor, 3-0. Chair Whitman included in his motion the recommendation that the trash enclosure area include a dumpster or roll-off box crusher for processing cardboard and that a passive solar heat system or photo voltaic system be considered for the project

ARROYO NATURE PARK OPENING

Chair Whitman expressed his desire that commissioners attend the opening ceremonies at the Nature Park on Saturday, October 16 at 9:30 a.m. Staff Liaison Harder was asked to post an agenda if it is required for the Commission to attend.

CLEANING UP YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD AND PARKS

Chair Whitman expressed his desire to have a clean up project in Garfield Park. He has found that there is a lot of scattered trash in the park near the intersection of Hope and Park in the wood chips. Staff Liaison Harder explained the process by which a project could be developed and implemented.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE SATELLITE EVENT – AFTER ACTION REPORT

Staff Liaison Harder shared an excel spreadsheet that she generated to show the types of waste that is accepted by events since 2001 and the growth in quantities and popularity of the event during the past four years. A detailed detour plan for traffic control will be developed for the event next year.

EARTH DAY EVENT PLANNING

Chair Whitman deferred discussion on this matter to the next regular meeting.

CHAIR COMMUNICATIONS

- Chair Whitman reported that the Commission's annual report was presented to City Council last month and went well. He has been working on the "Hall of Shame" article to publicize illegal tree removals in the Pasadena Review and asked that the item be on the October agenda for further discussion.

COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS

- Vice Chair Beadle shared his report on the meeting with the Mayor on involving youth in commission activities. The agenda for Earth Day will be expanded to include subsections for A.) A stenciling project for storm drains at faded locations citywide and B.) A trash clean up project in parks for the October agenda.

STAFF LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS

-- Staff Liaison Harder passed out copies of the Dumpster Day flyer that is distributed to all public counters and published in the South Pasadena Review.

COUNCIL LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS

- Councilman Stamps announced that the City Council approved a special funding program for councilmembers starting in 2005 that will allow them to spend up to \$100,000 on special projects.

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

NEXT MEETING - The next regular meeting of the Natural Resources Commission will be held on Monday, October 25, 2004 at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers Conference Room.

David Whitman, Chair

MINUTES
NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION
August 23, 2004

ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 6:37p.m. Present were Chair David Whitman, Vice Chair Ron Mitchell and Commissioners David Beadle and Barbara Eisenstein. Commissioner Ken Weinberg is on vacation. Council Liaison Stamps, Staff Liaison Harder and Park Supervisor Barajas were present.

MINUTES

Chair Whitman made a motion to approve the minutes of July 26; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Beadle and the motion passed, 2-0, with 2 abstaining.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS - None

CONSIDER TREE REMOVAL REQUESTS

Chair Whitman addressed the tree removal requests as follows:

4.A.1.) 525 El Centro Street

The applicant, Matthew Sipe, was present. Park Supervisor Barajas explained that the condition of the tree such that it is live and healthy, but that it has spurs that can be mitigated by crown reduction to lighten the weight. Discussion ensued regarding long term desirability of carob trees and the Commission made a commitment to consider other varieties of trees for parkway planting as the carob trees naturally decline and require replacement by the City. Chair Whitman made a motion to deny removal of the carob tree and to recommend crown reduction; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Beadle and all members were in favor, 4-0.

4.A.2.) 1621 Oak Street

Park Supervisor Barajas explained his findings regarding a request to remove an acacia tree at the subject address. He found that the cylinder of the tree is not compromised, it is cabled and the holding wood is questionable. Chair Whitman made a motion to approve the removal of the acacia tree pending the submittal of an arborist report that would demonstrate the tree has less than 3-inches for every 1-foot diameter of holding wood to support its structure; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Eisenstein and all members were in favor; 4-0.

CONSIDER TREE REMOVALS FOR CONSTRUCTION PROJECT

Park Supervisor Barajas reiterated his criteria that warrants the removal of trees for a street reconstruction project along Garfield Avenue. Commissioners reviewed a map showing the location of the four (4) trees. Discussion ensued regarding tree replacements. Residents have been given a choice of replacement plantings including red oak and brisbane box. The report was received and filed.

ANNUAL ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Commissioner Beadle nominated Chair Whitman for Chair of the Commission; Chair Whitman accepted the nomination and all members were in favor, 4-0. Chair Whitman nominated Commissioner Beadle for Vice Chair of the Commission; Commissioner Beadle accepted the nomination and all members were in favor, 4-0.

EARTH DAY EVENT PLANNING

Discussion is continuing to plan for Earth Day 2005 to include: consider solicitation of grant funds for public education for water conservation; teach sprinkler control systems; develop projects and rewards, include a concert to attract public to the event. At next month's meeting Chair Whitman asks commissioners to develop a corporate recruitment letter and list what participants to invite.

RESOLUTION OF NATIVE SPECIES/HOW TO SELECT REPLACEMENT TREES

Park Supervisor Barajas explained how he goes about selecting replacement trees based on nursery stock selection, tree structure, compatibility, parkway space, etc. He explained further that a selection of 3 trees is usually offered to the property owner including the existing species and similar species to choose from.

Commissioner Eisenstein expressed her desire to see more native species and oaks planted similar to the City of Pasadena and to plant 15-gallon trees because she feels that they establish themselves better. Discussion ensued regarding root barriers, watering and need for public education. Park Supervisor Barajas is asked to provide a list of desirable parkway trees at the next meeting. Chair Whitman asks that Commissioners come prepared with lists that would be provided to homeowners of trees that are not desirable for various reasons. Commissioner Eisenstein provided a list and photos of California native trees and asks that the riparian trees remain on the proposed list of protected species for South Pasadena. Staff Liaison Harder is asked to copy the protected native species list and include for adoption on the next agenda.

CHAIR COMMUNICATIONS - Chair Whitman expressed his pleasure that the gas powered leaf blower ordinance was repealed by City Council last month to commissioners who were unable to attend the regular meeting last month. He announced that he will be attending a meeting on September 5 with the Mayor and other commission chairs to discuss how the commission communicates with the public.

COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS - Vice Chair Mitchell explained that the resident at 1104 Beech Street was removing 2 front yard trees and he had to call police to stop the work. Chair Whitman shared photos of a tree removal at 1742 Hanscom Drive. Vice Chair Mitchell announced that the new nature park grand opening is scheduled on October 16, same day as Dumpster Day. Chair Whitman may write a press release to inform the public of the tree violations.

STAFF LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS - Staff Liaison Harder passed out copies of a Watershed Restoration Event and the bill stuffer for Dedication Trees. She shared photos and a report of illegal clearing of trees on an empty lot on Hanscom Drive.

COUNCIL LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS - Councilman Stamps expressed his desire that the Commission consider a tree planting plan for major thoroughfares and shared information regarding cities of Altadena and Pasadena requirements that solar fixtures be installed for large development projects when they exceed a certain percentage of improvement.

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

NEXT MEETING - The next regular meeting of the Natural Resources Commission will be held on Monday, September 27, 2004 at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers Conference Room.

David Whitman, Chair

MINUTES
NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION
July 26, 2004

ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 6:37p.m. Present were Chair David Whitman and Commissioners David Beadle and Ken Weinberg. Vice Chair Mitchell and Commissioner Eisenstein were absent. Staff Liaison Harder was present. Council Liaison Stamps is on vacation.

MINUTES

Commissioner Weinberg made a motion to approve the minutes of June 28; the motion was seconded by Chair Whitman and all members were in favor, 3-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS - None

CONSIDER TREE REMOVAL REQUESTS

Chair Whitman addressed the tree removal requests as follows:

4.A.1.) 525 El Centro Street

Susan and Matthew Sipe shared pictures and explained reasons for requesting the removal of a parkway carob tree in front of their property. Chair Whitman made a motion to table the item to the August meeting when the Park Supervisor may be present to address the condition of the tree; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Beadle and all members were in favor, 3-0. Applicants asked the reason for removal of a parkway carob tree at 921 El Centro Street and what Staff findings were for the subject tree removal request.

4.A.2.) 835 El Centro Street

Councilman Margrave explained that Morrow & Holman Plumbing is moving from 266 Monterey Road to 835 El Centro Street and with that move improvements to the parkway to install a new driveway, sidewalks, etc. warrants the removal of two parkway carob trees. He further explained that the condition of the trees warrants the removal. Commissioner Weinberg made a motion to allow the removal of the trees if Park Supervisor Barajas verifies that they are non-viable with the condition that four (4) 24-inch box trees of a non-carob variety be planted as replacement trees; the motion was seconded by Chair Whitman and all members were in favor, 3-0.

CONSIDER TREE REMOVALS FOR CONSTRUCTION PROJECT

This matter is tabled to the August meeting so that Park Supervisor Barajas may be present.

FESTIVAL OF BALLOONS PARADE - AFTER ACTION REPORT

Commissioners Beadle and Weinberg reported that all went well for the 4th of July parade.

ANNUAL ELECTION OF OFFICERS

This matter is tabled to the August meeting when more members may be present.

EARTH DAY EVENT PLANNING

Commissioner Beadle spoke regarding Heal the Bay and solicited interest in a storm drain stenciling day that would be organized with volunteers prior to the Earth Day event to draw attention to storm water pollution. Following discussion it was decided that a theme would be "Water, Water, Everywhere" and encompass all areas of water conservation and environmental awareness.

TREE ORDINANCE PENALTIES

Staff Liaison Harder shared the opinions of the City Prosecutor and City Attorney related to the reasonableness and enforceability of penalties for tree removals as proposed by the Commission. Staff explained that currently penalties in CMC are described as misdemeanor charges or an administrative citation, neither of which can exceed \$1000 so the penalty schedule submitted of 100x's permit fee or 25x's permit fee would not work. In addition, the City Attorney shared a section of CMC for Thousand Oaks related to "landmark trees" that establishes restitution for removal of trees that are considered

valuable assets to the community. It was further explained that the Director of Public Works feels that office conferences have been successful for the violations that have been processed. This item will be tabled until September when all commissioners are present to develop an opinion.


CHAIR COMMUNICATIONS - Chair Whitman attended last week's City Council meeting and is pleased to announce that the Gas-Powered Leaf Blower Ordinance has been repealed.

COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS - Commissioner Weinberg asked how the City was preparing for West Nile Virus. Staff Liaison explained that extensive information is available at all City facilities to assist the public.

STAFF LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS -- Staff Liaison Harder presented a letter to the Chair from Diana Stoney regarding tree removals/planting. Staff is asked to make a copy for Park Supervisor Barajas to solicit his opinion on the request. Staff provided 2 publications to the Commission: 1.) *Open & Public III* and 2.) *Urban & Community Forestry*. Commissioner Beadle will borrow the forestry manual until the August meeting.

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

NEXT MEETING - The next regular meeting of the Natural Resources Commission will be held on Monday, August 23, 2004, at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers Conference Room.



David Whitman, Chair

MINUTES
NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION
June 28, 2004

D R A F T

ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 6:35p.m. Present were Vice Chair Ron Mitchell and Commissioners David Beadle and Ken Weinberg. Chair Whitman and Commissioner Eisenstein were absent. Staff Liaison Harder and Park Supervisor Barajas were present. Council Liaison Stamps arrived shortly thereafter.

MINUTES

Commissioner Weinberg made a motion to approve the minutes of May 24; the motion was seconded by Vice Chair Mitchell and all members were in favor, 3-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS - None

CONSIDER TREE REMOVALS FOR CONSTRUCTION PROJECT

Park Supervisor Barajas explained the need to remove four (4) ash trees on Garfield Avenue between Garfield Reservoir and Huntington Drive due to a street improvement project. He applied various criteria to make his recommendation to remove 4 trees out of 52 trees that he examined. Residents have been notified and were provided a selection of replacement trees including red oaks and tristina conferta for replacement trees. Staff will e-mail the locations of the four trees to all commissioners and the item will be continued to the July agenda.

DAMAGED EUCALYPTUS TREE

Park Supervisor Barajas explained his report on the condition of a parkway eucalyptus tree that was hit by a car in an accident at Glendon and El Centro. The responsible party will be billed by the City for all damages and to replace the tree. Councilman Stamps asked that the cost to remove the tree be included in the claim for damages.

4th OF JULY PARADE PLANNING

Staff is asked to provide stencils for storm drains if they are available. Commission is looking for a banner or other materials that can be held to demonstrate support for conservation programs. Staff is asked to order two (2) dozen green helium balloons and a roll of white cotton string for the parade entry.

RESOLUTION OF NATIVE SPECIES

Commissioner Weinberg would like to discuss what represents closure of this item and to set a time limit.

HOW TO SELECT REPLACEMENT TREES

Staff is asked to carry over these items to the next regular meeting. The Resolution of Native Species and this item will be combined into a single agenda item for the next meeting.

EARTH DAY EVENT PLANNING

Commissioner Beadle would like to recommend a storm water management, urban run-off theme for the next Earth Day event. Commissioner Weinberg suggested setting a time limit for a decision on the theme of September, 2004. The Commission considered expanding the theme to include water conservation.

CHAIR COMMUNICATIONS - None

COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS - Commissioner Weinberg explained that he is doing a research project on criteria used for the purchase of city vehicles in some cities.

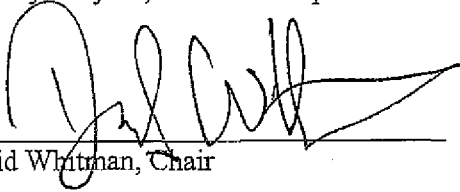
STAFF LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS -- Staff Liaison Harder provided flyers on the South Pasadena HHW round up that will be held on September 18. Dumpster Day will be October 16 this year. The City Attorney and City Prosecutor working together on the issue of how to impose penalties for tree removals and are expected to report by the July commission meeting.

COUNCIL LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS

- Mayor Pro Tem Stamps explained a decision by City Council that the stables equestrian use shall remain; that the Council may consider an alternate use at the Garfield Reservoir so that a soccer field may be incorporated into the plan; and solar panel incentives have been offered by Edison Company to residents upgrading systems on their homes.

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

NEXT MEETING - The next regular meeting of the Natural Resources Commission will be held on Monday, July 26, 2004 at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers Conference Room.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Whitman', is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and cursive.

David Whitman, Chair

**MINUTES
NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION
FEBRUARY 26, 2001**

ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 6:37 p.m. Present were Chair Ron Mitchell and Commissioners Norma LeValley, John Vasconcelos, Murray Levy and Rick Thomas. Staff Liaison Diana Tompkins and Council Liaison David Saeta were present as were Director of Public Works Jim Van Winkle and Transportation Manager Martha Van Rooijen.

MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting of January 29, 2001 were approved as motioned by Commissioner Levy and seconded by Commissioner Thomas, 5-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS - None

BLUELINE CONSTRUCTION AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Transportation Manager Van Rooijen gave a presentation explaining various aspects of the blueline construction and how the transportation system will interface with a circulator bus and parking structure. A rendering of the station was shared showing 13 liquidambar trees along the new station. She explained that these trees were planted by school children at Heritage Gardens to represent 13 original colonies. Handouts were provided that included blueline statistics and a tree plan as well as the website address should anyone wish additional information. Construction is currently underway to clear the blueline path. It is estimated that 141 trees will be removed and 242 new trees planted. The area was walked by Park Supervisor (and Certified Arborist), Jesse Barajas and an outside blueline arborist to discuss the impact on trees. Trees that will be removed have been red tagged while others that only require trimming have been tagged in yellow. All debris generated as a result of the activity will be recycled. Low, medium and high landscape design areas have been established. Those with low visibility will receive the wood chips and a biomass material as ground cover along the line. The area along Hawthorne Avenue is a medium to high level for landscape treatment. The oleanders will be removed in that area. Discussion ensued.

URBAN WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN

Director of Public Works Van Winkle provided a Draft of the 2000 Urban Water Management Plan for review and comment. The document is a state-mandated report and is updated every five years. A Public Hearing to receive comments on the draft plan is scheduled for City Council on March 7. Dr. Van Winkle asked that commissioners contact him directly if there are any questions or comments on the report.

EARTH DAY EVENT PLANNING

Chair Ron Mitchell and Commissioner Rick Thomas recommended that the Commission organize an event to walk along the arroyo for Earth Day. A draft flyer and booklet were distributed and discussion ensued. Earthday is April 20 and activities continue during that week. The suggested walk could be scheduled on Saturday and/or Sunday, April 21 and 22. It is suggested that flyers be distributed to 1500 students in elementary schools. The walk is approx. 2 miles round trip. Chair Mitchell and Commissioner Thomas will discuss the event with various interests groups and ask for presenters on various topics. The plan is to erect tables at various points where school children can receive a stamp in their booklet for attending.

FORESTRY MANAGEMENT AND PUBLIC EDUCATION

Staff Liaison Tompkins explained that the cost for concrete trash cans at the new skate park would be \$2400 according to Community Services Director Dolleschel. There would be a considerable amount remaining that could be used to provide additional trash cans at parks. It was decided that litter clean up at the Earth Day event would not be practical. Project development is ongoing and no decision on the trash cans has been made as yet.

TREE ORDINANCE REVIEW

Commissioner LeValley studied ordinances from many other cities and developed a draft for staff and commissioner review and a list of native species. Copies were also provided to Director of Public Works Van Winkle and Park Supervisor Barajas for comment. Chair Mitchell and Commissioner LeValley will arrange to meet and discuss the draft she has prepared. Discussion will continue at the next commission meeting.

Commissioner LeValley also distributed copies of the Arbor Day event scheduled at the Library Community Room on March 9 and a program handout that will be given to children to make leaf rubbings.

PUBLIC NOTIFICATION OF PARKWAY TREE REMOVALS

Staff Liaison Tompkins shared a door hanger and a tree notice that were developed to let the public know when parkway trees are scheduled for removal. The material was accepted by the commission with no recommended changes to material.

URBAN FORESTRY MANAGEMENT

Commissioner Thomas shared a brochure he developed for urban forestry management. Everyone concurred that it was a beautiful format for the brochure. Commissioner LeValley suggested that the front of the brochure include a painting from a local artist and she will contact that person. All documents when prepared will be sent to Staff Liaison Tompkins for further processing.

ATHENS SERVICES BROCHURE

Staff Liaison Tompkins announced that new trash collection services and street sweeping is scheduled to begin April 1, 2001. Athens prepared a brochure for public distribution that was shared with the commission for comment. The Commission made the following recommendations on its content:

1. Change date on brochure for start of services to April 2 (instead of April 1);
2. Describe how to handle green wastes as opposed to recyclables;
3. Recyclables should be defined in the brochure;
4. "Waste Stream" should be replaced with "trash"; and
5. Backyard service should be defined and included in the brochure.

CHAIR COMMUNICATIONS - None

COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS - Commissioner LeValley provided tree people handouts to those interested.

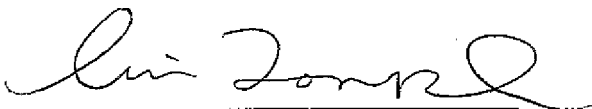
STAFF LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS - Staff Liaison Tompkins distributed copies of a professional brochure developed to advertise the used oil recycling program and asked that she be allowed to produce the brochure and all members were in favor of proceeding in that direction.

COUNCIL LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS - Council Liaison Saeta will share information with the City Council regarding the Earth Day event and Arbor Day activity planned at the Library.

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned at 8:52 p.m.

NEXT MEETING - The next regular meeting of the Natural Resources Commission will be held on Monday, March 26, 2001 at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers Conference Room.

Respectively submitted,



Diana Tompkins, Public Works Assistant

**MINUTES
NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION
OCTOBER 23, 2000**

DRAFT

ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 6:36 p.m. Present were Chair Diane Carter Veiller, Vice Chair Ron Mitchell and Commissioners Harold Mgrublian, Norma LeValley and John Vasconcelos. Staff Liaison Diana Tompkins was present. Council Liaison David Saeta arrived later.

MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting of September 25, 2000 were approved, as motioned by Commissioner Mgrublian and seconded by Commissioner Vasconcelos, and all members were in favor 5-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS - The meeting was attended by resident Ken Weinberg, a guest of Ron Mitchell, who may be interested in joining the commission at a future vacancy.

DUMPSTER DAY AFTER ACTION REPORT

Staff Liaison Tompkins explained that Dumpster Day resulted in 77.01 tons of bulky items in 22 loads being taken to the dump and 4.91 tons of metal recycled. Staff picked up bulky items from 133 senior homes. This compares to 100 senior homes in 1999 and 88 senior homes in 1998. Dumpster Day prior years resulted in 32.88 tons in 1996, 57.45 in 1997 and 60.02 total tons in 1998. Goodwill reported 85% of their trailer was filled. They are undergoing a reorganization at Goodwill and in rethinking their promotion activities may not participate in Dumpster Day next year.

FORESTRY MANAGEMENT AND PUBLIC EDUCATION

Vice Chair Mitchell explained that the "Trees for the Millennium" grant opportunity proved complicated and restrictive. In consulting with the Tree People organization, they knew of only one City that started preparation for the grant application several months ago. Staff was asked to explore the grant opportunities that other cities may have in place. Commissioner LeValley offered two websites for possible grants: www.leaf-it-to-us and www.ufe.calpoly.edu. Vice Chair Mitchell contacted Rosa LaViago, Parks and Recreation Superintendent with the City of Pasadena, Don Wielenga of SPMS and South Pasadena Beautiful for assistance in preparing a project outline and costs for a community clean up project using Beverage Recycling grants funds. Chair Veiller offered to attend the November 15 Parks & Recreation Commission meeting in place of Vice Chair Mitchell to stay abreast of discussions on the 4 Acres project.

TREE ORDINANCE REVIEW

Commissioner LeValley shared ads regarding tree topping provided by Eric Oldar of the State Forestry Department. Discussion ensued as to how to disseminate such information to the public.

USED OIL RECYCLING PROGRAM UPDATE

Staff Liaison Tompkins reported that in August an agreement was signed between the City and Chevron providing for reimbursement of recycling costs for used oil and filters generated from both do-it-yourselfer and business oil recycling operations. Chevron has not submitted a reimbursement form as yet. Once the reimbursement form is received, Staff will have a better idea of funding available to certify a second used oil recycling center. In September 300 15-gallon reusable oil recycling containers were delivered to Chevron for distribution to the public to encourage do-it-yourselfers to recycle used oil. Station signs were approved by the California Integrated Waste Management Board and will be ordered in the next month to advertise Chevron as the local used oil recycling location. Staff shared samples of advertising materials and a list of local graphic artist companies that Staff will be contacting for a citywide mailing piece in the next thirty days. The Commission will be given the opportunity to comment on advertising material at the next commission meeting.

Ken Weinberg, public present, suggested that Chevron be advertised at local businesses that sell motor oil.

email to Diane 10/24 - 11:10 am

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE ROUNDUP

The South Pasadena satellite event held in 1997 attracted approximately 1400 participants. This year's event in September attracted 831 participants and ran smoothly. Staff also shared the results provided by Safety Clean that describe the specific hazardous materials that were collected at the event - more than 84,000 lbs. of materials. Results of survey cards are tabulated by Los Angeles County Public Works. Normally results are ready in 30 days, but they are developing a new database program. Once the program is running, LACPW will start to input survey cards from July. Staff will call LACPW in January, 2001 for a status on the results of our local roundup event. The results of the survey cards will tell us how many attendees were South Pasadena residents. Staff shared copies of two HHW events coming up locally the first at the Pasadena Rose Bowl on Saturday, October 28, and the "Hazmobile" event on Stadium Way on November 2, 3 and 4.

COMMISSION GOALS UPDATE

Chair Veiller provided a disk to staff that includes the Commission Goals table, and asked that staff keep the disk up-to-date and include a copy of the goals table at all commission meetings.

DECEMBER NRC MEETING

It was unanimously decided to cancel the December meeting as the fourth Monday in December is Christmas Day.

CHAIR COMMUNICATIONS

- Chair Veiller asked that information on the City Website be shared at the next commission meeting, and that Staff prepare a list of all commission members, including e-mail addresses, for distribution at the next regular meeting.

COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS

- Commissioner Vasconcelos asked that Staff find out the date for the Los Angeles Sanitation Districts' Director's Tour.

STAFF LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS

- Staff Liaison Tompkins reminded members of the November 16 solid waste meeting: "The Forum" in City of Industry.

COUNCIL LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS

- Councilman Saeta explained that they are closing the gap on the skate park funding, one method being the upcoming distribution of a water bill stuffer allowing citizens to purchase a brick at the park for a donation. Stoney Drive road improvements were discussed and status requested.

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

NEXT MEETING - The next regular meeting of the Natural Resources Commission will be held on Monday, November 27, 2000 at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers Conference Room.

Respectively submitted,

Diana Tompkins, Public Works Assistant

**MINUTES
NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION
SEPTEMBER 25, 2000**

ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m. Present were Chair Diane Carter Veiller, Vice Chair Ron Mitchell and Commissioners Harold Mgrublian, Norma LeValley and John Vasconcelos. Staff Liaison Diana Tompkins was present. Council Liaison David Saeta was present.

MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting of August 28, 2000 were approved, as motioned by Commissioner Mgrublian and seconded by Commissioner LeValley, and all members were in favor 4-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS - None

REVIEW COMMISSION GOALS

Chair Carter Veiller provided the commission goals adding an Arbor Day program at schools to Item III. Educate Community. Commissioner LeValley added that the Tree City USA application is due by December 30. Also, Item II. Establish Long Term Plan for Urban Forestry Management was given a due date of December for establishing a planting program and applying for grant funds. Chair will contact Mike Hendrix of the SPUSD to offer Commission support to school children regarding trees.

DISCUSS COMMUNICATIONS OPTIONS

All members shared e-mail address information and noted whether they would prefer hard copy or e-mail correspondence. The e-mail addresses that were shared are as follows:

Ron Mitchell *ronmitchell@email.com*
Norma LeValley selkie3@earthlink.net hard copy
John Vasconcelos jjvpe@aol.com hard copy
Diane Veiller dianev@compuserve.com e-mail info.
David Saeta dsaeta@invesdev.com

FORESTRY MANAGEMENT AND PUBLIC EDUCATION

Vice Chair Mitchell provided an update on his meeting with the Parks & Recreation Commission regarding the 4 Acres project and offered to volunteer as a liaison to explore the use of \$250,000 in grant funds made available by Senator Adam Schiff for such a project. Councilman Saeta will gather information regarding the organization to develop the 4 Acres improvement project to see if a commission liaison would be advisable.

TREE ORDINANCE REVIEW

Commissioner LeValley provided a list of native species to all commissioners. Pictures of Charter Oak parkway trees were taken and passed around as well as pictures of Magnolia Street between Grand and Forest where there are no parkway trees. She is continuing her work to identify native trees of South Pasadena especially those that would be recommended as landmark trees. Chair Carter Veiller reminded staff to add landmark trees to the tree inventory database. Commissioner LeValley has sent away for information regarding topping of trees and will share that information at the next meeting. This information could be made available at public counters in Community Development and Public Works to notify contractors and the public that topping trees is bad practice.

SOUTH PASADENA HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE ROUND UP

The local event was well attended. During the first 15 minutes of the event 150 cars passed through. Staff is pending results of the roundup from Safety Clean the contract service company that operates the events for the Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts. Advertising for the event was extensive so staff anticipates a good South Pasadena resident turn out. Advertising included inserts in local papers, flyers distributed at the Fire Department's Spaghetti Dinner, and water bill inserts. 500 Dumpster Day flyers were distributed at the event. Staff will report at next month's meeting on the results as reported by the Sanitation Districts.

DUMPSTER DAY - No further action required.

"TREES FOR THE MILLENNIUM" GRANT APPLICATION

Staff provided copies of the grant application to the Chair and Tree Committee. A copy of the grant application was also provided to Jesse Barajas, Park Supervisor. Chair Carter Veiller asked that Vice Chair Mitchell prepare a project outline and estimate of costs for the grant application for next month's meeting. Grant applications are due November 24, 2000. The maximum grant request is \$50,000 and is based on the actual number of trees and associated materials to be purchased. Operating funds are required for this cost-share program. In evaluating this grant opportunity items to consider include the cost to operate the program/project and whether a change of policy is required. In order to submit an application, Council must adopt a Resolution.

BEVERAGE CONTAINER AND LITTER ABATEMENT GRANT

Staff applied for this grant earlier this year in response to the commission's desire to perform a community clean up project associated with Earth Day. Grant funds have been received in the amount of \$7,527.00. Funds must be expended by June 30, 2001. Staff provided grant opportunity information to all commissioners. Chair Carter Veiller asked that the Tree Committee prepare the project outline and establish costs associated with expense categories to share at the next commission meeting. Chair Carter Veiller asked that staff prepare an outline for the city streets/storm drains NPDES related project.

CHAIR COMMUNICATIONS - None.

COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS - None.

STAFF LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS - None.

COUNCIL LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS - Councilman Saeta shared information regarding revision of the City's RV Ordinance placing restrictions on parking oversized vehicles on public streets and an anticipated funding decision coming up for blueline construction through South Pasadena. Councilman Saeta thanked Commissioner Vasconcelos for volunteering to assist with water system improvements.

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

NEXT MEETING - The next regular meeting of the Natural Resources Commission will be held on Monday, October 23, 2000 at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers Conference Room.

Respectively submitted,



Diana Tompkins, Public Works Assistant

**MINUTES
NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION
AUGUST 28, 2000**

ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m. Present were Chair Diane Carter Veiller and commissioners Harold Mgrublian, Norma LeValley and Jonh Vasconcelos. Staff Liaison Diana Tompkins was present. Council Liaison David Saeta was present.

MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting of July 24, 2000 were approved, as motioned by Commissioner Mgrublian and seconded by Commissioner LeValley, and all members were in favor 4-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS - None

REVIEW COMMISSION GOALS

Chair Carter Veiller will revise the commission goals to include comments and suggestions. The list of goals and commissioner assignments will be provided with the September agenda package.

FORESTRY MANAGEMENT AND PUBLIC EDUCATION

Commissioner LeValley contacted Larry Smith to arrange a meeting. The meeting has not been confirmed as yet. Discussion ensued regarding a planting plan for Charter Oak.

TREE ORDINANCE REVIEW

Commissioner LeValley is continuing to seek out resources and to identify heritage and significant trees that the Commission could recommend for consideration as landmark trees. Commissioner LeValley offered to draft an article to encourage identification of landmark trees.

SOUTH PASADENA HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE ROUND UP

The local event is scheduled for Saturday, September 16 at the South Pasadena School District administration parking lot from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Chair Diane Carter Veiller offered to assist with the distribution of Dumpster Day flyers at the event. Staff will contact the County to see if County staff could provide Dumpster Day flyers to attendees and to establish a quantity sufficient to cover the event.

DUMPTER DAY

Dumpster Day is scheduled for Saturday, October 14 from 8am to 2pm.

CHAIR COMMUNICATIONS - Chair Carter Veiller announced that Commissioner Ron Mitchell attended a Parks & Recreation Commission meeting regarding improvements in the arroyo and that he would report back to the commission on that meeting next month.

COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS - Commissioner Vasconcelos offered his assistance during the design review process for water system improvements as he has expertise in that area. Commissioner Mgrublian commented on the cultural landmarks publication at City Hall and felt it was something every South Pasadena citizen should know.

MINUTES
NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION
JULY 24, 2000

ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m. Present were Chair Diane Carter Veiller and commissioners Harold Mgrublian, Norma LeValley and Ronald Mitchell. Staff Liaison Diana Tompkins was present. Council Liaison David Saeta was absent.

MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting of June 26, 2000 were approved, as motioned by Chair Carter Veiller and seconded by Commissioner Mitchell, and all members were in favor 4-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS - Terry Chesbro and Larry Smith of Chesbro Ornamental Pruning Company attended the meeting. A copy of Mr. Smith's resume was provided to commissioners and he has volunteered to assist the commission in meeting its tree related goals. He offered to help write grants and to provide consulting services. Mr. Smith has experience in these areas and community outreach efforts to establish urban forestry management practices.

REVIEW COMMISSION GOALS

Chair Carter Veiller will revise the commission goals to include comments and suggestions from last month's meeting. The list of goals and commissioner assignments will be provided with the August agenda package.

4TH OF JULY - AFTER ACTION REPORT

All commissioners agreed that the event was a success. Chair Carter Veiller asked that we make the same reservation for next year. The balloons were discussed and it was suggested that staff explore costs and check into the quality of balloons purchased for next year's parade. It was suggested also that the commission provide handouts for next year's parade.

CLEAN UP ARROYO

This item will be permanently removed from the Agenda. The Commission plans to explore a combined event for Earth Week and Arbor Week next year and this will be placed on the agenda by the Tree Committee when appropriate.

FORESTRY MANAGEMENT AND PUBLIC EDUCATION

A copy of Commissioner Mitchell's outline for a tree planting plan was provided to Larry Smith at the meeting. Commissioners LeValley and Mitchell asked that Mr. Smith contact them at his convenience to set up a meeting to discuss the tree planting outline and other matters pertaining to how he may assist the commission.

TREE ORDINANCE REVIEW

Commissioner LeValley explained the process by which she is establishing native species for South Pasadena and asked that it be a topic of discussion when they meet with Mr. Larry Smith. Mr. Smith was also provided with the memo from Director of Public Works Van Winkle describing necessary revisions to the tree ordinance.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS UPDATE

Staff Liaison Tompkins showed the commission several samples of reusable used oil containers. The commission recommended that staff select an appropriate container after meeting with Ali, owner of Chevron, and considering the quantity of used oil the public is bringing to the station and available space at the station for container storage. Staff provided a copy of the bill stuffer advertising Dumpster Day and the Household Hazardous Waste Roundup. An additional bill stuffer is being prepared to promote grasscycling. Discussion ensued regarding advertising to promote public awareness of Channel 19. Staff explained that videos are available to promote grasscycling, used oil recycling, household hazardous waste roundups, and other environmental programs. Commissioner LeValley suggested information be sent to South Pasadena Beautiful as grasscycling is something they may promote to their membership.

SOUTH PASADENA HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE ROUND UP

Staff explained that the South Pasadena Satellite event is scheduled for Saturday, September 16 in the South Pasadena School District administration parking lot at 1020 El Centro Street. Advertising for the event is being handled primarily by Los Angeles County Public Works. They plan to provide flyers to local merchants, to place a banner over Fair Oaks, and to provide flyers for local city offices and advertisements in the local paper. Staff prepared an article for the Fall issue of "Neighbors" that is mailed to every household in South Pasadena. Commissioner LeValley suggested that flyers be made available at the Fire Department's Spaghetti Dinner as it attracts a good number of residents, and the dinner event is held one week prior to the roundup event. This item will be continued to the August commission agenda.

DUMPTER DAY

Dumpster Day is scheduled for Saturday, October 14 this year from 8am to 2pm. Staff prepared an article for the Fall issue of "Neighbors" to advertise this event. Also bill stuffers were prepared and will be mailed shortly. The Commission discussed providing flyers to drivers at the Household Hazardous Waste Roundup to remind residents of the Dumpster Day event. This item will be carried over for continued discussion at the August meeting.

ANNUAL ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Commissioner Mitchell nominated Chair Carter Veiller to continue in her current position. Chair Carter Veiller accepted the nomination. Commissioner LeValley seconded the motion and all members were in favor, 4-0. Chair Carter Veiller nominated Commissioner Mitchell to the position of Vice Chair to the Commission. Commissioner Mitchell accepted the nomination. The motion was seconded by Commissioner LeValley, and all members were in favor, 4-0.

CHAIR COMMUNICATIONS - None.

COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS - Commissioner Mgrublian provided as article that Alhambra produced regarding grasscycling.

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Meeting of July 24, 2000

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STAFF LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS - Staff Liaison Tompkins announced that the Southern California Waste Management Forum this year will be held on Thursday, November 16. Chair Carter Veiller and Commissioner Mgrublian are interested in attending. Several flyers were provided to the commission regarding South Pasadena Trash Collection and Recycling Programs and the Los Angeles County Waste Tire Amnesty Day on Saturday, July 29 from 9am to 2pm.

COUNCIL LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS - None.

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

NEXT MEETING - The next regular meeting of the Natural Resources Commission will be held on Monday, August 28, 2000 at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers Conference Room.

Respectively submitted,



Diana Tompkins, Public Works Assistant

**MINUTES
NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION
MAY 22, 2000**

DRAFT

ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. Present were Chair Diane Carter-Veiller, and commissioners John Vasconcelos, Harold Mgrublian, Norma LeValley and Ronald Mitchell. Staff Liaison Diana Tompkins was present. Council Liaison David Saeta was absent.

MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting of April 24, 2000 were approved, as motioned by Commissioner Mgrublian and seconded by Commissioner LeValley, and all members were in favor 5-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS - None.

2000-2001 GOAL SETTING

Chair Carter-Veiller expressed her desire that the Commission spend 15 minutes discussing goals, and 5 minutes listing the goals. The goals list includes: Planning a HHW Satellite Event on September 16; Establishing Tree Landmarks; Establishing a list of Native Trees; Preparing a Draft City Tree Ordinance by the End of this Summer; Educating the Community on: Tree Care, Proper Tree Trimming Practices, Treatment of Oak Trees, Tree Policies, Educating Gardeners, and Replacing Trees; Long Term Forestry Management Program; Consider the Impact of the 710 Freeway on City's Natural Resources; Educating Community on the MRF Process If and When that Processing Method is Used; Meeting the Goals of AB 939 including Used Oil Recycling Program Implementation, etc.

CLEAN UP ARROYO

Commissioner Mitchell is making plans next month to walk the Arroyo with volunteer/resident Bea Simpson and to discuss a clean up project to be coordinated with volunteers and the Sierra Club.

SMART GARDENING WORKSHOP - AFTER ACTION REPORT

Staff Liaison Tompkins, Commissioner Mitchell and Commissioner Mgrublian attended the Smart Gardening Workshop presented by Mr. Keith Thomsen of SCS Engineers. There were about 10 residents who attended the 2 hour workshop. Residents helped themselves to free gardening gloves, water bottles, and misc. information regarding grass recycling, composting, worm composting, and water wise gardening. Some interesting facts we learned at the workshop include: composting does not produce fertilizer, worm composting does produce fertilizer from the castings and liquids that the worms generate in the bin - "worm tea", and compost material is good because it helps soil hold moisture better for plants. A recommended publication is "Western Garden" to select plants and trees that are native and require less water. The workshop provided information relative to all areas of natural resources - to help protect our environment by reducing waste and to encourage residents to select proper trees, shrubs and ground cover. Six compost bins were raffled away at the end of the workshop.

FORESTRY MANAGEMENT AND PUBLIC EDUCATION

The Commission reviewed the Draft Memo to Park Supervisor Jesse Barajas regarding potential parkway tree removal/replacement projects. Chair Carter-Veiller made a motion to accept the memo with changes to include a more descriptive title, citywide location for Cherry Laurel trees, and that the Commission feels that the removal of Eucalyptus trees on Meridian is controversial in that the trees possess unique qualities making them attractive while they require a higher level of care to maintain them, the motion was seconded and all members were in favor 5-0.

DRAFT

The Tree Committee is planning on meeting with Park Supervisor Barajas to discuss establishing a list of trees that would be agreeable to planting on Charter Oak in place of the California Cherry Laurels. Once this list is established, residents could be given an opportunity to select the most desirable tree for their area. Plans for the Trial Tree Removal/Replacement project for Charter Oak will continue at the next regular meeting. Commissioner Mitchell will continue to look into grant funds available for planting parkway trees. Chair Carter-Veiller expressed her long term goal for the Commission such that they would establish a program for planting appropriate native species in recognized neighborhoods citywide - a benefit that would serve generations to come.

Commissioner LeValley provided a list of "Streets Not Mentioned on Tree Inventory Report" to provide to Park Supervisor Jesse Barajas.

TREE ORDINANCE REVIEW

The Tree Committee is planning to meet with Park Supervisor Barajas to discuss the preparation of an official list of native species to be recognized for South Pasadena.

UPDATE ON RECOMMENDATIONS TO MRF SINGLE FAMILY WASTE

Staff Liaison Tompkins attended and made a brief presentation at the City Council meeting on May 3. Commissioners Harold Mgrublian and Ronald Mitchell stayed until 10:30 p.m. to hear the item presented before the City Council, as did Dennis Chiappetta Chief Operating Officer of Athens. The Council made a motion to elect a Council Sub-Committee to meet with Staff. The Committee consists of Mayor Pro-tem David Rose, Council member Paul Zee, City Manager Joyce, City Attorney Pannone, Finance Director Halloway and Public Works Asst. Tompkins. The Committee is meeting for the first time this Thursday, May 25, to develop a strategy to commence negotiations with Athens. Councilman Zee requested that Dennis Chiappetta extend the June 30 deadline regarding availability of capacity to September 30, and he agreed.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE ROUND UP - SOUTH PASADENA

A letter and "Use of Facilities" form provided by the SPUSD was forwarded to L.A. County Sanit. Districts to schedule the event on September 16 at the School Dist. Admin. Pkg. Lot. Once the form is accepted and the Sanit. Dist. provides insurance for the event, the event will be confirmed and advertising can begin. Unlike a Round Up event, the satellite event will be planned for So. Pas. residents. No event is restricted, but advertising can be limited to So. Pas. and should there be more vehicles than the event can handle, they can be re-directed to the L.A. County Public Works event held on the same day. Satellite events run from 9am to 2pm. The Commission expressed its desire to hold the HHW Satellite Event in lieu of exploring the Door-to-Door Collection of Used Oil/HHW as proposed by Curbside, Inc. at this time.

USED OIL RECYCLING PROGRAM

Staff Liaison Tompkins met with Ali at Chevron on Wednesday, May 17 to discuss used oil program implementation and his requirements. Chevron became certified by the State to accept used oil last month. Ali expressed his desire to accept used oil and filters only, between the hours of 8am to 8pm, 7 days per week. Staff will work with Ali to provide supplies (magnets, stickers, containers) and infrastructure for the program, advertising and general certified center support. Rather than a banner, Ali would prefer that advertising be in the form of free standing signs along the station perimeter, similar to LOTTO signs there now. Staff will provide details on an advertising plan at the next regular meeting.

DRAFT

4TH OF JULY PLANNING

Chair Carter-Veiller read the requirements for the Natural Resources Commission entry in the Festival of Balloons Parade this year. Staff was directed to amend the Commission's banner to remove the last two lines and replace them with "South Pasadena Natural Resources Commission" so that it can be carried along the parade route, held up by two rolling trash bins at each end that will be provided by commission members. Chair Carter-Veiller will be in charge of ordering balloons from "Would You Believe", a business on Mission Street that is experienced in providing balloons for the event. The balloons will be red, white, blue and green. Commissioner LeValley will inquire as to whether material can be handed out along the parade route and if so, will coordinate with staff for an order of magnets to advertise recycling phone numbers and contacts. Staff was directed to submit the paperwork for the entry of the Natural Resources Commission in the parade, including a letter to Athens Services to schedule the use of "Mighty Mike": a scaled-down version of a trash truck provided by Athens for parades.

CHAIR COMMUNICATIONS - Chair Carter-Veiller provided a copy of last year's annual report to City Council regarding the Commission's activities for review by all members. Discussion of this year's annual report will be on the agenda for the June regular meeting. The election of officers to the Commission will take place at the July regular meeting; positions include Chair and Vice Chair.

COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS - None.

STAFF LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS - Staff Liaison Tompkins provided copies of a recent Press Release regarding the WRAP campaign - a promotional campaign that provides certificates to local businesses that implement good recycling programs. Staff announced the submittal of an application for a Beverage Recycling Grant that will provide funds for beverage container recycling and trash collection projects. Staff announced that the Recycling Center may be closing its operations and that staff would work with Allan Company for a smooth closing operation including notification to the public of another facility that will accept the same products.

COUNCIL LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS - None.

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

NEXT MEETING - The next regular meeting of the Natural Resources Commission will be held on Monday, June 26, 2000 at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers Conference Room.

Respectively submitted,

**MINUTES
NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION
FEBRUARY 28, 2000**

ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. Present were Chair Diane Carter-Veiller, and commissioners John Vasconcelos, Harold Mgrublian, and Norma LeValley. Council Liaison Paul Zee was present as was Staff Liaison Diana Tompkins and Park Supervisor Jesse Barajas. New elected member, Ronald Mitchell, was welcomed to the Commission meeting as a visitor. All members introduced themselves and spoke regarding their experience and interest in natural resources.

MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting of January 24, 2000 were approved, as motioned by Harold Mgrublian and seconded by John Vasconcelos; all members were in favor 4-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS - None.

COUNTY YARD WASTE PROGRAM

Michelle Leonard of SCS Engineers made a presentation regarding Los Angeles County's Yard Waste Program and free workshops. Handout material was provided to members. A Workshop is planned for the Senior Citizens Center on March 30. Staff was directed to contact South Pasadena Beautiful to see if they are interested in holding a Workshop concurrently with their annual Plant Swap event in April. If this first choice is not possible, then planning for a Workshop on Saturday or Sunday in April at Garfield Park or the War Memorial Building could be arranged. Saturdays available for a workshop include: April 22, May 13 and May 20 and all Sunday afternoons are available to schedule workshops. The Commission suggested that approx. 12 compost bins at Service Facilities be given away at the events to the first participants. Information regarding the County Compost Bin Truckload Sale at the Rose Bowl was provided and the City will advertise that event.

FORESTRY MANAGEMENT AND PUBLIC EDUCATION

Park Supervisor Barajas provided a booklet of vacant sites for parkway tree planting. Discussion ensued regarding problem trees on Maple (palm trees), Garfield (ash trees) and Meridian (eucalyptus trees). Staff was directed to prepare a memo explaining the problem trees, and to include a location map and mail it to all commission members. Commissioners will look at the trees and report back at the March NRC meeting. Staff Liaison Tompkins explained how the City determines when trees belong to private property or to the City using engineering maps and provided a handout of material/maps to explain the procedure. In addition, copies of Edison publication on "Utility Vegetation Management", was provided to all commissioners. Chapter 3 of the manual discusses how to write a tree ordinance to address issues related to trees and utility lines.

There are only three heritage trees recognized by the City as landmark trees: Chelton Way & Ashbourne Drive, The Clokey Oak Tree located at 1635 Laurel Street (rear), and the Ashbourne-Chelton Hybrid Oak Tree at the rear of 2997 Ashbourne Drive.. Material was provided to explain the procedure to establish a tree as a landmark tree, including an application to the Cultural Heritage Commission and the official list of historic resources that includes the landmark listings.

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Staff Liaison Tompkins explained two methods for establishing a tree fund. The first is to include the tree fund as part of budget preparation activities, and the second method would be to establish the fund and appropriate funds at City Council at a later date when the Commission would spend the funds as part of a campaign to re-forest the parkways. Chair Carter-Veiller suggested the Commission discuss a tree planting campaign and tree fund further at the next regular meeting.

On March 1, 2000, Norma LeValley will accept the Arbor Day Proclamation at the City Council Meeting. She will mention that the City has received its 3rd year Tree City USA and Growth Award with the support of South Pasadena Beautiful and the Natural Resources Commission. The Commission was asked to comment on the Press Release regarding the City's 3rd year award by the end of this week so that it may be published on March 8 in the South Pasadena Review.

TREE ORDINANCE REVIEW

Staff Liaison Tompkins provided a memo listing questions generated from the Tree Matrix. Commissioner Mgrublian took the tree matrix and generated several pages of questions, terms and details to consider in a tree ordinance. Commissioner LeValley will take his work and provide her input at the next NRC meeting. Discussion ensued on how to identify trees and those trees that should be included in the City's resolution of native species for regulation. Commissioner LeValley prepared a list of streets that aren't included on the tree inventory.

UPDATE ON RECOMMENDATION TO MRF SINGLE FAMILY WASTE

Staff Liaison Tompkins explained that the recommendation to process waste through Athens' Material Recovery Facility (MRF) will be presented to the City Council at its regular meeting on April 5, 2000. Staff Liaison Tompkins met with Dennis Chiappetta of Athens Services to confirm its proposal as presented to the Commission in August, 1998. Dennis Chiappetta provided a letter confirming its previous proposal and included an additional statement that Athens will indemnify the City from AB939 fines and penalties relative to the landfill diversion mandate. Mr. Chiappetta will be attending the City Council meeting. Chair Carter-Veiller asked that the Commission continue discussion on this item to the next regular commission meeting.

USED OIL RECYCLING UPDATE

Chair Carter-Veiller and Staff Liaison Tompkins met with Ali, the new owner of South Pasadena Chevron on February 3. Ali has agreed to submit an application to become a certified used oil collection site for South Pasadena residents. Staff explained how the City will spend grant funds to support the used oil program and Chevron, including the possible purchase of a used oil collection unit. Chair Carter-Veiller asked that this item be carried over for continued discussion at the next regular meeting.

CHAIR COMMUNICATIONS - None.

COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS - None.

STAFF LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS

Staff Liaison Tompkins reminded Commissioners of the Watershed Restoration Project that will take place on Saturday, March 4 and on Saturday, April 8 to re-plant areas damaged by recent fires and erosion in the Azusa Canyon.

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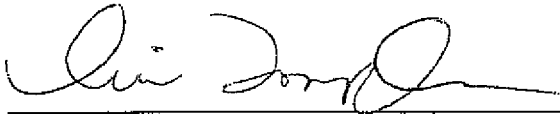
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COUNCIL LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS - None.

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m. (Vasconcelos/Mgrublian)

NEXT MEETING - The next regular meeting of the Natural Resources Commission will be held on Monday, March 27, 2000 at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers Conference Room.

Respectively submitted,



Diana Tompkins, Public Works Assistant

**MINUTES
NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION
JANUARY 25, 2000**

ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 6:40 p.m. Present were commissioners John Vasconcelos, Harold Mgrublian, and Norma LeValley. Chair Diane Carter-Veiller requested an excused absence. Council Liaison Paul Zee was present as was Staff Liaison Diana Tompkins.

MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting of December 27, 1999 were approved, as motioned by Harold Mgrublian and seconded by John Vasconcelos; all members were in favor 3-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS

None.

FORESTRY MANAGEMENT AND PUBLIC EDUCATION

Norma LeValley provided a copy of a publication prepared by Pasadena Beautiful named "The Basics of Trees" to all commissioners. In addition she prepared a two-page outline for development of an Urban Forestry Management brochure. The Commission is considering a brochure that would highlight a topic in each publication, that would be distributed on public counters, as well as in realtors offices for new homeowners to South Pasadena. In addition, the Commission is considering a series of brochures covering various topics. For the next meeting Staff is asked to determine where the City needs more trees, how to establish a tree fund, how many and where the heritage trees are, and information on how the City will determine the ownership of trees on streets where the parkway is not improved and there are no sidewalks.

TREE ORDINANCE REVIEW

Staff Liaison Tompkins provided a package of information to all commissioners that included the following: the Tree City bulletin: "How to Write a Municipal Tree Ordinance," Chapter 34 of City Municipal Code, Resolution No. 6509 that establishes native species and oak trees, Tree Removal Guidelines for Construction, and a two-page handout that explains how and when a resident must obtain a permit for tree related work on one's property. The Commission was agreeable to improving and expanding the list of protected trees, and to improving the terminology in the "Definitions" section of the City's Tree Ordinance. Councilman Zee offered the following matrix to help evaluate the Tree Ordinance:

LOCATION	TYPE	ACTION
Public Property	Mature	Planting
Private - front yard	Protected (Native/Heritage)	Trimming
Anywhere	Any variety	Removal
	Diseased/Dead (Other)	Care

Staff will generate a list of questions based on this matrix for the next meeting. For example, the following questions can be generated by using the matrix:

Q: When a tree is located Anywhere in the City and is Mature and Protected when will the City allow Trimming?, Removal?, require special Care? If a tree location is established on Public Property and the property owner desires Any variety for planting, when and how will the City allow/permit Planting?

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COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION TO MRF SINGLE FAMILY WASTE

Staff Liaison Tompkins provided a Draft Agenda Memo to City Council to Consider Entering into Negotiations with Athens Services to Process Backyard Waste at Athens' Material Recovery Facility. Commissioners are invited to comment on its content by February 8, 2000. The item is scheduled for presentation to the City Council at its second meeting in February (February 16, 2000).

CHAIR COMMUNICATIONS - None.

COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS - None.

STAFF LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS

Staff Liaison Tompkins explained that Goodwill Industries had worked out an arrangement with the Recycling Center for the placement of a trailer on their site for the Earthweek Donation Drive in April. Information regarding the event will be sent in the water bills. The Tree City U.S.A. materials will be available sometime in March according to the State Forester. This will not be in time for the March 1 City Council meeting and Arbor Day Proclamation presentation. Staff will call and verify the date for release of materials. Staff explained that Michelle Leonard of SCS Engineering had called and requested that she make a presentation to the Commission on Yard Waste programs at the February NRC meeting, rather than March. She explained that workshops are scheduled to take place in March and April and by scheduling her presentation at the February meeting, the Commission will have sufficient time to schedule a workshop. Commissioner Mgrublian requested a demonstration of workshop materials at the February meeting and all members were in favor.

COUNCIL LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS - Council Liaison Zee gave the Commission an overview of the Blueline meeting.

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m. (Vasconcelos/Mgrublian)

NEXT MEETING - The next regular meeting of the Natural Resources Commission will be held on Monday, February 28, 2000 at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers Conference Room.

Respectively submitted,



Diana Tompkins, Public Works Assistant

**MINUTES
NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION
DECEMBER 27, 1999**

ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. Present were: Chair Diane Carter-Veiller, Commissioners John Vasconcelos, Harold Mgrublian, and Norma LeValley. Council Liaison Paul Zee was present as was Staff Liaison Diana Tompkins, and Park Supervisor Jesse Barajas.

MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting of November 22, 1999 were approved, as motioned by Harold Mgrublian and seconded by John Vasconcelos; all members were in favor 4-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS

None.

FORESTRY MANAGEMENT AND PUBLIC EDUCATION

Norma LeValley provided a copy of the Tree Inventory to South Pasadena Beautiful who has volunteered to review the inventory and mark missing portions. Arbor Day events are planned by SPB and the Commission's participation in those events was discussed. A publication prepared by Pasadena Beautiful named "The Basics of Trees" was shared with the commission for consideration of a similar publication for South Pasadena's trees. Discussion ensued regarding development of a brochure and those items that would be included; such as, the City's Tree Ordinance and principals on topping, root pruning, etc. Commissioner Mgrublian pointed out that the first page is important in that it initially draws readers into the publication. Council Liaison Zee suggested the tri-fold brochure, like the Christmas Tree brochure, would be more effective and residents would be more likely to read such a publication. Chair Carter requested that Norma LeValley continue to work with SPB and return with a draft brochure for review by the commission at the next regular meeting when the Commission would further comment on content and layout.

TREE CITY U.S.A. AND GROWTH AWARD APPLICATION

Staff Liaison Tompkins explained that the Tree City USA and Growth Award applications have been mailed to the State Department of Forestry on December 13. Approval is expected by mid-February, 2000. Discussion ensued. The City will qualify for its growth award this year because of its tree inventory and expert staff in the field of urban forestry management. It was agreed that the Tree City flag should fly at Garfield Park where it will be more visible rather than in front of City Hall. Council Liaison Zee suggested that the Commission make a presentation to the Council regarding the Tree City USA award and Arbor Day activities. Because approval is expected mid-February, the first City Council meeting in March would be best for the State Forester to attend and present award materials prior to Arbor week.

RESULTS OF APPEAL BOARD REQUEST TO CITY COUNCIL

Staff Liaison Tompkins explained that the Council decided not to establish the Natural Resources Commission as a tree regulations appeal board at its meeting on December 1. The Council supports the Commission acting in its current capacity to formulate policy for urban forestry management for approval by the City Council.

For the next NRC meeting Chair Carter-Veiller would like members to read through all sections of the Tree Ordinance. In addition, Staff will provide a publication on how to write a tree ordinance provided by the State Forestry Department.

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COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION TO MRF SINGLE FAMILY WASTE

Staff Liaison Tompkins explained that the Commission's recommendation to utilize the MRF for single family waste would be prepared for presentation to the City Council at its second meeting in February, 2000. Staff will include in the report to City Council, the Athens proposal, the NRC recommendation to MRF, the table of comparison with other cities utilizing Athens MRF for single family waste processing, and a recommendation that the appropriate person(s) enter into negotiations with Athens for the most favorable terms. Staff will prepare a rough draft and present it to the Commission at its January regular meeting.

CHAIR COMMUNICATIONS - Chair announced a new job opportunity coming up for her in January.

COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS - None.

STAFF LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS

Staff Liaison Tompkins provided members with the Yard Waste Program brochures prepared by Michelle Leonard of SCS Engineers. An education brochure for Arbor festivities and planning was provided to Norma LeValley. It was decided that the Goodwill proposal not be brought back to the Commission in February for further discussion. Staff was directed to contact Goodwill and ask that they approach the Recycling Center directly for consideration of the Goodwill collection site on their leased property. A new Commission roster was provided to all.

COUNCIL LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS - Council Liaison Zee wished everyone a Happy New Year.

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m. (Vasconcelos/Mgrublian)

NEXT MEETING - The next regular meeting of the Natural Resources Commission will be held on Monday, January 24, 2000 at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers Conference Room.

Respectively submitted,



Diana Tompkins, Public Works Assistant