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.

Kim Hughes 12/16/14

Kimberley Hughes, Chair