

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

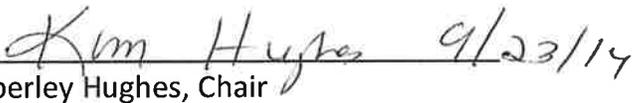
No update

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.

 9/23/14

Kimberley Hughes, Chair