

MINUTES
NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
February 24, 2015

Roll Call - The meeting was called to order at 7:07 p.m. Present were Commissioners Scott Kuhn, Kay Findley, Nancy Wilms, Al Benzoni, Noah Puni, Stephen Leider, Student Commissioner Maddie Magee, and Chair Kim Hughes. Council Liaison Richard D. Schneider, M.D. was present. Staff Liaison Debby Figoni was present.

Minutes - Approval for January Minutes were moved to March, 2015 approved (Findley, Wilms 7-0).

Public Comments and Suggestions - None.

1. **City's Urban Forest Update** – No update from the City's arborist.
2. **City's Tree Planting Plan** – No update.
3. **West Coast Arborists' Contract** – No update.
4. **Urban Water Conservation Drought & Drought Actions** – Rebates are being encouraged and taken advantage of by residents. Figoni stated the vast majority of water wasting actions being resolved quickly. The Commission would like an update on the schools and would like to start working with the City's high water users. There is no update with MWD's water allocation so the City is waiting to take any action.
5. **Water Conservation Programs Update** - Figoni stated that over 100 residents are now participating in the turf removal program with beautiful results. She is partnering with the library on several upcoming workshops and events. The December 9th workshop which was successful. The water conservation banner is hanging on Fair Oaks. Car magnets will be here and being placed on all City cars. Figoni is once again partnering with South Pasadena Beautiful at their annual garden tour to teach workshops and promote water wise landscapes.
6. **Synthetic Turf** – Figoni to take the issue of allowing synthetic turf in City parkways to City Council in March of 2015.
7. **Charging Stations** – No update.
8. **Upcoming Events** – Earth Day event is moving along and is scheduled to take place on La France. The event will include a walking tour of two dozen gardens that have completed the turf removal program. The Commissioners discussed creating a Green Arrow Awards Program with NREC voting. The NREC would like to be a part of the Summer Concert Series again. Figoni will be hosting and teaching several workshops over the next few months. A Mulch and Compost Event is scheduled for May 2nd.

9. Renewable Energy Committee – A staff report is scheduled to go before City Council in the next few weeks. Figoni is part of a larger Facilities Improvement Plan looking at improvements in all of the cities facilities.

10. Styrofoam Ban – Invite Scott and Laurie to the next meeting to discuss the potential impact on the community. Figoni to provide a list of cities that have a ban of some sort.

11. Water System and Grey Water Recycling in the Event of a Natural Disaster – Commissioner Benzoni is looking into who is mandating greywater in new construction.

Chair Communications – Chair Hughes shared article on the EIR for the 710.

Commissioner Communications – Article from L.A. Times talking about South Pasadena and water wise landscapes.

Council Liaison Communications – Council Member Cacciotti talked about the issue of the People’s Republic of Chemicals. He spoke about the Strategic Planning Meeting and the top three environmental goals of water conservation, Arroyo Seco bike trail and energy efficiency. He invited the Commissioners to attend an upcoming Conservancy meeting.

Staff Liaison Communications – n/a

Adjournment - The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m. (Kuhn, Puni 7-0).

NEXT MEETING - The next regular meeting of the Natural Resources and Environmental Commission will be held on Tuesday, March 24, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in City Council Chambers.



Kimberley Hughes, Chair