

MINUTES
NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
June 23, 2015

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

Minutes – Minutes from April, 2015 were approved (Findley, Kuhn, 6-0) and Minutes from May, 2015 were approved (Findley, Kuhn, 6-0)

Public Comments and Suggestions – n/a

- 1. City's Urban Forest Update** – City Arborist Gonzalo Maravilla stated that in April 672 trees were trimmed and 23 trees were planted, most of them dying from the drought. For the year, 487 trees have been planted. The Commission is still concerned that West Coast Arborists (WCA) is not watering every tree as they should be and wanted to know how staff is overseeing the watering. The Commission requested an updated Water Tree List for 2015 and 2014 with the date the tree was planted which they can use to check out the trees around the City. They would like Tim Crothers from WCA to speak at the next meeting about tree health, WCA's watering schedule and WCA's comprehensive tree data program.
- 2. City's Tree Planting Plan** – Council Member Schneider presented to the Commission about his idea of a comprehensive Urban Forest Management Plan. The Plan discussed an updated Tree Ordinance and a comprehensive tree inventory software system using a GIS system. In addition, he suggested creating a risk management plan, and a storm emergency response plan. Finally, he talked about updating the City's existing tree planting plan with details on: tree planting, tree removal and replacement, a succession plan for aging trees, a plan for recycling wood waste, a watering and maintenance plan, allowable species for diversity, and the right tree above and below utilities.
- 3. West Coast Arborists' Contract** – No update this month. Council Member Mahmud provided her comments on the contract. Staff will send NREC this updated contract.
- 4. Styrofoam Ban** – Chamber President Laurie Wheeler attended the meeting and stated the Chamber would be happy to work with their members to open dialog on a Styrofoam ban. Laurie to work with Chamber members and some restaurants that provide take out, while Debby will work with other take our and fast food restaurants. Discussion on allowing the sale of Styrofoam at grocery stores was also brought up.
- 5. Water Conservation and Drought Actions** – Presently, the City's Water Conservation Ordinance ties a certain percentage of water reduction in each stage, but that percentage may be different than the State's mandated percentage. Commissioners Kuhn and Wilms to work on language to allowing flexibility depending on City or State needs or mandates.

6. **Water Conservation Programs** – Figoni and her intern, Amber Duran, are continuing to work on the rebate programs which are busier than ever. They are continuing to contact the higher water users and working directly with them and they are contacting local restaurants.

7. **Greywater** – Commissioner Benzoni to send a proposal of a stub-out greywater ordinance. Figoni to organize laundry to landscape workshops for the public in the Fall.

8. **Charging Stations** – Council Member Cacciotti again stated that he wants it installed before the funds are gone. He also wanted to know if the City has applied for the MSRC grant funds which will cover infrastructure (Hughes, Kuhn 6-0).

9. **Upcoming Events** – The Commissioners will be hosting a float at the Fourth of July Festival of Balloons parade. Figoni is working on the Green Living Expo for July 19, 2015. The Household Hazardous Waste Event is August 29, 2015.

10. **Renewable Energy Committee** – Six applications have been received to date. Figoni advertised it as much as possible. Figoni will see if she can take less members than Council recommended back to Council for final selection.

Chair Communications – Chair Hughes discussed possible legislation about large water providers taking over small providers. She provided articles on water wise landscaping, water saving tips, teaching conservation, and trees being affected by the drought.

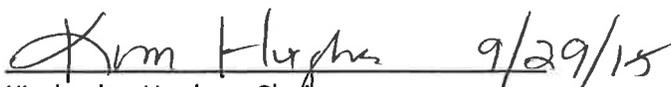
Commissioner Communications – Findley attended the grand opening of the San Pasqual Stables barn which looked fabulous.

Council Liaison Communications – Council Member Cacciotti stated the River Center at Avenue 26 in Los Angeles Santa Monica Mountains River on Monday, June 29th at 7:30 p.m. He talked about a deadline for Cities to purchase light poles from Southern California Edison.

Staff Liaison Communications – n/a

Adjournment - The meeting adjourned at 9:58 p.m. (Wilms, Benzoni 6-0).

NEXT MEETING - The next regular meeting of the Natural Resources and Environmental Commission will be held on Tuesday, July 28, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in City Council Chambers.


Kimberley Hughes, Chair