

Pasadena Citizens' Advisory Council

www.pasadenacac.org

Summary of Thursday, August 25, 2016 Meeting

Program Planning: "I've Got Something on My Mind"

In preparation for brainstorming and prioritizing program topics and activities for the coming 12 months, PCAC members and visitors worked in small groups to share what was on their minds, and the things either community or plant members wish the community knew about plants. They reviewed pages of PCAC history and the program input or plans from similar advisory councils. They then noted some of the topics they wanted to raise during the brainstorming exercise. Groups then called out topics to be listed on flip charts and received sticky dots to spend on those they most want to cover in the coming year. A Program Planning Committee will draft a plan for 2017 based on the input and bring it to PCAC for approval at an upcoming meeting.

City of Pasadena Stormwater Management Education

Adalberto Tamez with the City of Pasadena presented information on how the city manages stormwater (also called rainwater). Pasadena's stormwater system is separate from the wastewater sewer system. Stormwater flows into storm drains, which empty into bayous and eventually Galveston Bay. Municipal wastewater goes through the sewer system to a treatment plant where it is first treated and then is sent back to local streams. Pasadena is the 2nd largest city in the area behind Houston and they rely on the public to alert them if someone is offending the stormwater system or the environment. Potential issues and violations can be reported by calling 713-475-555.

The TCEQ and EPA regulate Pasadena's stormwater system; the city must have a municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) permit. Because the city participates in the National Flood Insurance Program, it is subject to the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Community Rating System (CRS). Educating the public about management of stormwater and flood prevention is required by both MS4 and the CRS.

These regulations include notifying residents each year that they:

- Should know if their property is subject to flood hazard and insure their property if so.
- Should keep debris and trash out of streams and ditches and build responsibility.
- Should not put pollutants down the storm drain.

The attached presentation contains more details about the two programs as well as additional tips for residents and business owners. More information about stormwater and flooding may be found on Harris County Flood Control District's and FEMA's websites at www.hcfcd.org and www.fema.gov.