



City of Davis
Climate and Environmental Justice Commission Meeting Minutes
23 Russell Boulevard, Davis, CA 95616
May 27, 2025
6:30 p.m.

Commissioners Present: Jacob Byrne, Michelle Byars, Alana Gamage, Jon Reuter

Commissioners Absent: Jordan Blough, Jim Cramer, Ann Trump Daniel, Keara Tusso,
Colin Walsh

Council Liaisons Present: None

Staff Present: Stan Gryczko, Assistant City Manager
Charles Murphy, Urban Forestry Program Manager

1. Call to Order & Roll Call:

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Byrne at 6:33 p.m.

2. Approval of Agenda

J Reuter moved, seconded by M Byars to approve the agenda. Motion passed by the following vote:

AYES: Byrne, Byars, Gamage, Reuter

NOES: None

ABSENT: Blough, Cramer, Daniel, Tusso, Walsh

3. Brief Announcements from Staff, Commissioners, and Council Liaisons

No announcements.

4. Public Comment

No public comment was received.

5. Regular Items

A. Presentation: Climate-Ready Tree List

C Murphy, Urban Forestry Program Manager, delivered a presentation about the Climate-Ready Tree List, formerly known as the "Master Tree List". The report included information on the history, development and implementation of the Climate-Ready Tree List.

Discussion of the Commission included:

- In response to a question about the tree scoring system, staff explained that it came from a multitude of sources such as climate assessment tools, historical records and tree hardiness zone data. Temperature hardiness and drought tolerance were among the factors considered.
- Emily Griswold, the Director of GATEways Horticulture and Teaching Gardens at the UC Davis Arboretum and Public Garden was invited to

speak. Expressed appreciation for the development of the Climate-Ready Tree List and the partnership within the working group.

- Traditional ecological knowledge and potentially relevant principles to consider.
- During the discussion, A Gamage moved to establish a traditional ecologic knowledge stewardship program to partner city planning with indigenous scholars and land practitioners in order to give them a place at the planning table to be part of the long-term plan for the urban forest of Davis and the surrounding regions. The motion failed for lack of a second.
- A note that this list would be revisited regularly to assess the tree species and their climate readiness.
- The length of the tree list and possible prioritization. Staff noted the importance to consider diversity, including tree lifespans and species variety.
- Staff indicated that considerations of recommendations for tree placement included consideration of the interaction of the tree with the surrounding environment and the intended use of the space (e.g., streetscapes, parking lots).
- Appreciation expressed for the staff efforts in the development Climate-Ready Tree List.

No formal action was taken on this item. When opened for public comment, one comment was received:

- Kafir: student at UC Davis. Member of a class working to develop a definition of Environmental Justice and posed a question to consider what would best serve the community when evaluating climate-ready trees.

B. Discussion: First Look – Draft Environmental Justice Framework

S Gryczko, Assistance City Manager, provided a verbal overview of the last draft of the Environmental Justice framework from the previously formed Natural Resources Commission.

Discussion of the Commission included:

- A note that this draft framework was not originally prepared in the context of the General Plan update and was intended by the Commission to be set up in a way to be applicable to multiple commissions and situations.
- The explanation that no new definition was created and instead referenced existing resources.
- A note that the final draft wasn't included in the materials and the current version contains some needed corrections.
- The suggestion that it could be helpful to have a list of planning and integration questions added into the framework.

- Staff clarified the general plan update process and the timing associated with that, noted that components of the general plan can be updated as needed in the interim between full plan updates.
- The definitions of environmental justice including where to develop the framework and how to consider what framework is most relevant, whether within the context of a general plan, commission work, or other situations.
- A note that it would be helpful to have a long-term vision of an environmental justice framework so that it does not change as new commissioners are onboarded.

No formal action was taken on this item. When opened for public comment, one comment was received:

- Kafir: student at UC Davis. Provided input these are important questions and that prioritized sections should be implemented in the planning process to ensure their use.

6. Long Range Calendar

The commission discussed the Long Range Calendar and upcoming items for discussion.

7. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 8:00 p.m.