



City of Davis
Climate and Environmental Justice Commission Meeting Minutes
23 Russell Boulevard, Davis, CA 95616
September 22, 2025
6:00 p.m.

Commissioners Present: Jordan Blough Jacob Byrne, Jim Cramer, Ann Daniel,
Alana Gamage, Jessica Murray

Commissioners Absent: Sara Moore

Council Liaisons Present: Donna Neville

Staff Present: Stan Gryczko, Assistant City Manager
Sam Blacklock, Climate Action & Resilience Program
Manager

1. Call to Order & Roll Call:

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Byrne at 6:05 p.m.

2. Approval of Agenda

J Blough moved, seconded by J Cramer to approve the agenda. Motion passed by the following vote:

AYES: Blough, Byrne, Cramer, Daniel, Gamage, Murray

NOES: None

ABSENT: Moore

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

- S Gryczko reminded the Commission of the special meeting on October 8 for select commissions on proposed amendments to Measure J/R/D, and the special meeting that had been planned for September 30 was no longer necessary, as the timing of the Willowgrove Sustainability Plan review was shifted. Lastly, he introduced Sam Blacklock, the City's new Climate Action and Resilience Program Manager.

4. Public Comment

No public comment was received.

5. Consent Calendar

A. Commission Minutes (August 25, 2025)

J Byrne moved, seconded by J Murray, to approve the consent calendar. Motion passed by the following vote:

AYES: Byrne, Cramer, Daniel, Gamage, Murray

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: Blough

ABSENT: Moore

6. Regular Items

A. Presentation: 2025 Omnibus Municipal Code Amendments – Chapter 37 Amendments

T McNair gave a presentation to the Commission on proposed changes to Davis Municipal Code Chapters 37 (*Tree Planting, Preservation and Protection*) and 40 (*Zoning*) relating to parking lot shading requirements. The Commission was asked to provide feedback for City Council consideration.

Discussion of the Commission included:

- Clarification that the recommendation for 50% shade coverage come from the Planning Commission discussion, staff had originally recommended 30% coverage.
- Feedback provided that the 50% shade requirements should apply to total parking area rather than total parking spaces.
- It was noted that there is not a landscaping definition within Chapter 40 and that it would be helpful to include this with planned updates. Additionally, there should be a preference for trees within the landscaping area and a justification if no trees proposed.
- In response to questions about code enforcement, staff noted that ongoing enforcement of shade coverage is a challenge due to current enforcement mechanisms within code and staff resources, though City Council has expressed an interest in exploring potential options. Additionally, staff noted that compliance is the goal.
- In response to a question about code applicability, staff noted that these code standards would apply to parking lot redevelopments as well as new developments.
- There was a discussion about how to incorporate tree requirements in combination with solar to meet total shade requirements with a suggestion that the landscaping requirement could act as a means for developers to still incorporate trees even if prioritizing solar panels for parking lot shade coverage requirement.

When opened for public comment, one comment was received:

- John Johnston: Unclear on basis for the 50% shade requirement beyond previous usage. Stated total shade is the primary issue to consider. Important to maintain some natural landscape perimeter. Stated commission should have a future topic of discussion on caring for trees as well as the accountability measures for ongoing tree care.

At the close of the discussion, the Commission made the following motions:

J Blough moved, seconded by J Cramer, to encourage staff to ensure that any modifications as proposed for chapter 37 and 40 are in alignment with the objective design standards, or otherwise revisit the objective design standards to make that the case. Motion passed by the following vote:

AYES:	Blough, Byrne, Cramer, Daniel, Gamage, Murray
NOES:	None

ABSENT: Moore

J Byrne moved, seconded by J Blough, to encourage staff to use paved parking area as the sole method throughout this standard in lieu of the per parking space metric. Motion passed by the following vote:

AYES: Blough, Byrne, Cramer, Daniel, Gamage, Murray
NOES: None
ABSENT: Moore

J Cramer moved, seconded by J Blough, that the preamble should include language that shade should cover at least 50% of the paved parking area, including option 3. Motion passed by the following vote:

AYES: Blough, Byrne, Cramer, Daniel, Gamage, Murray
NOES: None
ABSENT: Moore

J Blough moved, seconded by J Byrne, to request staff consider adding a definition of landscaping to Chapter 40, and within definition, draft it to encourage shade trees as a key component of landscaping, not just ornamental trees, to the extent possible. Motion passed by the following vote:

AYES: Blough, Byrne, Cramer, Daniel, Gamage, Murray
NOES: None
ABSENT: Moore

B. Commission Business: Commission Initiated Task Process

S Gryczko provided a brief outline to the Commission on the new Commission Initiated Task Process developed by the City Council. The discussion included an overview of the process and guidelines. Vice Mayor Neville also provided some background on the topic and indicated that the Council Subcommittee on Commissions is reviewing the process and may look to suggest modifications to the process from Council.

Discussion of the Commission included:

- Clarification that items of interest within the Commission purview would not be subject to the process detailed in the staff report.
- When asked how long an item might take to get in front of Council, staff indicated that the direction was to bring it forward within the next couple of meetings after the Commission detailed the action item for consideration.

No formal action was taken on this item and no public comment was received.

7. Long Range Calendar

S Gryczko went over the upcoming topics on the Long Range Calendar, including the annual State of the Urban Forest presentation in October, and the General Plan item for November. He added that the Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP) update in November would be different from a regular update, as the sustainability position had very recently been filled. When asked

about the Willowgrove Sustainability Plan, he responded that he was not clear as to the timing yet, but would update the Commission. The request to develop a subcommittee around potential questions for presenters to the Commission was tentatively added to the October agenda, and it was determined that the Long Range Calendar item on urban forestry staffing could be covered by the State of the Urban Forest presentation. When asked about the status of the General Plan Subcommittee, S Gryczko indicated that the subcommittee had not yet been formed but the Community Development Director had all the applications.

8. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 7:39 p.m.