



**City of Davis
Tree Commission Minutes
Remote Meeting
Thursday, October 21, 2021
5:30 P.M.**

Commissioners Present: Colin Walsh-Chair, Larry Guenther-Vice-Chair, David Robinson, Jim Cramer, John Reuter, Tracy DeWit

Commissioners Absent: Tony Gill

Council Liaison(s)
Absent: None

Staff Present: Rob Cain, Urban Forest Manager
Sherri Metzker, Principal Planner
Kevin Fong, Senior Civil Engineer

Also in Attendance: Alan Hirsch
Matt Williams
Eileen Samitz

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chairperson Walsh called meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

2. Approval of Agenda

Guenther moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Cramer. Approved by the following votes:

Ayes: Walsh, DeWit, Robinson, Reuter, Guenther, Cramer

Noes:

Absent: Gill

3. Brief Announcements from Staff, Commission Members, and City Council Members

- Staff informed the Commission on the Community Canopy planting for the Proposition 68 grant on Saturday 10-30. The Planting will also celebrate Arbor Day in the City of Davis. More plantings are scheduled. The schedule can be found on the Tree Davis website.
- Staff informed the Commission that the Chapter 37 Tree Ordinance update continues to be revised by the consultant to add the recommendations received and will go through a legal review once the revisions area completed.

- Guenther informed the Commission that Tree Davis planted a tribute tree for Mark Rivera. He also informed the Commission about the Tree Davis Legacy Tree event is happening October 23, from 12-4 at the Shasta Memorial Grove. Robinson added that attendees need to RSVP for the event.
- DeWit acknowledged the slides submitted by Alan Hirsch on the color of trees could be used to show kids the beauty of trees.

4. Public Comment

Two members of the public provided comments:

- Matt Williams - The agenda document link in it does not work cannot use as it is an image and not a functional pdf link
Absolutely fabulous website for fall colors is CAfallcolor.com. It covers the whole state and done by professional photographers with maps and key hot spots of current conditions.
- Alan Hirsch - Welcome to Allen Lowry, nominated by City Council and wonderful addition to the Commission and excited step forward. Beautiful forest, look at the pictures and canopy over the street. Pistachio with great color, neighbor's tree, but now gone.
Pruning is really important. London Plane heal the wounds and the leaves are wonderful. Ginkgo trees are beautiful and pruned better. Be aware of pruning issues. Oak with high canopy. There is a back story to the Urban Forest Management Plan about pruning height of the tree and nice to have high tree canopy and know motives on how to prune trees, careful to watch how we prune trees.

5. Consent Calendar

A. Tree Commission Minutes – September 16, 2021 minutes

B. Tree Removals List (*Informational*)

Motion: Move informational trees, and pull the minutes for a correction pointed out by Commissioner DeWit

Moved by Guenther, seconded by DeWit. The motion passed by the following votes:

Ayes: Walsh, Robinson, Reuter, Cramer, Guenther, DeWit

Noes:

Absent: Gill

September 16, 2021 minutes were corrected for item 7 to add trees to the recommendation language regarding the community outreach effort by the 2x2 subcommittee.

Motion: Move the minutes as corrected.

Moved by Robinson, seconded by DeWit. The motion passed by the following votes:

Ayes: Walsh, Robinson, Reuter, Cramer, Guenther, DeWit

Noes:

Absent: Gill

Public Comment:

One member of the public provided comments:

- Alan Hirsch - In future Tree Commissions as a policy include documents in the minutes and respectful to see who is in attendance of the meeting. Brown Act issue. Need gallery view for the public.

6. Regular Items

A. Street Tree Removal Requests.

The item was introduced by Rob Cain, who provided brief presentations on the requests for a street tree removal.

Location

Tree Species

1. 704 Coolidge Street

Chinese Hackberry

Motion: Follow staff recommendation to retain the tree due to its good health and prune the tree for clearance.

Moved by Guenther, seconded by DeWit. The motion passed 6-0 by the following votes:

Ayes: Cramer, Guenther, DeWit, Reuter, Robinson, Walsh

Noes:

Absent: Gill

2. 1015 Acacia Lane

Silk Tree (2)

Motion: Follow staff recommendation to remove and replace both trees due to decay in the main stem and scaffold branches.

Moved by Guenther, seconded by Reuter. The motion passed 6-0 by the following votes:

Ayes: Cramer, Guenther, DeWit, Reuter, Robinson, Walsh

Noes:

Absent: Gill

3. 440 A Street

Moraine Ash & Holly Oak

Motion: Follow staff recommendation to remove the trees for ADA repair of sidewalks

Moved by Guenther, seconded by DeWit. The motion passed 5-0-1 by the following votes:

Ayes: Cramer, Guenther, Reuter, Robinson, Walsh

Noes:

Abstain: DeWit

Absent: Gill

4. 721 K Street American Elm & Chinese Hackberry

Motion: Follow staff recommendation to retain the Chinese Hackberry tree due to its good health and remove the American Elm due to the decay and continuing limb failures.

Moved by Guenther, seconded by DeWit. The motion passed 6-0 by the following votes:

Ayes: Cramer, Guenther, DeWit, Reuter, Robinson, Walsh

Noes:

Absent: Gill

5. 5424 Cowell Boulevard-Green belt Red Gum

Motion: Follow staff recommendation to retain the tree due to its good health and prune the tree for branch end weight reduction and clearance over the property.

Moved by Guenther, seconded by DeWit. The motion passed 6-0 by the following votes:

Ayes: Cramer, Guenther, DeWit, Reuter, Robinson, Walsh

Noes:

Absent: Gill

6. 602 Angela Street Aristocrat Pear

Motion: Follow staff recommendation to remove the tree, due to mistletoe and Fire Blight throughout the tree, and plant a replacement.

Moved by Guenther, seconded by DeWit. The motion passed 6-0 by the following votes:

Ayes: Cramer, Guenther, DeWit, Reuter, Robinson, Walsh

Noes:

Absent: Gill

B. Davis Innovation and Sustainability Campus 2022 (DiSC 2022)

The item was introduced by Sherri Metzker, who gave a brief overview of the DiSC 2022 project; and introduced the applicant team, which gave a brief presentation describing the project.

After the presentation by the applicant team, the Commission asked clarifying questions which focused on the following:

- While planting the trees in appropriate areas is it possible to put solar arrays over the drainage areas to free up space for parking lot trees? Staff and applicant replied that this may not be allowed under open space and Agricultural buffer zone ordinances.
- With trees being far more than shade and the perceived conflict between solar and shade, how was the assessment for the number of trees planted formulated?
Applicant answered that the assessment as developed by the project Landscape Architect with the conceptual parameters of the project. Applicant was happy to supply the Commission with the assessment for future meetings.
- Is solar going to be put on roof tops for the project
Answer was yes. Development of projects will take roof top solar into consideration in the design process.
- What restrictions if any are over the Agricultural buffer?
Applicant answered that the internal 50 feet can have active recreation and the outer 100 feet should have no activity
How realistic is the conceptual picture? Will the project look as depicted?
Applicant replied that it is an Artist rendering and may not look exact at this juncture of the project.
- For the solar on the project how much energy is expected to be generated for the project footprint?
Applicant replied the project is seeking one hundred percent on-site energy production, but cannot state for certain at this juncture of the project.
- What is the building time out for the project and phasing for the tree planting?
Applicant confirmed a 10-15 year build out and the phasing for the tree planting was still to be determined.
- What is the number of trees committed to in the project
Applicant answered that a range from 600-1200 will be proposed as long as the trees are planted for proper growth and reaching of the mature canopy size.

Public Comment:

Three members of the public provided comments:

- Matt Williams - Not to belabor the subject but I am repeating written comments submitted about a third party Arborist being hired by Urban

Forest and keep the developer at an arm's length relationship with the third party Arborist. This will help with the low expectations since Sutter Davis. Maximize the rooftop solar and locations on the project where trees cannot grow. See my written comments

- Alan Hirsch - Courtesy of the Chair to have more time for equity and more than three minutes. Apparently, the project has changed the transit from inside to outside. Enforcement is the key thing for commitments and should deliver what is promised. Learn from the Steve Bannon lesson of deregulation, which is nice on paper. Sutter EIR not enforced. Staff did not look at it and lost trees and do not care. Target not at 15 years shade or pruned high and no accountability. Public money used for Chevron trees with lack of follow-up of laws. Need release of plans for public to look at. Guarantee a high bond or at least a third party Arborist hired by City and not negotiated with developer. Transparency with reimbursement to the City for Arborist review.
- Eileen Samitz - Thank you for the opportunity to speak and appreciate the Commission. Development Agreements are not worth the paper they are written on but more important are the tree numbers versus the nebulous shade coverage. We need tree numbers defined and in baseline features. Measure J inputs are for a better project and through the baseline features a named number of trees is the only way for enforcement. Importance of trees are the habitat, nesting, cooling, heat island reduction, fine particulate matter absorption, and aesthetics. Disagree with the proponents about the adequate shade in the project. Thank you.

The Commission discussed large scoped recommendations, which focused on the following:

- Enforcement of the project's commitments and baseline features
- Shade coverage requirements versus a defined number of trees planted
- Phasing of tree planting for the project

The Commission agreed to have the subcommittee review the new material and submit recommendations to the full Commission at a Special Meeting on November 4, 2021 with the following action:

Motion: Receive project recommendation from the DiSC2022 subcommittee and finalize at a Special Meeting on November 4, 2021.

Moved by Guenther and seconded by Cramer the motion passed 6-0 by the following votes:

Ayes: Cramer, Guenther, DeWit, Reuter, Robinson, Walsh

Noes:

Absent: Gill

7. Commission and Staff Communication

A. Subcommittee Updates.

Temporary Parking Lot Shade 2x2

The item was introduced by Reuter and DeWit with updates given for the Temporary Parking Lot Shade 2x2.

Discussion also included the following:

- Speaker for the photovoltaic information have been set.

Climate Adaptation and Action Plan (CAAP)

The item was introduced by CAAP liaison Cramer

Discussion also included the following:

- The action items for the plan were pared down to 25 prioritized from the 100 possible action items
- 25 items included one for expanding the Urban Forest with removal and replacement programs for all neighborhoods.

B. Next Meeting Topics.

The item was introduced by Rob Cain

Discussion also included the following:

- Davis Innovation and Sustainability Campus
- Sutter Davis recap

Public Comment:

One member of the public provided comments:

- Alan Hirsch - Thank you and for the next meeting agenda need to hear from the Charter subcommittee and have a Sutter Davis debriefing about what could be done better next time.

8. Adjourn

Motion: To adjourn the Tree Commission meeting at 8:05 p.m.

Moved by Walsh in memory of Dina Gardner, seconded by Guenther. The motion passed by the following votes:

Ayes: Cramer, Guenther Reuter, Robinson, Walsh, DeWit

Noes:

Absent: Gill