



**City of Davis
Tree Commission Minutes
Remote Meeting
Thursday, November 18, 2021
5:30 P.M.**

Commissioners Present: Colin Walsh-Chair, Larry Guenther-Vice-Chair, David Robinson, Jim Cramer, Tony Gill, John Reuter, Tracy DeWit, Allen Lowry (Alternate)

Commissioners Absent: None

Council Liaison(s) Present: None

Staff Present: Stan Gryczko, Director, Public Works Utilities and Operations
Brian Mickelson, Deputy Director
Anna Safford, Interim Urban Forestry Supervisor
Adrienne Heinig, Assistant to the Director
Chelsea Becker, Administrative Aide

Also in Attendance: Alan Hirsch
(names voluntarily provided)

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chairperson Walsh called meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.

2. Approval of Agenda

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

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

Noes:

Absent:

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

- Alternate Commissioner A Lowry was introduced, and he provided a brief background.
- L Guenther mentioned the UCD retirement center has groves available for naming rights with proceeds going to charity. Also commented on an event

- related to the donation of a tribute tree for Mark Rivera on December 4, open to all.
- T DeWit mentioned the 2X2 Parking Lot Shade subcommittee had met with Thomas Miller with UCD regarding upcoming projects related to GIS technologies and felt it might be a good presentation for a future Commission meeting.
 - S Gryczko introduced Anna Safford and Brian Mickelson as staff assisting during the transition in Urban Forestry and recruitment for Urban Forestry Manager. In response to a question about the process for filling the Urban Forestry Management position, S Gryczko indicated that the position should be released within the next few weeks for recruitment. He also indicated that the team met prior to the departure of Rob Cain to review current projects in Urban Forestry, and to determine what can move forward (like the Urban Forest Management Plan) and what might be placed on pause (such as the update to the Tree Ordinance). He indicated updates will be provided at future meetings.
 - C Walsh asked about the status of Commission minutes, specifically regarding the minutes of the special meeting on November 4, 2021. Staff indicated that work is underway on producing the minutes.

4. Public Comment

One member of the public provided comments:

- Alan Hirsch - Requested that gallery view on Zoom be provided for the full meeting. Referred to slides sent to the Recreation and Park Commission on tree pruning practices and quality, and recommended that the City should interrogate low-crowning trees, suggested that the tree appeal process should be clarified in writing (in the past there was no fee, now there is a policy change and fee), documents sent to the Commission should be public, and records should be provided in the agenda or the minutes.

5. Consent Calendar

A. Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP) Update (Informational)

B. Tree Removals List (*Informational*)

L Guenther moved to approve the consent calendar, seconded by J Cramer.

Approved by the following votes:

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

Noes:

Absent:

6. Regular Items

A. Street Tree Removal Requests.

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

Location

Tree Species

1. 869 A Street

Silver Maple

Motion: Follow staff recommendation to remove and replace the tree.

Moved by T DeWit, seconded by L Guenther. Approved by the following votes:

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

Noes:

Absent:

The item was opened for public comment, and one comment was received:

- Alan Hirsch – Stated that he was not surprised the tree is failing, as Silver Maples are susceptible to rot.

2. 512 Jerome Street

Blue Gum

Motion: Follow staff recommendation to remove and replace the tree.

Moved by D Robinson, seconded by L Guenther. Approved by the following votes:

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

Noes:

Absent:

The item was opened for public comment, and one comment was received:

- Alan Hirsch – Stated it should be inventoried as a City tree, wasn't sure if that was done, looked at street views from Lake Blvd. from 2014 and 2020 and didn't see an increase in the lean. Lots of trees do lean, but it doesn't make them unsafe, but would go with staff recommendation.

3. 4338 San Marino

Silver Dollar

Motion: Follow staff recommendation to remove and replace the tree.

Moved by D Robinson, seconded by J Reuter. Approved by the following votes:

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

Noes:

Absent:

The item was opened for public comment, and one comment was received:

- Alan Hirsch – Stated the tree has a typical problem of a co-dominant leaders. Some trees need aggressive pruning to avoid that happening, a seven-year cycle for pruning is too long. The City needs additional resources to take care of the young trees to ensure that they have the longest possible life.

B. Greener Davis Outreach

The item was introduced by C Walsh, who in turn introduced A Heinig to provide a presentation on the outreach prepared by the Public Works Utilities and Operations Department, under the name Greener Davis.

Commission questions and feedback focused on:

- Including information on tree and the urban forest in existing outreach channels, and importance of the focusing messaging on expanding the urban forest by planting trees
- Using gender-neutral pronouns for Professor Davis Green
- Expansion of outreach to children, and to consider requesting that teachers use the information from the Department on units for their classes
- Using outreach material to provide additional noticing of events
- Interest in seeing next “children’s game” (starring Professor Davis Green) focused on trees
- UCD student outreach is important
- General consensus of the commission that the current outreach is very good and kudos to the entire PWUO outreach team.
- In response to a question on how the Commission can aid the effort, A Heinig suggested that offering “Ask Greener Davis” items and ideas for topics of focus is very helpful.

The item was opened for public comment, and one comment was received:

- Alan Hirsch – Stated that the outreach is wonderful material, and education is key for private trees, especially in pruning messaging, as topping hurts trees. Landlord and business outreach would be useful as well. Outreach should include the selection of types of trees (the right tree in the right place), pruning facts (especially in pruning messaging, as topping hurts trees), and should be in other City departments (for example education on the handling of concrete near trees).

7. Commission and Staff Communication

A. Subcommittee Updates.

Liaison to Natural Resources Commission on CAAP Process

J Cramer provided a brief update on his liaison role with the Natural Resources Commission (NRC) discussions around the Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP) process, and expressed his appreciation of the discussion of the NRC and their process to move the CAAP process along. C Walsh indicated that he was encouraged by the wealth of talent Davis has working on the CAAP.

Temporary Parking Lot Shade 2x2

The item was introduced by J Reuter and T DeWit, with updates given on the work so far of the Temporary Parking Lot Shade 2x2, including a staff request to focus of the 2X2 on parking lot/PV installations recommendations for Commission consideration before the end of the year.

Commission comments and feedback focused on:

- Consideration of the energy efficiency of the building, and if a focus on building improvements to maximize energy efficiency could reduce the amount of solar required.
- The installation of solar awnings on south facing buildings and entryways to cool building egress.
- Consideration of alternative places to put solar outside of parking lots.

Meeting Preparation

S Gryczko outlined the process moving forward for check-ins with the Chair and Vice Chair to set meeting agenda, and indicated that the Commission may look to develop a Long Range Calendar to aid in meeting planning.

B. Next Meeting Topics.

The Commission discussed items to include in upcoming meetings. Discussion included the following:

- Including the 2X2 subcommittee on the regular agenda
- Desire to revisit previous determination by Commission on removal of trees at 440 A Street
- Urban Forestry workload and budget
- Quarterly meeting on Greener Davis and outreach topics
- Report on any feedback from press release
- Discussion of role or assistance from Tree Commission in seeking next Urban Forestry Manager
- Updating Landmark Trees on city website

The item was opened for public comment, and one comment was received:

- Alan Hirsch – In the work of the 2x2, an examination of how to include trees in existing parking lots (retrofits), especially around residential areas like apartment complexes, should be on the agenda. Agenda items for the Commission should also include the 2x2, City Council updates (specifically action taken on the Sutter item), 440 A Street tree removal requests (specifically to consider the applicability of ADA concerns for the tree at 440A, how or if the ‘reimagine Russell blvd’ effort would impact the area, other trees that may also be violating ADA requirements, and procedural concerns around noticing).

8. Adjourn

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

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

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

Noes:

Absent: