

Parks and Community Services Department

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**Tree Commission Minutes
Parks and Community Services Department, Building A
1818 Fifth Street
February 15, 2018
5:30 p.m.**

Commissioners Present: Zarah Wyly-Chair, Stacey Parker, Kyle Gayman, David Robinson, Jim Newman-Vice Chair, Dave Fujino

Commissioners Absent: Michael Maulhardt-excused

Assigned Staff: Rob Cain, Urban Forest Manager

Opening Statement

Welcome to the monthly meeting of the City of Davis' Tree Commission.

Members of the Tree Commission are all volunteers and appointed by the Davis City Council.

The Tree Commission provides leadership and guidance to the Urban Forest Manager and to the City Council regarding tree removal and replacement requests.

The Tree Commission provides for the protection, preservation, and enhancement of Davis' urban forest. The Tree Commission is charged to recommend the removal of a City tree on a case-by-case basis for the following reasons:

- Poor health, identifiable diseases, exceedingly slow growth, large scale limb failure and decay;
- Potential for hazardous conditions that are caused by the street tree and cannot be mitigated without the removal of the tree.

The Tree Commission does not have the authority to recommend the removal of a City Tree for its debris, such as leaves, fruit, nuts, pollen, pine cones, needles, etc., nor does it have the authority to recommend the removal of a tree for its potential as an allergen or for solar collector installation per Municipal Code Section 40.38.00. The Tree Commission does not have the authority to remove a tree if it is healthy.

All Tree Commission decisions can be appealed to the City Council for their consideration.

Approval of Agenda:

Motion to approve the agenda was made by Robinson, seconded by Parker

Approved: 6-0

Approval of Minutes: January 18, 2018

Motion to approve the minutes was made by Robinson, seconded by Newman

Approved: 6-0

Commissioner and Staff Comments:

Staff briefed the Commission about the status of Arbor Day planning. Most of the event details are confirmed and the schedule of events is being coordinated. Twelve vendors have confirmed along with The Tree Circus. Arbor Day is Saturday March 17 and will be held from 9-12 in Central Park.

Staff informed the Commission about a structural pruning workshop attended by Urban Forestry staff. The workshop focused on structural pruning of young trees to establish good branching on young trees during the initial establishment period.

Staff informed the Commission about the California Urban Forest Council Learn at Lunch program. The Learn at Lunch program is a lunchtime workshop focused on urban trees and their benefits. Speakers present different topics relating to issues within the urban forestry industry. The program this past month focused on greenspaces and learning. Research presented showed a positive correlation between the amounts of greenspace in and around schools on student's academic performance. The research found students exposed to more greenspace had higher attention spans and improved academic performance.

Public Comments:

Alan Hirsch made the following comments:

He will be meeting with the new Davis School District Facility Director to speak about structural soil use in future school construction projects.

He informed the Commission about the upcoming Future Forums March 8th meeting on health and the built environment.

He suggested staff and the Commission look at the condition of the trees at the Oak Shade Shopping Center. He feels they need better care and oversight.

He will be starting a new e-mail list serve called the Lorax List to spread the word about tree related issues.

Regular Items:

A. Street Tree Removal Requests were discussed with the following actions taken:

Location
1. 2804 DEL MAR PLACE **Tree**
Flowering Pear

Moved by: Robinson
Seconded by: Newman
Motion: Due to the structural defects, remove the tree and plant two suitable replacements in the surrounding neighborhood.

Motion Passed: 6-0

2. 1207 DREXEL DRIVE **Aristocrat Pear**

Moved by: Robinson
Seconded by: Parker
Motion: Due to the declining tree health, remove the tree and plant a replacement.

Motion Passed: 6-0

3. 501 EISENHOWER STREET **English Walnut**

Moved by: Robinson
Seconded by: Parker
Motion: At the applicant's request, withdraw the removal request item from the agenda as they are not sure they would like to see the tree removed at this time.

Motion Passed: 6-0

B. Informational Street Tree Removals:

The following trees were removed due to being in an imminently hazardous condition:

| <u>Location</u> | <u>Tree Species</u> | <u>Reason</u> |
|------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|
| 315 I Street | Little Leaf Linden | Main stem decay |
| 334 I Street | London Plane | Dead tree |
| 340 A Street | London Plane | Dead tree |
| 815 A Street | Modesto Ash | Dead tree |
| 601 D Street | London Plane (3) | Dead tree |
| 603 C Street | London Plane | Dead tree |
| 620 Coolidge Street | Sycamore Maple | Dead tree |
| 731 J Street | Chinese Hackberry | Dead tree |
| 910 Douglass Avenue | Modesto Ash | Root decay fungus |

| <u>Location</u> | <u>Tree Species</u> | <u>Reason</u> |
|-------------------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| 1300 Madrone Place | Zelkova | Main stem failure |
| 1524 Union Drive | Zelkova | Dead tree |
| 1606 Navajo Street | Aristocrat Pear | Dead tree |
| 1711 Lehigh Drive | Modesto Ash | Stem failure |
| 2227 E 8th Street | Moraine Ash | Dead tree |
| 2748 Ottawa Avenue | Moraine Ash | Dead tree |
| Alhambra Drive @ Arroyo | Aristocrat Pear(2) | Dead trees |
| W. Covell Blvd @ J St | Chinese Hackberry(2) | Dead trees |
| Moore Blvd @ Leonardo | Chinese Pistache | Split tree |

C. Chapter 37 Tree Protection, Preservation and Planting Ordinance Update

No updates were given at the meeting.

D. Miller Drive Modesto Ash Removal and Replacements

After discussing the removal and replacement program for the six Modesto Ash trees on Miller Drive, the Commission made the following action:

Moved by: Robinson

Seconded by: Parker

Motion: Per the staff recommendation, remove the Modesto Ash trees and plant replacement trees as detailed in the staff report.

Motion passed: 6-0

Commission and Staff Communications:

A. Topics for next meeting

- 1) Tree Ordinance updates
- 2) City Council appeal guidelines for tree mitigation

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 6:45 pm moved by Parker and seconded by Maulhardt

Next meeting: March 15, 2018

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