

Parks and Community Services Department

23 Russell Boulevard – Davis, California 95616
530/757-5656 - FAX: 530/297-5410 – TDD: 530/757-5666



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

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

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 Gayman with the addition of one emergency agenda item for a City of Davis Urban Greening Grant support letter.

Approved: 7-0

Approval of Minutes: February 15, 2018

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

Approved: 7-0

Commissioner and Staff Comments:

Staff briefed the Commission about the status of Arbor Day planning. The event details and schedule is set. Twelve vendors, The Tree Circus, the Free Range Singers, and the Mobile Library are some of the attractions. Arbor Day is Saturday, March 17 and will be held from 9am-12pm in Central Park.

Staff informed the Commission about the Arbor Day planting which took place Saturday, March 3. Tree Davis and City Staff planted 11 trees on Miller Drive to replace six trees that were removed and filled five open planting sites along the street.

Staff informed the Commission that the Urban Forest Division has two new interns. They will be performing young tree maintenance and watering.

Wyly informed the Commission of the showing a new movie produced by The Sacramento Tree Foundation.

Public Comments:

No public comments were given at the meeting.

Regular Items:

A. City of Davis Urban Greening Grant

Agenda item added on an emergency basis as the grant work started after the agenda had been posted and the grant application is due prior to the April Tree Commission meeting.

The Davis Manor Neighborhood Association is working with the City of Davis to apply for an Urban Greening Grant to install green streets in the neighborhood. This pilot green streets project would redesign some streets to add greenspaces and reduce street sizes. The neighborhood association has created a draft green street master plan with a local architect. The plan would create basins for landscaping and storm water collection.

4. 2416 OAKENSHIELD ROAD Chinese Tallow Tree

Moved by: Maulhardt
Seconded by: Robinson
Motion: Approve Staff to remove the tree due to the unmitigatable root damage. Plant the replacement tree in the area to the east of the remaining Tallow.

Motion Passed: 7-0

5. 3307 TRAWLER PLACE Moraine Ash

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

Motion Passed: 7-0

C. 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>
234 J Street	London plane	PG&E removal

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

No updates were given at the meeting.

E. City Council Appeal Guidelines

The Commission discussed the draft guidelines and recommended that a value and ecosystems benefits approach be applied to mitigating healthy trees approved for removal upon appeal to the City Council. This approach would reduce the tax payer subsidy of removing healthy trees and will capture a portion of the benefits lost when a healthy city tree is removed upon appeal.

The discussion centered on the fact that trees are city assets that increase in value over time and provide important ecosystems benefits to the community.

The agreed upon mitigation formula would require applicants to pay a portion of the appraised value of the tree at a minimum of 10% and pay 10 years-worth of ecosystems benefits to make up for the loss from tree removal. The mitigation would also include the tree removal and replacement tree planting costs.

The Commission made the following action regarding the letter of support:

Moved by: Robinson
Seconded by: parker
Motion: Approve draft guidelines to be presented to Council

Motion Passed: 7-0

Informational Items:

A. Cannery Grade Separated Crossing

Melissa Marshall, Associate Civil Engineer from Public Works gave a presentation on the new grade separated crossing and bike path being constructed along Covell Boulevard and F Street. The crossing is being built as part of the Cannery Subdivision.

Commission and Staff Communications:

The Education Subcommittee updated the Commission on a tree ID tag program on campus and for selected city trees. The tags will be placed on selected downtown and greenbelt trees to show the ecosystems benefits provided by the trees and some other facts about the urban forest.

A. Topics for next meeting

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm moved by Maulhardt and seconded by Robinson.

Next meeting: April 19, 2018

Meeting facilities are accessible to persons with disabilities. Requests for alternative agenda document formats, meeting assisted listening devices or other considerations should be made through Rob Cain by calling (530) 757-5656 extension 7326 (voice) or 757-5666 (TDD). Davis, CA 95616 as soon as possible, and preferably at least 24 hours prior to the meeting.