

Parks and Community Services Department

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**Tree Commission Minutes
Parks and Community Services Department, Building A
1818 Fifth Street
September 20, 2018
5:30 p.m.**

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

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

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

Approved: 6-0

Commissioner and Staff Comments:

Staff informed the Commission that Arbor Day 2019 has been scheduled for Saturday, March 9th in Central Park. The Arbor Day tree planting event will be held Saturday, March 16th with a neighborhood location to be determined.

Staff informed the Commission that the Tree Commission Appeal Mitigation Policy will be heard by City Council at the Tuesday, September 25th meeting.

Staff informed the Commission about the upcoming Urban Forest Division town hall meeting on Tuesday, October 2 at the Senior Center from 6:30-8:30 pm.

Staff informed the Commission that a joint meeting has been scheduled for the November 27th 2018 City Council meeting. The joint meeting is scheduled prior to the regular City Council meeting.

Staff informed the Commission that planting season is getting started; and letters are being sent to residents for replacement tree species choice.

Wyly asked for an update on the St. James Church tree removal mitigation decision.

Public Comments:

No public comments were given at the meeting.

Regular Items:

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

Location

1. 717 Miller Drive

Tree

Modesto Ash

Moved by: Parker

Seconded by: Newman

Motion: Due to the continuing limb failures and decay in the past failure wounds, Remove the tree and plant a replacement.

Motion Passed: 6-0

2. 919 Miller Drive

Moraine Ash

Moved by: Parker

Seconded by: Newman

Motion: Due to the extensive mistletoe and borer infestations, remove the tree and plant a replacement.

Motion Passed: 6-0

3. 2221 Amar Court

Evergreen Pear

Moved by: Parker

Seconded by: Newman

Motion: Due to the continuing limb failures and the planting location on top of the main water line, remove the tree and plant a replacement.

Motion Passed: 6-0

4. 516 E Street

American Elm

Moved by: Parker
Seconded by: Newman

Motion: Due to the poor structure and decaying pruning wounds, remove the tree and plant a replacement.

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>
667 Lessley Place	Modesto Ash	Dead tree

C. Integrated Pest Management Technical Advisory Committee

John McNerney, Public Works Wildlife Resource Specialist, presented the staff report for the proposed Integrated Pest Management Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). The TAC will be an advisory committee to the City Council to help with the integrated pest management (IPM) policy for the City.

Fujino asked what happens with the field oversight for chemical use. Will the TAC be overseeing the field applications?

Fujino asked if a matrix for the IPM program will be created for applications moving forward.

Wyly expressed concerns about emergency situations and the mechanism for using chemical applications for destructive invasive pests like the Emerald Ash borer or the Polyphagous Shot Hole Borer.

Wyly also asked about the incorporation of the city landscape contractors into the IPM program.

Newman commented that the TAC will be good support for the new IPM Specialist position.

D. Downtown

The Commission discussed the Downtown Vision Plan and have the following comments for the plan moving forward:

- 1) **Trees be included in the infrastructure planning and standards for the downtown plan.** The Commission noticed a lack of pre-planning for trees and the space they will need to succeed with the new plan. Undisturbed rooting zone for the existing and new trees is very important to tree health and longevity. Rooting zone should be incorporated into the planning and standards for new construction within the plan area. Tree and planting zone protection should also be included in the planning standards.
- 2) **Lacking tree information in plan surveys.** The Commissioners who completed a survey for the plan noticed a lack of tree questions or information in the survey. The Commission commented that the plan is overlooking the complexity of establishing trees and making space for their mature size. The plan also is overlooking the required space for large shade trees that are shown on conceptual plans for the visioning plan areas.
- 3) **Calculate carbon neutrality and achievements with trees as part of the equation.** Trees provide a number of ecosystems benefits that should be calculated for the downtown plan. The Commission would like to see the benefits included in the overall carbon reduction plan and maintenance funding added to keep the trees healthy to optimize the benefits from the trees. The Commission stated that the trees provide functional benefits for every aspect of the green infrastructure for the downtown plan.
- 4) **The plan should include mature tree retrofits and pre-planning for tree protection.** The Commission wants to ensure the existing downtown shade trees are protected and greater growing space incorporated into the visioning plans to help keep the trees healthy and safe during the transitional building. Special treatments should also be made for the Landmark Trees in the downtown plan area.
- 5) **Master Downtown Tree Plan.** The Commission would like to see a Tree Master Plan completed in conjunction with the visioning plan to plan for tree selection, above and below ground infrastructure for tree growth, and maintenance plans and funding for trees within the plan area.

Informational Items:

No informational items were heard at the meeting.

Commission and Staff Communications:

A. Education Subcommittee

No updates from the subcommittee were given.

B. Topics for next meeting

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 7:00pm moved by Parker and seconded by Gayman

Next meeting: October 18, 2018

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