

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
November 21, 2019
5:30 p.m.**

Commissioners Present: Zarah Wyly-Chair, David Robinson, Larry Guenther, Stacy Parker,
Tracey DeWit, Alternate-Vacant

Assigned Staff: Dale Summersille, Director of Parks and Community Services
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 Guenther.

Approved: 5-0

Approval of Minutes:

Motion to approve the minutes was made by Guenther, seconded by Parker.

Approved: 5-0

Commissioner and Staff Comments:

Staff informed the Commission that 27 trees were planted in the Old East Davis Neighborhood as part of the Prop. 68 grant.

Dale Summersille commented about the upcoming green streets grant application for the Davis Manor Neighborhood.

Staff briefed the Commission on the clean-up progress for the wind storm event.

Public Comments:

Alan Hirsch made the following comments during Public Comments:

- Alan brought in acorns from the Canby Oak in the climate ready tree plot on the UC Davis campus.
- Reported the newly planted trees on the Covell bike path are not planted to City specifications and would like them checked for proper staking.
- Reported a hazard tree on private property at the intersection of 8th St. and Oak Ave.
- Commented that the enforcement sections of the ordinance update are the most important parts of the update.
- Parking lots need to be monitored by the City of Davis or a hired arborist by the City and funded by the developer.
- Urged the Commission to understand how the Downtown Plan, Tree Ordinance, and Form-Based Code work together.

Regular Items:

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

Location

1. 2725 Bernini Street

Tree Species

London Plane

Moved by: Parker

Seconded by: Gayman

Motion: Due to good tree health and no visible surface roots or driveway and front walkway heaving, follow the staff recommendation to retain the tree and prune for building clearance as necessary.

Motion Passed: 5-0

2. 309 Hidalgo Place

Chinese Tallow

Moved by: Wyly

Seconded by: Robinson

Motion: Due to the continuing limb failures, follow the staff recommendation to remove and replace the tree.

Motion Passed: 5-0

3. 1018 Ovejas Avenue

Chinese Pistache

Moved by: Wyly

Seconded by: Robinson

Motion: Due to the recent storm event limb failures, follow the staff recommendation to remove and replace the tree.

Motion Passed: 5-0

4. 2453 Bucklebury Road

Chinese Tallow

Moved by: Wyly

Seconded by: Robinson

Motion: Due to the stem decay and declining health, follow the staff recommendation to remove and replace the tree.

Motion Passed: 5-0

5. 303 Avocet Avenue

Japanese Zelkova (2)

Moved by: Parker
Seconded by: Guenther
Motion: Due to the good health of the trees, follow the staff recommendation to retain the trees and prune for structure.

Motion Passed: 5-0

6. 714 Pamplona Avenue

Chinese Hackberry

Moved by: Robinson
Seconded by: DeWit
Motion: Due to the declining tree health, follow the staff recommendation to remove and replace the tree.

Motion Passed: 5-0

7. 5147 Glide Drive

Valley Oak

Moved by: Parker
Seconded by: Robinson
Motion: Due to the electrical line clearance and lopsided growth of the tree, follow the staff recommendation to remove and plant two Valley Oaks as replacements.

Motion Passed: 5-0

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>
2200 Lassen Place Greenbelt	Weeping Willow	Wind storm failure
2742 Cumberland Place	Aleppo Pine	Wind storm failure
1622 Rio Grande Street	Aristocrat Pear	Wind storm failure
1717 Westshore Street	Purple Robe Locust	Wind storm failure
1818 Sycamore Lane	African Sumac	Wind storm failure
59 College Park	Chinese Pistache	Wind storm failure
535 Oak Avenue	Chinese Pistache	Wind storm failure
250 Diablo Avenue	Chinese Pistache	Wind storm failure
245 Diablo Avenue	Chinese Pistache	Wind storm failure
420 Lago Place	Aristocrat Pear	Wind storm failure
2612 Calder Court	Chinese Elm	Wind storm failure
636 B Street	American Elm	Wind storm failure

636 Miller Drive	Modesto Ash	Wind storm failure
515 C Street	Modesto Ash	Wind storm failure
801 Miller Drive	Modesto Ash	Wind storm failure
842 Oak Avenue	Modesto Ash	Wind storm failure
729 L Street	Modesto Ash	Wind storm failure
738 L Street	Modesto Ash	Wind storm failure
730 J Street	Modesto Ash (2)	Wind storm failure
710 J Street	Chinese Hackberry	Wind storm failure
1715 Chapman Place	Chinese Pistache	Wind storm failure
946 Chestnut Lane	Chinese Elm	Wind storm failure
2762 Belmont Drive	Texas Umbrella Tree	Wind storm failure
2631 Blackburn Drive	Chinese Pistache	Wind storm failure
4222 Vistosa Street	Aristocrat Pear	Wind storm failure
3616 Arroyo Avenue	Aristocrat Pear	Wind storm failure
3532 Arroyo Avenue	Frontier Elm	Wind storm failure
1205 Villaverde Lane Greenbelt	Valley Oak	Wind storm failure
3306 La Playa Greenbelt	Aristocrat Pear	Wind storm failure
903 Lucena Court	Aristocrat Pear	Wind storm failure

C. Tree Ordinance Update

The Commission discussed the progress of the ordinance update and agreed to review the final updated draft and proposed reformatted outline for the December Tree Commission meeting.

Two members, John Johnston and Hannah Safford, of the Natural Resources Commission (NRC) came to the meeting to relay information to the Tree Commission regarding the Cool Parking Lot document developed by the Natural Resources Commission. During public comment the commissioners made the following comments:

- The NRC has a greenhouse gas subcommittee looking into large parking lots in the future.
- They are following the City Council directive for the declared climate action emergency.
- The NRC wants to put forth a holistic approach to the designs of the parking lots for incorporation of the suggestions in the cool parking lot proposal.
- The NRC is proposing the addition of solar canopies as part of the shade calculations.
- The NRC is not proposing to replace trees with solar canopies in the parking lots for shading.
- The NRC is seeking to exchange information and to partner with the Tree Commission to help with the parking lot shade guidelines in the updated Tree Ordinance.

Commissioner Wyly commented that this is a good time to evaluate the Cool Parking Lot documents and possible incorporation into the updated Ordinance.

Both commissions may draft a resolution to form a 2x2 committee to work on the parking lot guidelines during the ordinance update.

D. Shasta Memorial Grove MOU for Tree Davis

The Commission reviewed the proposed tree grove plan and approved the updates and turf conversions to make more room for tree planting and habitat improvements through planting native and drought tolerant trees and shrubs.

E. Davis Downtown Plan

The Commission agreed to review the plan and form-based code plans and to bring comments to the December 19, 2019 Commission meeting.

Commission and Staff Communications:

A. Education Subcommittee

The Subcommittee has been disbanded until further notice.

B. Topics for Next Meeting

- 1) Downtown Plan
- 2) Tree ordinance review of the Cool Parking Lot proposal

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm; moved by Parker and seconded by DeWit.

Next Meeting: December 19, 2019

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.