

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
December 19, 2019
5:30 p.m.**

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

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 Guenther.

Approved: 5-0

Approval of Minutes:

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

Approved: 5-0

Commissioner and Staff Comments:

Guenther informed the Commission that the recent Cool Davis meeting mentioned that trees should be a part of the Downtown Davis Plan.

Guenther also informed the Commission that Tree Davis planted trees at the Police Department for an Officer Corona memorial area.

Staff informed the Commission about the memorial planting and that City of Davis employees in conjunction with Tree Davis, planted 17 trees for the memorial area and the greenbelt across the street.

Staff informed the Commission that the Urban Forest Supervisor position has been filled by Justis Nichols who previously held the Urban Forest Technician position at the City of Davis. The City has put out a recruitment for the vacated Urban Forest Technician position.

Dale Sumersille informed the Commission that the Recreation and Park Commission had approved of the Tree Davis Shasta memorial plan to renovate areas for larger tree planting areas.

Public Comments:

Alan Hirsch made the following public comments:

- Suggested the Tree Commission request to review the University Commons project due to 80 trees proposed for removal.
- Alan attends the City Council meetings to point out the problems in Urban Forestry and the lack of resources for the division.
- 2020 is the year of the tree and the Tree Commission should ask for the budget and work plan for the Urban Forestry Division.

Regular Items:

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

Location

Tree Species

1. 4128 Vista Way

Moraine Ash

Moved by: Robinson

Seconded by: Parker

Motion: Due to the extensive mistletoe infestation, remove the tree and plant a replacement tree. The replacement tree shall be planted further east of the utilities near the existing tree.

Motion Passed: 5-0

2. 1320 Caceres Court

Chinese Tallow

Moved by: Guenther

Seconded by: Robinson

Motion: Due to the root cutting, root decay, and poor tree health, remove the tree and plant a replacement tree.

Motion Passed: 5-0

3. 832 L Street

Modesto Ash

Moved by: Guenther

Seconded by: Robinson

Motion: Due to the numerous areas of decay, remove the tree and plant a replacement.

Motion Passed: 5-0

4. 2413 Elendil Lane

Chinese Tallow

Moved by: Parker

Seconded by: Guenther

Motion: Due to the poor structure left from storm damage and being a known problematic tree species for the subdivision, remove the tree and plant a replacement. Replacement species requested by property owner is a Ginkgo Tree.

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>
No trees were removed due to imminently hazardous conditions.		

C. Davis Downtown Plan

Alan Hirsch submitted written comments to the Tree Commission during the public comment period for this item.

Alan also made the following public comments:

- The Form-Based Code should point to tree standards outlined in a technical manual document.
- Downtown Code needs inspections of tree plantings for validation of adherence to City codes and standards.
- Code needs to contain enforcement of violations and penalties should be greater than compliance to ensure adherence to standards.
- Trees need to be called out in a stand-alone section of the Downtown Plan that outlines how the plan will ensure the success of the downtown trees. The section should also outline the benefits of the trees beyond the energy savings.

Robinson commented that trees are not an easy self-replacing system, especially with the existing canopy in the downtown area. It will not easily be replaced and should be looked at as a legacy project to protect, preserve, and increase the tree canopy in the downtown area.

DeWit commented that the plan mentions all the facets tied to trees, but does not mention the trees themselves in the plan.

Parker commented that a downtown plan should spell out planting and tree care for the trees in the downtown area.

Parker suggested a ticket for violations of removing or not replanting trees tied to building permits; i.e. open planting pits and a time frame for replacing trees.

Parker also suggested bonding for tree replacements and a letter to the Tree Commission upon completion of tree replanting.

The Commission would like to see the following added to the form-based code document:

- Tree protection measures for downtown trees
- Place making for tree retention in open planting sites
- Trees inserted into the planning flow chart to ensure the existing trees are not overlooked during the review and project design process
- Water quality testing and monitoring to ensure the gray water that is proposed to water the downtown trees is suitable for landscape use

The Commission will be drafting a letter with comments to submit for the Downtown Davis Plan and Form-Based Code document.

D. Tree Ordinance Update

The Commission tabled this item to the January 16, 2020.

Commission and Staff Communications:

A. Proposition 68 Grant Update

B. Topics for Next Meeting

- 1) Cool Parking Lot document review
- 2) Tree Ordinance updates
- 3) Urban Forest budget

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.; moved by DeWit and seconded by Guenther.

Next Meeting: January 16, 2020

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