

**Parks and Community Services Department**

23 Russell Boulevard – Davis, California 95616  
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**Tree Commission Minutes  
Parks and Community Services Department, Building A  
1818 Fifth Street  
January 16, 2020  
5:30 p.m.**

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

Council Liaison Present: Gloria Partida

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: 4-0

**Approval of Minutes:**

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

Approved: 4-0

**Commissioner and Staff Comments:**

Guenther informed the commission that Tree Davis has submitted comments for the Downtown Davis Plan.

Guenther informed the commission that the Shasta Memorial Grove Memorandum of Understanding was approved by City Council and Tree Davis will be working with city staff to move forward with the improvements to the grove.

Wyly informed the commission that the Davis Manor neighborhood did not receive grant funding for the storm water upgrades to the subdivision. The neighborhood plans to resubmit the proposal during the next grant cycle.

City Council Liaison Gloria Partida introduced herself to the commission and stated she is interested in the appointment and to learn more about the urban forest.

**Public Comments:**

Alan Hirsch made the following comments to the commission:

The new owners of the house at the northeast corner of 8<sup>th</sup> Street and Oak are aware of the Willow tree's condition in the front yard.

The Davis Futures Forum talk about suspended pavement treatments for root zones continues to be in the planning stages.

He is glad to see Gloria Partida as the City Council Liaison to the Tree Commission.

**Regular Items:**

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

- | <b><u>Location</u></b>      | <b><u>Tree Species</u></b>  |
|-----------------------------|---|
| <b>1. 809 Marina Circle</b> | <b>Deodar Cedar</b>   |
| Moved by: Guenther          |   |
| Seconded by: Robinson       |   |
| Motion:                     | Due to partial uprooting of the tree and any root pruning of the tree to prevent foundation damage would leave the tree unstable. Follow the staff recommendation to remove and replace the tree. |
| Motion Passed:              | 3-1; Wyly nay   |
| <b>2. 209 Avocet Avenue</b> | <b>Aristocrat Pear</b>  |
| Moved by: Robinson          |   |
| Seconded by: Parker         |   |
| Motion:                     | Due to the extensive Fire Blight infestation and continuing limb failures, remove the tree and plant a replacement tree.  |
| Motion Passed:              | 4-0   |
| <b>3. 3843 Alegre Way</b>   | <b>Aristocrat Pear</b>  |
| Moved by: Robinson          |   |
| Seconded by: Parker         |   |
| Motion:                     | Due to the continued limb failures and stem decay, remove the tree and plant a replacement tree.  |
| Motion Passed:              | 4-0   |
| <b>4. 4054 Vista Way</b>    | <b>Moraine Ash</b>  |
| Moved by: Robinson          |   |
| Seconded by: Guenther       |   |
| Motion:                     | Due to the extensive mistletoe infestation, remove the tree and plant a replacement tree.   |
| Motion Passed:              | 4-0   |

**Location**  
**5. 232 E Street**

**Tree Species**  
**Aristocrat Pear**

Moved by: Robinson  
Seconded by: Guenther  
Motion: Table the tree until more information about the drain and hardscape design can be submitted to the Tree Commission.

Motion Passed: 4-0

**B. Informational Street Tree Removals**

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

<b><u>Location</u></b>	<b><u>Tree Species</u></b>	<b><u>Reason</u></b>
No trees were removed due to imminently hazardous conditions.		

**C. Tree Ordinance Update-Cool Parking Lot Proposal**

The commission reviewed the proposal prepared by the Natural Resources Commission subcommittee on greenhouse gas reduction.

Guenther commented that he likes the idea of a 2x2 meeting with the subcommittee and the Tree Commission for working through the suggestions in the proposal.

Gunther would like to see a more successful implementation of parking lot tree plantings and establishment. He would like to see more successful enforcement of the ordinance for parking lot shading.

Guenther suggested looking at a 50% at 15 year shade and 50% solar cover for parking lots.

Parker commented that offsets for solar tend to pit trees and solar power against one another.

Parker commented that trees provide other varied benefits that solar canopies cannot provide.

Parker commented that trees are easily overlooked in the design and development process.

Guenther commented that solar panels are most effective on day one of the installation and decrease in value; whereas, trees increase in value over time. He also thought roof space can be used for solar.

Wyly commented that trees in existing lots need to be evaluated and upgraded if necessary and a process for those upgrades needs to be discussed.

Wyly will respond to the Natural Resource Commission with Tree Commission comments and inquiry about a joint meeting with the Tree Commission to discuss possible compromises and next steps as the Tree Ordinance update moves forward.

**Commission and Staff Communications:**

**A. Proposition 68 Grant Update**

**B. Topics for Next Meeting**

- 1) Bretton Woods subdivision
- 2) Cool Parking Lot Proposal
- 3) Budget

**Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.; moved by Parker and seconded by Guenther.

**Next Meeting: February 20, 2020**

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