

Parks and Community Services Department

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**Tree Commission Minutes
Parks and Community Services Department, Building A
1818 Fifth Street
February 20, 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 Guenther, seconded by Parker.

Approved: 4-0

Approval of Minutes:

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

Approved: 4-0

Commissioner and Staff Comments:

Director Summersille briefed the Commission on the Urban Forest and Tree Davis presentation to the Recreation and Parks Commission. The presentation overviewed the Urban Forestry Program and the Community Canopy tree planting program being funded by a Prop. 68/Cal Fire grant.

Wyly commented that the Community Canopy tree planting in the Davis Manor neighborhood went well and the new trees are great additions to the neighborhood.

Guenther commented that the Great Tree Search is open again. The Tree Davis program asks for citizens to find and sign-up great trees in Davis.

Staff informed the Commission that the Tree Ordinance update Request For Proposals is out and proposals are due back by March 13, 2020.

Staff informed the Commission the new Urban Forest Technician Anna McAuley has started.

Staff informed the Commission about the upcoming Davis Future Forum meeting about root zone treatments under paving.

Public Comments:

Alan Hirsch made the following comments:

He is excited about the Davis Future Forum meeting.

He has commented to the City Council about the tree protection zones for construction projects being removed.

He commented that the developer of the Aggie Research Center has promised him that they will use structural soil in the parking lots of the project.

Regular Items:

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

Location

1. 431 Del Oro Avenue

Tree Species

Chinese Tallow

Moved by: Robinson

Seconded by: DeWit

Motion: As the tree is planted on top of utilities, follow the staff recommendation to remove and replace the tree. The replacement trees is to be planted in the nearby greenbelt area if the utilities' location prohibit replanting on-site.

Motion Passed: 5-0; Wyly

2. 1405 Birch Lane

Glossy Privet

Moved by: Guenther

Seconded by: Robinson

Motion: Due to the invasiveness of the tree species and as the tree is planted on top of the water line, follow the staff recommendation to remove and replace the tree.

Motion Passed: 5-0

3. 4031 Vista Way

Moraine Ash

Moved by: Parker

Seconded by: Guenther

Motion: Due to the extensive mistletoe infestation, follow the staff recommendation to remove and replace the 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>
1121 4 th Street	Silver Maple	Large limb failure
1428 Tulane Drive	Silk Tree	Decay in main stem
2506 Rockwell Drive	Aristocrat Pear	Limb failure
525 C Street	Modesto Ash	Decay and limb failure
315 9 th Street	Chinese Hackberry (2)	Severely declining
Regatta Lane greenbelt entry	Aristocrat Pear (7)	Fire Blight
2318 Shire Lane	Chinese Tallow	Limb failures

C. Landmark Tree Designation

The Commission approved moving a recommendation to City Council to designate the Paradox Walnut Tree at 317 E. 8th Street a Landmark Tree in Davis.

Moved by: Guenther
Seconded by: Parker
Motion: Approve a recommendation to City Council to make the Paradox Walnut at 371 E. 8th Street a Landmark Tree within Davis.
Motion Passed: 5-0

D. Cool Parking Lot Proposal

The Commission discussed the proposal from the Natural Resources Commission and will craft a response to the Commission.

The Commission agreed with the suggestions to improve the parking lot growing conditions for better tree health.

Wyly suggested this could be a student project to research the best treatments for tree growth.

Parker commented that parking lots with only solar arrays appear bleak and to look for alternate areas to put solar.

Public Comment for item:

Alan Hirsch commented that there are some great ideas in the proposal and that an enforcement section be put into the guidelines with some stiff penalties for non-compliance.

E. Tree Commission Elections

The Commission voted to make Larry Guenther the new Chair of the Commission and Zarah Wyly the Vice-Chair.

Commission and Staff Communications:

A. Proposition 68 Grant Update

To date 161 trees have been planted through the Community Canopy planting program. Planting events will continue through April, possibly through May, depending on rain.

B. Topics for Next Meeting

- 1) Aggie Research Center project

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

Next Meeting: March 19, 2020

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