



City of Davis
Tree Commission Special Meeting Minutes
Remote Meeting
Thursday, August 5, 2021
5:30 P.M.

Commissioners Present: Colin Walsh-Chair, Larry Guenther-Vice-Chair, David Robinson
Tracy DeWit, Jim Cramer, John Reuter, Tony Gill

Commissioner(s) Absent:

Council Liaison(s) Present: Will Arnold

Staff Present: Stan Gryczko, Director of Public Works Utilities & Operations
Rob Cain, Urban Forest Manager

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chairperson Walsh called meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

2. Approval of Agenda

Guenther moved to approve the agenda/agenda as revised, seconded by Cramer.

Approved by the following votes:

Ayes: Reuter, Robinson, Cramer, Gill, Guenther, DeWit, Walsh

Noes: none

Absent: none

3. Public Comment

One member of the public provided comment/s.

- NAME: Alan Hirsch
- Presented slides and commented that the Planning Commission showed slides at one-quarter the size and other presenters; they have been privileged with full-sized slides. Welcome Tony. With presentation to City Council need to sell importance of trees and they are not taken as important as housing, development, and police reform. Trees define our common space. Begin presentation with tree porn with good streets and bad streets with trees and social equity piece. Begin with the Tree Commission role, largely invisible for past ten years there have been no minutes to Council, page numbers, and no feedback from Council, and be just like the Rec and Park Commission to look at Urban Forestry.

Ask for big picture items as John has asked. No visibility to development and Rob forced into over promising and under delivering. Put spotlight on pruning measures; someone killed by city tree. Drought conditions slowly killing trees

and is a public health issue for our trees. Urban Forestry is broken and missed deadlines and need to support Rob. Tree Davis can help on policy and key issues. Let Tree Commission help Council on trees. Culture eats strategy for breakfast. New ordinance and new management plan will not work without changing culture and a more active Commission. Tree Davis more involved and key to getting this solved. Doing God's work for the trees.

4. Regular Items

A. City Council and Tree Commission Joint Discussion Meeting

The item was introduced by staff. Rob gave a brief overview of the slides for use during the Commission presentation to Council. The slides presented the Commission charter and roles, highlights of accomplished work over the past year, on-going project, and upcoming projects for the Commission.

Discussion also included the following:

- Adding the advisory role of the Tree Commission to the Council on tree related issues to the charter slide.
- Future role of the Commission. Not only to inform Council but to educate the community as well.
- Should scope of the Commission be expanded and more proactive in seeking what Council needs advisement on for tree related topics?
- What projects should be reviewed by the Commission to give technical input to Council.
- Commission should have clear work plan items and a vision of where the Commission can help with urban forest related issues.
- Setting criteria for Commission review of projects. Role defined in two places: Chapter 37 of the Municipal Code and the establishing charter.
- Should the Tree Commission change its name to Urban Forest Commission and update the charter to reflect expanding role.
- Add scope revision to the items to discuss with Council
- Tree Commission's over all view of the Urban Forest program and areas of support to give. For example on enforcement of development projects to help a small Urban Forest department with limited bandwidth.
- Add a presentation of the Parking Lot Shade 2x2 subcommittee to update the Council on the progress of the subcommittee.
- Work plan items overview discussed.

- Noticing for new homeowners that they may have a City tree on the property and education materials for tree care.
Staff replied that a mailer about the City trees is being developed to send to new property owners within 30 days of occupancy.

- Updating of the Landmark Tree program and get them mapped for web site.

Motion: Open public comment for the item.

Amendment by Walsh to take public comment at the end of the meeting

Moved by Guenther, seconded by Reuter. The motion passed by the following votes:

Ayes: Robinson, Gill, Guenther, Reuter, Cramer, DeWit, Walsh

Noes: none

Absent: none

- Staff commented that the discussion was good and with the work plan suggests the Commission focus on the broader 4-5 ideas, which will lead into the work plan and can steer this at the next commission meeting on August 19.
- Council Member Arnold commented that the work plan is not a large focus of the discussion

The item was opened for public comment, and one public comment was received:

- NAME: Alan Hirsch
Wonderful conversation and metrics are good per Guenther and need to show how important trees are and show some pictures and sell how the importance of trees and need of public education. Focus on what commission can do best. Like Strawberry jam the wider you spread it the thinner it gets. Policy issues need focus for maintenance and there is a gap. Tree Davis can do education. I looked at nine years of Commission meetings and have report on Commission starting education projects and nothing happens. Complaints called in and nothing happens nothing wrong with mechanisms of Urban Forestry, but focus on policy and management. Smaller work plan needed and the metrics area a start. Doing God's work. God can plant a tree but you need to maintain it.

5. Adjourn

Motion: To adjourn the Tree Commission meeting at 7:15 p.m.

Moved by Guenther, seconded by DeWit. The motion passed by the following votes:

Ayes: Robinson, Reuter, Guenther, DeWit, Gill, Walsh

Noes:

Absent: Cramer