



**City of Davis
Tree Commission Minutes
Remote Meeting
Thursday, September 16, 2021
5:30 P.M.**

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

Council Liaison(s) Will Arnold
Absent:

Staff Present: Rob Cain, Urban Forest Manager

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chairperson Walsh called meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

2. Approval of Agenda

Cramer moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Reuter. Approved by the following votes:

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

Noes:

Absent: Walsh

3. Brief Announcements from Staff, Commission Members, and City Council Members

- Commissioner Gill gave a brief introduction for himself as he is new to the Commission
- Commissioner DeWit announced a Tree Davis bike tour on September 25th.
- Commissioner Robinson mentioned that he has noticed a lot of stress in the trees due to the drought and cessation of watering from residents
- Staff informed the Commission on the Reimagine Russell Boulevard project workshop being held October 6, 2021 at 5:30 p.m.
- Staff informed the Commission regarding a follow up meeting with Davey Resource Group to review an updated scope of work.

- Staff informed the Commission regarding upcoming Tree Davis Plantings for the Cal Fire Proposition 68 grant. Plantings will be held October 9 at the Explorit Science Center, October 30 at Community Park, November 6 at Mace Ranch Park, and November 20 at the Lake Alhambra bike path area.

4. Public Comment

No public comment was received at the meeting

5. Consent Calendar

A. Tree Commission Minutes – August 5 and August 19, 2021 minutes

B. Tree Removals List (Informational)

Motion: Move consent items

Moved by Walsh, seconded by Cramer. The motion passed by the following votes:

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

Noes:

Absent:

6. Regular Items

A. Street Tree Removal Requests.

The item was introduced by Rob Cain, who provided a brief presentation on the request for a street tree removal.

Location

Tree Species

1. 102 Huerta Place

Aleppo Pine

Motion: Follow staff recommendation to remove and replace the tree due the tree being planted on top of utilities.

Moved by Robinson, seconded by Guenther. The motion passed 6-1 by the following votes:

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

Noes: DeWit

Absent:

B. Climate Adaptation and Action Plan (CAAP)

The item was introduced by Rob Cain (in place of another staffperson unable to attend the meeting), who gave a brief overview of the CAAP progress report submitted to the Commission and informed commissioners of the upcoming Natural Resources Commission discussion on the project.

Discussion also included the following:

- The nature of the items prioritized in the top 25 list
- The background of the 2010 plan being updated.

The item was opened for public comment:

No public comment was received for the item.

The Commission took no action on the item.

C. Sutter Solar Project Letter

The item was introduced by Larry Guenther, Vice-Chair. The Commission heard a report from the recommendation letter subcommittee and finalized the letter for submission as a communication item to City Council.

Discussion included the following:

- Large projects with tree removals involved are not coming before the Commission
- The City process for tree removals and if the process should be changed
- The amount of mature trees being removed from projects and the replacement with small trees
- Tree Modification Permit use and process for non-city trees
- Focus of letter being more towards the impact of the tree loss and climate change impacts
- Differences in the Tree Modification Permit and Tree Removal Request
- Written media pieces to discuss the environmental benefits of trees

The item was opened for public comment:

No public comment was taken for the item.

The Commission took the following action on the item:

Motion: Adopt the Sutter letter as edited and send to City Council as soon as possible.

Moved by Robinson, seconded by Reuter. The motion passed 7-0 by the following votes:

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

Noes:

Absent:

D. Tree Commission Charter

The item was introduced by Colin Walsh, Chair and the Commission discussed changes to the Charter and resolution of the Tree Commission.

Discussion included the following:

- Proposed name change for the Commission from *Tree Commission* to the *Urban Forest Commission*
- Update needed for the Commission to come up with present-day issues
- Overlap of an expanded charge with other commissions that may deal with tree issues

The item was opened for public comment:

No public comment was received for the item

The Commission took the following action on the item:

Motion: Recommend a subcommittee of three members to research the name change and updates to the Commission charter. Members of the subcommittee will be Robinson, Walsh, and Guenther

Moved by Guenther, seconded by Cramer. The motion passed 7-0 by the following votes:

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

Noes:

Absent:

E. Davis Innovation and Sustainability Campus (DISC)

The item was introduced by Colin Walsh, Chair. The Commission discussed the formation of a subcommittee to review the project materials and develop recommendations from the Tree Commission for the project.

Discussion included the following:

- Commission inquired whether a project presentation would be delivered to the Commission
- Reviewing the previous comments from the Commission on the last project submittal
- Subcommittee members and duties of the subcommittee

The item was opened for public comment:
No public comment was taken for this item

The Commission took the following action on the item:

Motion: Form a subcommittee to look at DISC 22 and develop recommendations from the Tree Commission for the project with members of Walsh, DeWit, and Reuter

Moved by Guenther, seconded by Robinson. The motion passed 7-0 by the following votes:

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

Noes:

Absent:

Motion: Form a subcommittee to write recommendation letter and add members Guenther, Gill, and Cramer

Moved by Guenther, seconded by Walsh. The Motion passed 6-0 by the following votes:

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

Noes:

Absent: DeWit

7. Commission and Staff Communication

A. Subcommittee Updates.

The item was introduced by Reuter and DeWit with updates given for the Temporary Parking Lot Shade 2x2.

Discussion also included the following:

- Developing a community outreach for trees and solar recommendations
- Photovoltaic discussion coming soon

B. Next Meeting Topics.

The item was introduced by Rob Cain

Discussion also included the following:

- Davis Innovation and Sustainability Campus
- Commission work plan
- Davey updated Urban Forest Management Plan outreach plan
- Putah Creek Preserve

8. Adjourn

Motion: To adjourn the Tree Commission meeting at 8:05 p.m.

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

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

Noes:

Absent: