



City of Davis

Tree Commission Meeting Minutes

Community Chambers Conference Room, 23 Russell Boulevard, Davis CA 95616

Thursday, March 16, 2023

5:30 P.M.

Commissioners Present: John Reuter-Chair, Colin Walsh-Vice Chair, Jim Cramer, Ann Daniel, Larry Guenther

Commissioners Absent: None

Staff Present: Charlie Murphy, Urban Forestry Manager
Jeremy Ferguson, Deputy Director
Adrienne Heinig, Assistant to the Director

Also in Attendance: Torin Dunnivant, Steve Handy
(names voluntarily provided)

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chairperson Walsh called meeting to order at 5:33 p.m.

2. Approval of Agenda

L Guenther moved to approve the agenda, seconded by J Cramer. Approved by the following votes:

Ayes: Reuter, Walsh, Cramer, Daniel, Guenther

Noes:

Absent:

3. Public Comment

One public comment was received:

- Torin Dunnivant: introduced himself as the new executive director of Tree Davis. He indicated that there were a lot of great ideas at Tree Davis for the coming years, and that there is appreciation for the partnership with the City.

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

- C Murphy reminded the Commission that the Urban Forest Management Plan draft would be before City Council for adoption on March 21, and for approval to submit to CAL FIRE. He reiterated that the approval of the Plan was “step one,” and that work would start with the Commission to figure out implementation and next steps, heavily dependent on the staffing and resource allocations from Council.

- C Walsh stated that the City is taking applications for all commissions, and encouraged everyone to think of folks that would interested in becoming involved. He reminded the Commission that applications would be due by the end of March.
- J Reuter had two announcements:
 - Allen Lowry left the Commission, with his last meeting on February 16. A Lowry was thanked for his work on the Commission.
 - In taking over the role of Chair of the Commission, he thanked C Walsh and L Guenther for their work as Chair and Vice Chair.
- A Heinig informed the Commission that based on Council direction from February 7, 2023, the meeting would include testing recording equipment for an upcoming report to Council on the possibilities of continuing to record commission meetings.

5. Consent Calendar

A. ~~Tree Commission Special Meeting Minutes – February 8, 2023~~

B. Informational Tree Removals List

Prior to the approval of the consent calendar, Item 5A was pulled and tabled for the next meeting. C Walsh moved to approve the revised consent calendar, seconded by L Guenther. Approved by the following votes:

Ayes: Reuter, Walsh, Cramer, Daniel, Guenther

Noes:

Absent:

6. Regular Items

A. Street Tree Removal Requests.

The item was introduced by Charlie Murphy, the City's Urban Forestry Manager, who provided brief presentations on the requests for a street tree removal.

<u>Location</u>	<u>Tree Species</u>
1. 2742 Montefrio Lane	Valley Oak

Motion: Follow staff recommendation to retain and monitor the tree.

Moved by L Guenther, seconded by A Daniel. Approved by the following votes:

Ayes: Reuter, Walsh, Cramer, Daniel, Guenther

Noes:

Absent:

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

- Did not state name: Noted that the discussion prior to the review of the tree noted what the Commission can or cannot do, and was surprised that tree damage was not something to be considered. He stated the tree is very large with branches hang over his daughter's room, and the tree is damaging property (garage, driveway, irrigation system, gutters). He asked the commission when damage would be a consideration.

<u>Location</u>	<u>Tree Species</u>
2. 2814 Belhaven Place	Canary Island Pine

Motion: Follow staff recommendation to retain and monitor the tree.

Moved by L Guenther, seconded by J Cramer. Approved by the following votes:

Ayes: Reuter, Walsh, Cramer, Daniel, Guenther

Noes:

Absent:

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

- Steve Handy - stated that he lived next door to the tree, and said it was healthy, but that it has damaged cars. He said the property owner does not park their vehicle in the driveway due to the tree, and it should be removed as a public nuisance. He stated that limbs dropping off the tree had damaged a community fence, and that the retention of the tree is not worth the risk, as the benefits no longer outweigh the liabilities. He said his daughter almost was hit by a pine cone, and asked who should manage debris from a City tree. He closed by indicating that he wanted to re-landscape his front yard but would not due to the pine needles.

<u>Location</u>	<u>Tree Species</u>
3. 3029 Donato Lane	Moraine Ash

Motion: Follow staff recommendation to retain and monitor the tree.

Moved by L Guenther, seconded by C Walsh. Approved by the following votes:

Ayes: Reuter, Walsh, Cramer, Daniel, Guenther

Noes:

Absent:

No public comment was received on this item.

Location

4. 5308 Marden Street

Tree Species

Chinese Flame Tree

Motion: To table the decision of on the tree removal request to the next meeting, and ask staff to further investigate whether or not the tree is a City tree.

Moved by L Guenther, seconded by A Daniel. Approved by the following votes:

Ayes: Reuter, Walsh, Cramer, Daniel, Guenther

Noes:

Absent:

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

- Golam - stated he was the owner of the property. He outlined the damage to the driveway of the property, and indicated the request to remove the tree was prompted by three things: 1) damage to the driveway, which is getting worse; 2) a letter from the homeowners insurance company stating that the branches from the tree are overhanging the roof and are too close to the chimney, and 3) the mess that is created by the tree on both sides of the driveway. He stated that with the damage the tree would have to be removed.
- Did not provide name - neighbor of the tree under consideration, said that former City employee Dave Reefer indicated the tree was not a City tree. Dave had indicated that he planted the tree in 1999, and the City tree is a different tree in the front yard of the property. Indicated willingness to provide contacts to verify the planting. Stated that the tree is a nuisance, and prevented widening their driveway to allow for additional car space with concrete.

The Commission recessed from 6:50 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

B. Meetings in Person: Changes to Meeting Process, Review of Date and Time of Meetings.

The item was opened by A Heinig, who outlined the memo prided in the meeting packet outlining changes in the meeting process, based on meeting in person, updates to the City's commission agenda template, and the proposal that the Commission adjust the regular meeting date to allow for the meetings to take place in the City's Community Chambers. She indicated the former meeting space for the Commission was no longer an option on the third Thursday of the month, but the Senior Center would be open for that meeting day.

Commission discussion included the following:

- Support for shifting meeting location to the Chambers, to ensure that there is ample space for number of people in attendance versus the space available in the conference room.
- That the recorded meetings should be continued, as people have indicated that they value the accessibility of online and recorded meetings.
- That Commissioners would not have the option to attend meetings via Zoom moving forward, regardless of whether or not remote participation would be part of the meeting.
- That the staffing associated with the recording and broadcasting of the City Council meetings is separate from staffing provided for Commission support.

Motion: Shift the time and location of the Tree Commission to the first Wednesday at 5:30pm in the Community Chambers, and to revisit the date and location of the meeting in June.

Moved by J Cramer, seconded by L Guenther, friendly amendment to add “to revisit the date and location of the meeting in June” by L Guenther (accepted by mover). Approved by the following votes:

Ayes: Reuter, Walsh, Cramer, Daniel, Guenther

Noes:

Absent:

Motion: To express to City Council a desire to continue to broadcasting and recording the commission meetings.

Moved by C Walsh, seconded by L Guenther. Approved by the following votes:

Ayes: Reuter, Walsh, Cramer, Daniel, Guenther

Noes:

Absent:

C. Review of Disposition of Tree Material after Removal Subcommittee.

The item was opened by C Murphy and A Heinig, who outlined the standard process for the annual check-in on subcommittees. L Guenther, a member of the subcommittee, updated the progress on the work. He highlighted a walkthrough conducted at the Sacramento Tree Foundation wood reutilization operations and indicated it does good work with reclaimed wood. He indicated that part of the City’s contract with its tree service contractor includes use of the wood from City trees that the company removes, and taking the wood to have them milled and available locally would require a change in the contract. This would likely be a

much larger effort that would include City staff and ultimately City Council approval.

Commission discussion included the following:

- Staff outlined the current status of the agreement with West Coast Arborist, which would be up in two years.
- The understanding from the subcommittee that work to develop a wood reclamation program would be onerous, and the City would be best served by working with an agency that already does the work. A potential partnership with the Sacramento Tree Foundation was suggested as an avenue to explore.
- That the subcommittee would reconvene and produce a final report to the Commission on their findings and possible next steps.
- A meeting with the subcommittee members and City staff was discussed.

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

- Torin Dunnavant - stated that the urban wood rescue operations of the Sacramento Tree Foundation are supported by CAL FIRE grants. He indicated that the wood is donated, and sold to the public to support the program. He stated that he wasn't sure the tree foundation would take wood if the sale proceeds would go elsewhere, and the carbon footprint of delivering the wood to Sacramento would need to be considered. He encouraged the Commission and subcommittee to continue the discussions.

Motion: To rename the subcommittee the urban forest reclamation subcommittee.

Moved by L Guenther, seconded by C Walsh. Approved by the following votes:

Ayes: Reuter, Walsh, Cramer, Daniel, Guenther

Noes:

Absent:

MOTION: to take up the remaining items on the agenda.

Moved by L Guenther, seconded by C Walsh. Approved by the following votes:

Ayes: Reuter, Walsh, Cramer, Daniel, Guenther

Noes:

Absent:

7. Long Range Calendar

Brief discussion included:

- The suggestion that tree removal requests could be grouped, with some of the straightforward requests provided on the consent calendar, or some other kind of grouping.
- It was requested that the April meeting include an item for consideration of a subcommittee to consider the Commission's tree removal request process.

8. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned by consensus of the Commission at 7:45 p.m.