

PARKS & GENERAL SERVICES

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**Tree Commission Minutes
Davis Police Department
2600 Fifth Street
Thursday February 18, 2010
6:00 p.m.**

Commissioners Present: Mike Ozonoff-Vice Chair, David Robinson, Marijane Osborn, , G. Rooks, H. Rooks, Rainbow Vogt

Assigned Staff: Rob Cain, Urban Forest Manager

Opening Statement

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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 H. Rooks

Approved: 6-0

Approval of Minutes: Meeting of January 21, 2010

Motion to approve the minutes was made by Vogt, seconded by G. Rooks

Approved: 6-0

Commissioner and Staff Comments

Commissioner Vogt asked about the tree removal at 840 B Street. The tree was removed due to decay and being in a hazardous condition after a large limb failure during the October 2009 storm event.

Commissioner G. Rooks asked to have staff look at the greenbelt area behind 3011 Anza Avenue as it appears that a tree was removed from behind the residence.

Staff introduced Shawn Guzik the new Urban Forest Supervisor who was hired on in January.

Staff updated the Commission regarding the appeal of 1624 Tamarack Lane to the City Council. The item was opened to a Public Hearing and held open until the March 2, 2010 City Council meeting.

Staff updated the Commission on the bare root tree delivery and the species that were ordered. The species list is comprised of the following:

Fraxinus americana 'Junginger', Autumn Purple Ash
Metasequoia glyptostroboides, Dawn Redwood
Quercus farinetta 'Schmidt', Forest Green Oak
Quercus macrocarpa 'Urban Pinnacle', Urban Pinnacle
Ulmus wilsoniana 'Prospector', Prosepctor Elm
Zelkova serrata 'Green Vase', Green Vase Zelkova

Prunus sp. 'Akebono', Akebono Cherry
Quercus buckleyii, Texas Red Oak
Tilia tomentosa 'Sterling', Sterling Linden
Taxodium distictum 'Shawnee' Shawnee
Ulmus parvifolia 'Bosque', Bosque Elm

Public Comments

No public comments were made.

New Business:

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

Location

Tree Species

1. 724 M STREET

Modesto Ash

Moved by: Robinson
Seconded by: Rooks, G
Motion: Due to the structural cracks in the main stem, remove the tree and replant a replacement.

Motion Passed: 5-1; Vogt abstained

2. 2721 HATTERAS PLACE

Aristocrat Pear

Moved by: Rooks, G
Seconded by: Rooks, H
Motion: Due to the extensive mistletoe throughout the canopy, remove the tree and plant a replacement tree.

Motion Passed: 5-1; Vogt abstained

3. 1871 IMPERIAL AVENUE

Aristocrat Pear

Moved by: Robinson
Seconded by: Rooks, H
Motion: Due to the decay in the branch attachment area and the extensive mistletoe in the canopy, remove the tree and plant a replacement.

Motion Passed: 5-1; Vogt abstained

4. 2709 ANZA AVENUE

Moraine Ash

Moved by: Rooks, G
Seconded by: Robinson
Motion: Due to the decay of the roots and in the scaffold branches and mistletoe throughout the canopy, remove the tree and plant a replacement.

Motion Passed: 5-1; Vogt abstained

5. 1278 ANTELOPE AVENUE Flowering Pear

Moved by: Robinson
Seconded by: Rooks, G
Motion: Due to the decay in the main branch attachment area and the limb failures, remove the tree and plant a replacement tree in the main portion of the front yard.

Motion Passed: 5-1; Vogt abstained

B. Informational Only-

Trees removed prior to the Commission meeting due to hazardous or unsafe conditions:

<u>Location</u>	<u>Tree</u>	<u>Reason</u>
No tree had been removed due to hazardous conditions to this month.		

C. Trader Joe's median tree removal

Staff presented the turn lane extension plans and proposed tree removal as a result of the lane extension. The lane is being extended to handle the increased traffic flow into the University Mall area when the Trader Joe's market is completed.

The Commission was concerned about the three trees being removed and whether the lane extension could be shortened. Staff explained the lane had already been reduced to 150' from 300' in the original plan street improvements and that the Ash tree at the west end of the extension would still be in the turn lane and not in the approach area.

The Commission voted in the following manner:

Motion: Approve the plans and the tree removal due to the lane extension and accept payment of the appraised value of the trees as mitigation for the tree removal. The mitigation funds are to be paid into the Tree Preservation Fund.

Moved by: Robinson
Seconded by: Ozonoff
Motion passed: 3-2; G. Rooks abstained

D. Holiday tree farm

City staff presented the idea of a holiday tree farm area to the Commission. The tree farm would consist of a grove of redwood trees planted specifically to be used in later years as a large holiday tree in the E Street plaza area. The commission made the following comments.

Could the old holiday tree in front of the old city hall/Bistro 33 building be used again, so that a tree would not have to be removed at all for a holiday tree.. Also, a grove of trees could be planted without the need to remove trees for a holiday tree.

The commission asked about the areas where the trees would be grown and the cost of maintaining such a grove.

The possibility of planting an evergreen in the E Street plaza as a permanent fixture was put forth as an alternate solution to bringing in a tree to the plaza each year.

E. Tree Commission spring tour

The Commissioners will bring areas to tour for discussion at the March Commission meeting. The Commission would like to make the tour again in April.

Agenda Topics for next Meeting

- 1) Mitigation language for Landmark Tree Status
- 2) Root and sewer conflict literature
- 3) Spring Tour of the City

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 7:15pm

Next meeting: March 18, 2010

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