



Tree Committee Minutes

January 27, 2025, 5:30 p.m.

Council Hearing Room, 990 Palm Street, San Luis Obispo

Tree Committee Members Present: Committee Members Alan Bate, Henry Bonifas, Daniel Canella, Brian Pineda, and Emily Rosten, Vice Chair Ben Parker, and Chair Elizabeth Lucas

City Staff Present: Urban Forest Program Coordinator / City Arborist Walter Gault, Deputy City Clerk Kevin Christian

1. CALL TO ORDER

A Regular Meeting of the San Luis Obispo Tree Committee was called to order on January 27, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. in the Council Hearing Room at City Hall, 990 Palm Street, San Luis Obispo, by Chair Lucas.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Public Comment:

None

--End of Public Comment--

3. PRESENTATION

3.a PUBLIC WORKS URBAN FOREST PROGRAM UPDATE PRESENTATION

Public Works Deputy Director Greg Cruce reported on updates to the City's Urban Forest Program and introduced Billy Harvey, Parks and Urban Forestry Superintendent, and Nick Niles, Parks Maintenance Supervisor, who each provided further updates and responded to Committee inquiries.

4. CONSENT

4.a CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES - DECEMBER 2, 2024, TREE COMMITTEE MINUTES

Motion By Vice Chair Parker

Second By Chair Lucas

Approve the Tree Committee Special Meeting Minutes of December 2, 2024.

Ayes (7): Member Bate, Member Bonifas, Member Canella, Member Pineda, Member Rosten, Vice Chair Parker, and Chair Lucas

CARRIED (7 to 0)

5. TREE REMOVAL APPLICATION

5.a REVIEW A TREE REMOVAL REQUEST (TREE-0751-2024) TO REMOVE ONE PINUS PINEA (ITALIAN STONE PINE) TREE LOCATED AT 1288 MORRO STREET

Urban Forest Program Coordinator / City Arborist Walter Gault presented the staff report and responded to Committee inquiries.

Applicant representative, Bob Hill, provided an overview of the Tree Removal Application and responded to questions raised.

Chair Lucas opened Public Comment

Public Comment:

Donald Gallegos

--End of Public Comment--

Chair Lucas closed Public Comment

Motion By Member Canella

Second By Member Rosten

Recommend the Community Development Director approve the tree removal request which is consistent with Municipal Code Section 12.24.090(E) based on the findings below; and further recommend conditions for replacement on a 6:1 ratio using 24-inch box trees placed on the site, four in the locations shown in the application and two additional locations identified by the City Arborist, prioritizing tree selection

with large canopies from the City's list, with the exception of Marina Madrone.

Findings:

- 12.24.090.G(3) *Species*: Tree is non-native.
- 12.24.090.G(4) *Forestry Best Practice*: Parking lot could support more trees. Replanting plan increases tree age-distribution in area.
- 12.24.090.G(6) *Compensatory Plantings*: Landscaping plan exceeds required minimum for replanting.
- 12.24.090.G(7) *Heritage Status*: Not a Heritage Tree.

Ayes (6): Member Bonifas, Member Canella, Member Pineda, Member Rosten, Vice Chair Parker, and Chair Lucas

Noes (1): Member Bate

CARRIED (6 to 1)

6. COMMENT AND DISCUSSION

6.a ARBORIST REPORT

Urban Forest Program Coordinator / City Arborist Walter Gault provided an update of upcoming projects and activities in the Tree Division.

2025 Planting Update:

- 13 Climate Adapted Oaks (Grove and Palm Street trees)
- 100's of saplings (Irish Hills, Johnson Ranch, Cheda Ranch)

Upcoming Planting Events:

- February 8, Rotary - Righetti Hill
- February 8 and 22, Cal Poly - Cheda Ranch
- February 8, EcoSLO - Sinsheimer Park
- February 22 and April 12, EcoSLO - Laguna Lake Golf Course
- March 15, EcoSLO – Johnson Ranch

Project Follow-up:

- Serrano Heights
- 280 Palm
- 1065 Higuera

7. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m. The next Regular Meeting of the Tree Committee is scheduled for February 24, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. in the Council Hearing Room at City Hall, 990 Palm Street, San Luis Obispo.

APPROVED BY TREE COMMITTEE: XX/XX/2025