



TREE COMMITTEE

Minutes

Monday, October 26, 2020 Special Meeting of the Tree Committee

CALL TO ORDER

A Special Meeting of the San Luis Obispo Tree Committee was called to order on Monday, October 26, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. via teleconference by Chair Alan Bate.

ROLL CALL

Present: Committee Members Elizabeth Lucas, Allen Root, Rodney Thurman, Vice Chair Jane Worthy, and Chair Alan Bate

Absent: Committee Members Scott Loosley and Sean O'Brien

Staff: Ron Combs, City Arborist and Megan Wilbanks, Deputy City Clerk

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Consideration of the Tree Committee Meeting Minutes of September 28, 2020.

ACTION: UPON MOTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBER THURMAN, SECONDED BY VICE CHAIR WORTHY, CARRIED 5-0-2 (Member Root abstaining, Member Loosley and O'Brien absent), the Tree Committee approved the Minutes of September 28, 2020.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

None

--End of Public Comment--

TREE REMOVAL APPLICATIONS

2. 529 Hathway Ave.

City Arborist Combs provided a presentation and responded to Committee inquiries.

Public Comment:

None

--End of Public Comment--

The applicant, Alvin White, provided a brief overview of the tree removal project.

ACTION: UPON MOTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBER ROOT, SECONDED BY COMMITTEE MEMBER THURMAN, CARRIED 4-1-2 (Vice Chair Worthy dissenting, Members Loosley and O'Brien absent), to approve the Tree Removal Application and require that applicant plant a 24-inch box tree from the City's approved planting list. The Committee provided the following recommendations on species: Chinese Pistach, Crepe Myrtle, or Jacaranda.

BUSINESS ITEMS

- 3. New Business:** Review of a proposed removal of 56 onsite trees and replanting plan of 342 trees (including 28 palms) as part of a residential/mixed-use project located at 3580 / 3584 Bullock Lane that includes 192 residential units, 8 of which would be residential live-work units with commercial office space.

Contract Planner John Rickenbach provided a presentation and responded to Committee inquiries.

Public Comment:

Will Powers

--End of Public Comment--

The applicant, Barry Ephraim and John Young, and their representative, Rick Polhamus and John Moule, provided a brief overview of the tree removal project.

ACTION: UPON MOTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBER THURMAN, SECONDED BY CHAIR BATE, CARRIED 5-0-2 (Members Loosley and O'Brien absent), the Tree Committee is in support of the project with the following recommendations to the Planning Commission:

- The applicant should remove the Bird of Paradise from the tree replanting list because that species is a shrub
- The applicant should plant Coast Live Oaks as street trees and ensure that there is at least 8 feet of clearance for these large trees.
- Ensure that the rate of tree replacement continues to be greater than 1:1

- 4. New Business:** Consider modifications to the Tree Removal Application

ACTION: By consensus, the Tree Committee approved the modified Tree Removal Application.

5. Old Business: Continued discussion to set the Tree Committee Goals for 2021-2023

Staff will continue to work with the Tree Committee to develop a comprehensive list of goals before the December 15, 2020 deadline. Listed below are some examples of goal that were proposed:

- Develop a Comprehensive Urban Forest Management Plan
- Budget for a Development Review Arborist full time position
- Invest in citizen and stakeholder education
- Install interpretive signage for urban forest education in the Downtown corridor
- Increase pruning frequency to be scheduled in advance of pavement maintenance rotations

COMMENT AND DISCUSSION

6. Arborist Report: The Committee received an update on the status of the City Arborist position.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m. The next Special Meeting of the Tree Committee has been rescheduled to Monday, December 7, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. via teleconference.

APPROVED BY THE TREE COMMITTEE: 12/07/2020