



Tree Committee Minutes

March 24, 2025, 5:30 p.m.

Council Hearing Room, 990 Palm Street, San Luis Obispo

Tree Committee Members Present:	Member Alan Bate, Member Daniel Canella, Member Emily Rosten, Vice Chair Ben Parker
Tree Committee Members Absent:	Member Henry Bonifas, Member Brian Pineda, 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 March 24, 2025, at 5:34 p.m. in the Council Hearing Room at City Hall, 990 Palm Street, San Luis Obispo, by Vice Chair Parker.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Public Comment:

Fitzgerald Kelly

--End of Public Comment--

3. CONSENT

3.a CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES - FEBRUARY 24, 2025, TREE COMMITTEE MINUTES

Motion By Member Rosten

Second By Member Bate

Approve the Tree Committee Minutes of February 24, 2025.

Ayes (4): Members Bate, Canella, Rosten, and Vice Chair Parker

Absent (3): Members Bonifas and Pineda, and Chair Lucas

CARRIED (4 to 0)

4. TREE REMOVAL APPLICATION

- 4.a REQUEST TO REMOVE 20 EXISTING TREES AND PROVIDE 45 COMPENSATORY TREE PLANTINGS AT 3450 BROAD STREET; THE PROJECT IS CATEGORICALLY EXEMPT FROM ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW (TREE-0033-2025)

Associate Planner Hannah Hanh presented the staff report and responded to Committee inquiries.

Applicant representative, Tim Ronda, Principal Architect for Studio Design Group Architects, and Rob Maday, Principal Landscape Architect for Bosky Landscape Architecture, provided an overview of the Tree Removal Application and responded to specific questions raised.

Vice Chair Parker opened Public Comment

Public Comment:

None

--End of Public Comment--

Vice Chair Parker closed Public Comment

Motion By Member Canella

Second By Member Rosten

Recommend the Planning Commission approve the proposed tree removals and compensatory plantings as they are consistent with requirements in San Luis Obispo Municipal Code Chapter 12.24 (Tree Regulations) with the following findings:

- G(1) Size of Tree(s) – All twenty of the trees to be removed are smaller in scale and have lower visual prominence.
- G(2) Location - Nine of the twenty trees are not highly visible from the Public Right-of-Way.
- G(3) Species - All twenty of the proposed removals are non-native species and carry a lower preservation priority.
- G(4) Forestry Best Practice – Thirteen of the twenty trees to be removed are in poor condition, seven are in fair condition, and the proposed replacement plantings will increase biodiversity and tree age distribution onsite.

- G(6) Compensatory Plantings - The number (45) and size of the replacement trees (24-inch to 60-inch box) exceeds the minimum replacement requirements (1:1 and 15-gallon).

Ayes (4): Members Bate, Canella, Rosten, and Vice Chair Parker

Absent (3): Members Bonifas and Pineda, and Chair Lucas

CARRIED (4 to 0)

5. COMMENT AND DISCUSSION

5.a ARBORIST REPORT

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

6. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:13 p.m. The next Regular Meeting of the Tree Committee is scheduled for April 28, 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