



Tree Committee Minutes

May 19, 2025, 5:30 p.m.

Council Hearing Room, 990 Palm Street, San Luis Obispo

Tree Committee Members Present: Member Charles Gerencser, Member Dan Shinn, Vice Chair
Emily Rosten, Chair Ben Parker

Tree Committee Members Absent: Member Henry Bonifas, Member Daniel Canella

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

1. CALL TO ORDER

A Special Meeting of the San Luis Obispo Tree Committee was called to order on May 19, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. in the Council Hearing Room at City Hall, 990 Palm Street, San Luis Obispo, by Chair Parker.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Public Comment:

None

--End of Public Comment--

3. PRESENTATION

During the April 28, 2025 Tree Committee meeting, Urban Forest Program Coordinator / City Arborist Walter Gault provided a presentation on the Brown Act and Robert's Rules of Order. The item was included again as a follow-up to allow for additional committee discussion. Seeing none, it was noted that non-present members could view the April 28th presentation if needed.

4. CONSENT

4.a CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES - APRIL 28, 2025 TREE COMMITTEE MINUTES

Motion By Member Gerencser

Second By Member Shinn

Approve the Tree Committee Minutes of April 28, 2025.

Ayes (4): Member Gerencser, Vice Chair Rosten, Member Shinn, and Chair Parker

Absent (2): Member Bonifas, and Member Canella

CARRIED (4 to 0)

5. TREE REMOVAL APPLICATION

5.a REQUEST FOR THE REMOVAL OF 5 PALM TREES LOCATED AT 2777 FLORA ST (APPLICATION NO. TREE-0179-2025)

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

Brooke Latzke-Davis, applicant representative, provided an overview of the purpose for the tree removals, the replacement plan, and provided clarification comments in response to Committee questions.

Motion By Member Shinn

Second By Member Gerencser

Recommend that the Community Development Director approve the proposed removals and compensatory plantings because they are consistent with requirements in the San Luis Obispo Municipal Code Chapter 12.24 (Tree Regulations) based on the following criteria:

- *G(3) Species*: Trees are non-native
- *G(4) Forestry Best Practice*: Canopy cover is currently high onsite. Replanting plan increases tree age-distribution in area
- *G(7) Heritage Trees*: Trees have not been designated as heritage.

Ayes (4): Member Gerencser, Vice Chair Rosten, Member Shinn, and Chair Parker

Absent (2): Member Bonifas, and Member Canella

CARRIED (4 to 0)

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.

- Santa Rosa Park is being considered as the tentative 2025 Arbor Day location, and for "Keys for Trees" projects.

7. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:06 p.m. The next Regular Meeting of the Tree Committee is scheduled for June 23, 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/202X