CITY OF SANTA BARBARA
PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Street Tree Advisory Committee
REGULAR MEETING
Thursday, August 1, 2013
Parks Lunch Room
402 E. Ortega Street
8:30 a.m.

Minutes

1. CALL TO ORDER 8:32 AM

2. ROLL CALL
Members present: Bob Cunningham, Duke McPherson, Maury Treman, and Des O'Neill
Staff present: Tim Downey, Patty Herrera, and Randy Fritz
P&R Commission Liaison: Lesley Wiscomb
Public present: Greg Parker, Susan Van Atta, Dan Waldman, and Brian Wingate
Member absent: Billy Goodnick

3. PUBLIC COMMENT
None

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
A. Special Meeting, July 11, 2013 – Approved as amended

Member Des O'Neill moved, seconded by Bob Cunningham that the July 11, 2013, Minutes be approved as amended, passed 4/0.

5. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

6. MEMBER AND STAFF COMMUNICATION
A. PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION ACTIONS
1. Tim updated STAC Members of Commission actions; The Commission concurred with all of STAC's recommendations.
2. Tim updated STAC Members on enforcement cases; zero new reported cases, and five closed.
3. Tim reported that for 2946 De La Vina St. the species was miss-identified as Cupressus macrocarpa, Monterey Pine. The correct species is Pinus halepensis, Aleppo Pine.

7. NEW BUSINESS
A. TREE REMOVAL CONSIDERATIONS

1. STREET TREES
None

1. SETBACK TREES
a. 2946 De La Vina St. – (1) Pinus halepensis, Aleppo Pine, (1) Pinus pinea, Italian Stone Pine, (3) Pinus canariensis, Canary Island Pines – Foothill Pacific, LLC

Recommendation to conditionally and partially approve

Dan Waldman was present at the meeting and spoke in support of removal of the trees. He stated the trees are buckling the pavement and the pavement is starting to break up. He is concerned tree roots will cause damage to the foundation. Dan stated that his staff is tired of sap drippings on their vehicles and they too are in support of removal. Dan spoke to the Committee about replacement trees and Tim let him know he needs to go through Architectural Board of Review for the proposed plantings.

The Committee recommends (4/0) that the Commission approve the removal of (1) Pinus halepensis, Aleppo Pine, (1) Pinus pinea, Italian Stone Pine and (2) Pinus canariensis, Canary Island Pine trees on the condition the applicant provide three replacement trees; replacement trees to achieve a minimum height of 30 feet and be an appropriate size for planters. The Canary Island Pine tree, adjacent to the building shall be denied. At the time of construction of the driveway, City staff will inspect this tree and if it is determined that the tree is destabilized and should not remain for safety reasons, a fourth replacement tree is conditioned with the same height and size requirements as the other three replacement trees.

Member Bob Cunningham moved, seconded by Des O'Neill to recommend that the Commission conditionally approve the removal of (1) Pinus halepensis, Aleppo Pine, (1) Pinus pinea, Italian Stone Pine and (2) Pinus canariensis, Canary Island Pine trees on the condition the applicant provide three replacement trees to replace the trees; replacement trees to achieve a minimum height of 30 feet and be an appropriate size for planters. The Pinus canariensis, Canary Island Pine tree adjacent to the building, shall be denied. At the time of construction of the driveway, City staff will inspect this tree and if it is determined that the tree is destabilized and should not remain for safety reasons, a fourth replacement tree is conditioned with the same height and size requirements as the other three replacement trees, passed 4/0.

b. 802 W. Pedregosa St. – Quercus agrifolia, Coast Live Oak – Brian Wingate

Recommendation to approve

Brian Wingate was present at the meeting and spoke in support of removal of the tree. He shared with STAC new photos that show the proximity of tree to foundation.

The Committee recommends (4/0) that the Commission approve the removal. The Committee determined that in the current location, there isn't room for the development of the tree's canopy.

Member Des O'Neill moved, seconded by Bob Cunningham to recommend that the Commission approve the removal, passed 4/0.

c. 3714-3744 State St. – (1) Jacaranda mimosifolia, Jacaranda, (1) Washingtonia robusta, Mexican Fan Palm – Ken Marshall, Dudek

Recommendation to conditionally and partially approve

Greg Parker with Kellogg Associates and Susan Van Atta with Van Atta Associates were representing the Sandman Inn and spoke in support of removal of the trees. They shared copies of new plans showing a greener project than previous including 250 new trees.

The Committee recommends (4/0) that the Commission approve removal of the Washingtonia robusta, Mexican Fan Palm. The Committee determined that removal of the palm would not be a significant impact on the urban forest. The Committee recommends that the applicant re-study entry access to driveway with a viewpoint of saving the Jacaranda proposed for removal. The Committee believes the Jacaranda is of great value to the streetscape, and in spite of a potential structural flaw, should be preserved. The Committee would like to see the site plan altered to provide preservation of the tree by redesigning the entry driveway, even if redesign necessitates altering the locations or floor plans of the buildings fronting State Street. STAC requested the applicant provide a landscape plan prior to submission to other design review bodies or head planner assigned to project and send those comments to DART for review.

STAC commented that they are grateful for the applicant's intended preservation of the Atlas Cedar because it is an extremely valuable specimen to the area. The Committee is extremely concerned about the impacts of the proposed construction on the tree. The Committee believes the placement of the adjacent building does not permit construction to occur without damage to the tree. Excavation for the building's foundation and patio will result in damage to tree's roots within its critical root zone. STAC commented that by utilizing alternate construction designs that limit construction under the drip line will decrease the impact on the tree. The Committee recommends that the building be moved further from the tree, and that the area between the building and the tree be landscaped with materials of small container size, selected for compatibility with the tree and that no paving of any kind be placed within the tree's drip line.

Member Bob Cunningham moved, seconded by Maury Treman to recommend that the Commission approve removal of the Washingtonia robusta, Mexican Fan Palm and re-study entry access to driveway with a viewpoint of saving the Jacaranda, passed 4/0.

8. STREET TREE MASTER PLAN
None

9. OLD BUSINESS
None

The meeting was adjourned at 10:17 AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Tim Downey, Urban Forest Superintendent

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT: In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact Tim Downey at 564-5592. Notification at least 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the City to make reasonable arrangements.