



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA
PARK & RECREATION COMMISSION REPORT

AGENDA DATE: January 27, 2016

TO: Parks and Recreation Commission

FROM: Parks Division, Parks and Recreation Department

SUBJECT: Residency Requirement and Appointment for Street Tree Advisory Committee

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Commission:

- A. Change the eligibility requirements for Street Tree Advisory Committee (STAC) to allow up to two members to reside outside city limits; and
- B. Appoint Bruce Reed to fill the vacant STAC position with a term ending December 31, 2017.

DISCUSSION:

The Commission interviewed three qualified applicants for three STAC vacancies, including Bruce Reed, at the December 16, 2015 meeting. Two of the applicants reside outside city limits. Since the membership only allows one non-resident, one vacant position was left unfilled. For the last two recruitments when a vacant non-resident membership was considered, the City received multiple non-resident applications. At the December 16, 2015 meeting, the Commission requested that staff bring back a proposal to change the membership eligibility requirements to allow for up to two non-city residents to serve.

Background

The STAC was established by the Park Commission on December 20, 1979, to advise the Commission on tree removals and planting. The three-member committee was chaired by a member of the Park Commission with two other members appointed by the Commission. Over the years, the STAC has been modified to address the terms, membership and eligibility requirements.

- The membership was modified by the Park Commission on December 16, 1998, to establish three voting members with two-year terms, and to require that members reside within the City of Santa Barbara and have interest and technical knowledge of trees and tree care issues. Park Commissioners were made non-voting members, and the City Arborist was made non-voting staff liaison.

- The membership was modified on September 22, 1999, to add two alternate members. The alternate members were added so that if regular members were not in attendance, the alternates could be appointed to vote, and a quorum could be maintained.
- The membership was modified again on August 26, 2009, when the Parks and Recreation Commission, at the request of the STAC, voted to make the alternate members regular voting members, bringing the STAC membership up to five voting members.
- The most recent modification was made on January 27, 2010, when the Parks and Recreation Commission voted to allow one member to reside outside city limits. Currently, the Commission also has one non-voting liaison to the Committee.

At the January 7, 2016 meeting, the STAC discussed the opportunity for additional non-city residents to serve on the STAC. The STAC discussed the geography of the city limits and the close ties some residents have to the city although they reside outside the limits. Many of these non-residents work within the city limits and have an interest in playing a role in preserving the City's urban forest.

Recommendation

Staff recommends that the Commission change the eligibility requirement for the STAC to allow up to two members to reside outside city limits; and appoint Bruce Reed to fill the vacant STAC position with a term ending December 31, 2017.

SUBMITTED BY: Tim Downey, Urban Forest Superintendent

APPROVED BY: Jill E. Zachary, Parks and Recreation Director