



**CITY OF SANTA BARBARA
PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT**

**Street Tree Advisory Committee
REGULAR MEETING
Thursday, February 6, 2014
Parks Lunch Room
402 E. Ortega Street
8:30 a.m.**

Minutes

1. CALL TO ORDER 8:34 AM
2. ROLL CALL
Members present: Des O'Neill, Maury Treman, Grant Castleberg and Duke McPherson
Staff present: Tim Downey, Patty Herrera
Public present: Gary Semerdjian, Stephanie Welch, Robert Hambleton, and Barbara Backlund
Member absent: Bob Cunningham
3. PUBLIC COMMENT
None
4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
A. Special Meeting, January 9, 2014 – Approved

Member Des O'Neill moved, seconded by Maury Treman that the January 9, 2014, Special Meeting Minutes be approved, 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: Commission didn't have any tree items. They moved Library Plaza and Urban Forest Management Plan forward.
 2. Tim updated STAC Members on enforcement cases, two cases reported, both cases were referred to the Community Development Department.
7. NEW BUSINESS

A. TREE REMOVAL CONSIDERATIONS

STREET TREES

1. 1102 Luneta Plaza – (2) *Jacaranda mimosifolia*, Jacaranda – Stephanie Welch

Stephanie Welch spoke to STAC in favor of removal of both Jacaranda trees. She believes one of the Jacaranda tree roots is responsible for the December 2012, sewer spill on Leadbetter Beach. She also shared that she would like to replace the trees and grass with dwarf palms away from the sewer line.

The Committee recommends that the Commission approve removal of both trees and recommend that one *Corymbia (Eucalyptus) ficifolia*, Red Flowering Gum, 15 gallon minimum be planted as a replacement tree. The Committee determined that the condition and structure of the trees and the potential for proper tree growth and development of the tree canopy justified removal of both trees and determined that a replacement tree planted in a different location would have a better opportunity to grow.

Member Des O'Neill moved, seconded by Grant Castleberg to recommend that the Commission approve removal of both trees, passed 4/0.

SETBACK TREES

1. 30 E. Quinto St. – *Platanus acerifolia*, London Plane – Robert Hambleton

Robert Hambleton and his neighbor, Barbara Backlund spoke to STAC in favor of removal. He mentioned there is a creek that runs below his home and the saturation may have caused the tree roots to wrap around the sewer line. He said that he recently replaced his gas line because he believed the roots pulled the gas line apart and that tree is simply too large for the space. If approved for removal, Robert would be open to replace with a new tree and is looking for any recommendations from STAC.

The Committee recommends that the Commission deny removal of the tree and commented that maintenance of the tree will mitigate some of the concerns for safety.

Member Maury Treman moved, seconded by Des O'Neill to recommend that the Commission deny removal of the tree, passed 4/0.

2. 109 Oceano Ave. – (2) *Eucalyptus spp.*, Eucalyptus – Gary Semerdjian

Gary Semerdjian spoke to STAC in favor of removal of both Eucalyptus trees. He shared that these trees have been giving him problems for quite a long time now and that during a wind event in January 2014, a giant branch (the size of a small to medium size tree) broke off and landed on two of his tenant's vehicles parked in the driveway.

The Committee recommends that the Commission deny the removal of both trees. The Committee commented that these trees can be preserved through some significant pruning.

Member Des O'Neill moved, seconded by Maury Treman to recommend that the Commission deny removal of both trees, passed 4/0.

8. STREET TREE MASTER PLAN
None

9. OLD BUSINESS

1. 2200-2400 blocks of Garden St. (west side) – species designation– Fred L. Sweeney

Member Maury Treman moved, seconded by Des O'Neill to narrow the list of potential species to (3) species for STAC's consideration at next month's meeting.

List of species: 1. Metrosideros (excelsa), 2. Alectryon excelsus, and 3. Harpullia arborea.

Recommendation to postpone

The Committee recommends postponing making a decision on designating an additional species to next month's meeting.

Member Des O'Neill moved, seconded by Duke McPherson to recommend that the Committee postpone making a decision on designating an additional species to next month's meeting, passed 4/0.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:48 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.

DRAFT