



MINUTES

CITY OF PACIFIC GROVE BEAUTIFICATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES 4:00 p.m., Tuesday, March 15, 2016

Council Chambers – City Hall – 300 Forest Avenue, Pacific Grove, CA

Copies of the agenda packet are available for review at the Pacific Grove Library located at 550 Central Avenue; the CDD counter in City Hall at 300 Forest Avenue, Pacific Grove from 8 a.m. – 12 p.m. and 1 p.m. – 5 p.m., Monday through Thursday; and on the internet at www.cityofpacificgrove.org/sites/default/files/beautification-and-natural-resources-commission. Recordings of the meetings are available upon request.

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jean Anton (C) Mary Flaig (VC), Frances Grate, Dave Myers, Kelly Terry, Thom Akeman (S)

STAFF PRESENT:

Daniel Gho, Jessica Kahn

1. CALLED TO ORDER at 4 p.m.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Oral Communication: Sally Moore on oxalis removal along the shoreline.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES of Feb. 16, 2016

On a motion by Commissioner Grate, seconded by Commissioner Myers, the Commission voted 6-0 to approve the minutes as corrected.

4. PRESENTATIONS

a. Public art in Berwick Park

Resident John Bridges suggested turning a two-stemmed Cypress tree trunk in Berwick Park into public art, possibly with two breaching whales carved by a chainsaw artist. He offered to head up fund raising and without a formal vote, the commission supported the idea. Public Works Director Gho said the city arborist and members of the community has also voiced support.

b. Stormwater education and outreach

Jeff Condit, program manager for the Monterey Regional Stormwater Management Program, of which Pacific Grove is a participating city, reported on efforts to keep polluted runoff out of Monterey Bay by planting vegetation with roots to absorb it and providing public education with such things as stencils on storm drains, advocating for more natural lawn products and monitoring actual runoff.

5. REPORTS NOT REQUIRING ACTION

a. Council liaison announcements

Council Member Bill Peake reported the local coastal plan is moving through final stages; next year's budget is being developed; and there is concern about ways the public can contact the commission.

b. Public acknowledgement

Chair Anton applauded staff members Daniel Gho and Jessica Kahn for their patience at lengthy public meetings and their abilities to be clear and informative.

c. Harbor seals update

Commissioner Akeman reported on the troubled start of harbor seal pupping in the Pacific Grove rookery this year and attributed it to the unusually warm ocean water that has created a food shortage for all nearshore animals.

6. UNFINISHED/ONGOING BUSINESS

a. Adoption of Commission goals and projects

On a motion by Commissioner Grate, seconded by Vice Chair Flaig, the commission voted 6-0 to adopt the goals and projects Chair Anton presented last month as tweaked.

7. NEW BUSINESS

None

8. COMMISSIONER'S REPORTS

None

9. STAFF REPORTS

a. Sinex/Junipero Avenue storm drainage & sanitary sewer

improvements.

Public Works Director Gho reported the work has started to replace stormwater and sanitary sewer lines that were failing and the watershed for approximately a fourth of the city, which drains through Greenwood Park, will require underground and road work that will probably last into summer months.

Public comment was received from Sally Moore and Lisa Ciani.

b. Tree removal and netting at the golf course

Public Works Director Gho reported the city has removed 6 tall Eucalyptus trees and is prepared to install protective netting and plant 6 cypress trees as agreed in a stipulated judgement with Monarch Pines residents and approved by Superior Court and the city Planning Commission. But an appeal from a Jewell Avenue resident has been filed with the City Council.

Public comment was received from Barbara Thomas, who supports the protective netting.

c. Forest Avenue/Lovers Point Coastal Access Project Update

Public Works Director Gho said the project is moving forward but is expected to spill into next fiscal year while participants try to decide how to move six parking spaces from the street into the parking lot.

d. Downtown medians

Public Works Director Gho reported work has started and the medians will be in shape by the April Good Old Days event.

Public comment was received from Barbara Thomas, who said the medians get trampled during Good Old Days.

10. ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA (April 2, 2016)

Including more tree planting in the next city budget; consider better ways for the public to contact the commission.

11. ADJOURNMENT at 5:12 p.m.