



MINUTES

CITY OF PACIFIC GROVE BEAUTIFICATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

4:00 p.m., Tuesday, August 16, 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.

DRAFT 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

1. CALLED TO ORDER at 4 p.m.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

a. Written Communications:

Lisa Ciani sent emails to the commission yesterday asking for support of local language a Planning Commission subcommittee has proposed for the local coastal plan, explaining the uniqueness of the Pacific Grove coastline in terms of natural science.

b. Oral Communications:

Cynthia Garfield introduced herself as a City Council candidate and asked people to contact her about concerns, especially Perkins Park.

Lisa Ciani confirmed the emails she sent and said she was pleased to have been one of the collaborators on the natural science language proposed for the local coastal plan.

Lynn Mason, who picks up trash she sees while walking along the shoreline, reported that trash piles up beside dumpsters next to the golf course and behind the golf course fence from Asilomar to Lighthouse avenues.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES of July 19, 2016

On a motion by Commissioner Grate, seconded by Commissioner Myers, the Commission voted 5-0 to approve. Commissioner Flaig abstained as she wasn't at that meeting.

4. REPORTS NOT REQUIRING ACTION

a. Council liaison announcements

Councilmember Bill Peake reported on the city's new police Chief, placing an admissions tax on the November ballot, and he also outlined a few upcoming City Council topics.

b. Public acknowledgement

Chair Anton publicly thanked recently departed Jessica Kahn for her polished staff work on behalf of the city and the BNRC.

c. Berwick Park public art

Chair Anton noted the carving work to create two breaching whales from twin Cypress tree snags is proceeding and looking good.

5. UNFINISHED/ONGOING BUSINESS

None

6. NEW BUSINESS

a. Monarch Sanctuary management plan

Daniel Gho, Public Works Director, presented the annual report from Stuart Weiss, the city's consultant for Monarch Grove Sanctuary planting and maintenance. He said a site walk to view the area and discuss the plan will be held at 10 a.m. Sept. 1. All work would have to be finished by Oct. 1.

During public comment, Robert Pacelli said he believes the information in the report is scientifically inaccurate and continuing to act on it could destroy the monarch sanctuary. He believes the recommendations implemented last year cost the city 10,000 monarch butterflies midway through the season. Damage is being done and he wants a public meeting about it, Pacelli said.

Commissioner Grate wanted to stress the report's recommendations on nectar plants but regretted that it veered from the 2011 management plan and didn't note the importance of shelter and nectar in the spring. She also reported someone in Toronto has been studying monarch urine samples Robert Pacelli collects for him and thinks the butterflies may return to the same places every year because they mark their territories.

Commissioner Myers expressed his disappointment that Robert Pacelli and the city haven't been working together on monarchs.

b. Lovers Point access project

Daniel Gho outlined a plan to reconfigure parking on Ocean View Boulevard at Lovers Point so the recreation trail could be linked to Forest Avenue with a ramp, overlook, educational and directional signage. The plan presented would actually add a few parking spaces in the area for both vehicles and motorcycles, and could improve drainage to keep rain runoff from flooding across the volleyball courts and beach. The changes will require approval from the California Coastal Commission.

During public comment, Lisa Ciani said she hopes the change would catch the rustic feeling of the area and not be a concrete swirl.

Robert Pacelli called it a "wonderful idea" and asked if cell phone alerts could be incorporated.

Don Murphy wondered about interaction between disabled people utilizing a ramp to the recreation trail and the many bicycles on the trail.

Commissioners discussed the plan and all expressed their support.

c. Tree replant letters

Daniel Gho reported the city is preparing to send letters to 160 property owners who haven't replanted trees to replace those they removed, as they agreed to do in city permits. They will be asked to comply within 10 days and notify the city of compliance. Some time after that, the city will send second letters telling scofflaws their cases will be forwarded to code compliance if the trees aren't planted and they will be subject to fines of a minimum \$200.

Commissioners said they are willing to help with the labor involved if the city wants.

7. COMMISSIONER'S REPORTS

Commissioner Flaig said she watched the Coastal Commission's Aug. 12th meeting and heard they are planning a third round of grants to help communities develop local coastal plans. The commission said it underestimated how long and how much expertise the plans required and that none of the first round funded, including Pacific Grove, had yet completed a plan.

Commissioner Akeman reported on a recent census that found more than a third of the harbor seals that live along the Monterey, Pacific Grove, Pebble Beach shoreline have vanished in the past 18 months.

Most are believed to have starved because of the food shortage in the warmer than normal ocean water.

8. STAFF REPORTS

a. Follow up reports

Daniel Gho reported that a Calfire crew expected to clean up George Washington Park has been delayed fighting the Big Sur fire.

He said a plant that might have interfered with drivers' views at a downtown intersection has been trimmed.

Chair Anton reported that news racks have been cleaned and thanked Public Works for getting the Monterey Herald, which owns the boxes, to do that.

9. ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA (August 16, 2016)

Tentatively, a report on the Point Pinos Trail project and formation of a subcommittee.

10. ADJOURNED at 5:15 p.m.