



MINUTES

CITY OF PACIFIC GROVE
BEAUTIFICATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
4:00 p.m., Tuesday, May 17, 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, Jessica Kahn, Albert Weisfuss

(Note: Scheduled meeting of April 19, 2016, cancelled by lack of quorum)

1. CALLED TO ORDER at 4 p.m.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

a. Written Communications:

Councilmember Bill Peake passing along Planning Commission Chair William Frederickson's concerns about "Magic Carpet" maintenance and shoreline erosion, and Bruce Cowan's request for volunteers to help remove invasive French Broom from Rip Van Winkle Park.

Lisa Ciani's concerns about shoreline erosion and ways to adapt.

Tony Ciani's concerns about city obtaining Coastal Commission approval for the Lovers Point Watershed Project. (2 letters)

b. Oral Communication:

Lisa Ciani reiterated her concerns about shoreline erosion and the Local Coastal Plan's treatment of biological resources. She also asked about the Coastal Conservancy Grant for the recreation trail. (Dan Gho responded the city now has a consultant studying shoreline erosion and there are not yet any recommendations for action. As for the Coastal

Conservancy Grant, the city has asked for proposals and expects to have a presentation for the City Council in the fall.)

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES of March 15, 2016

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

4. REPORTS NOT REQUIRING ACTION

a. Council liaison announcements

Councilmember Bill Peake showed a “don’t trample” brochure of protected plants and animals in our sand dunes assembled by Kirstie Wilde and her daughter, Hannah, for short-term renters in the Asilomar dunes. He also reported that the Berwick Park sculpture proposal of John Bridges will be going to the City Council, as well as golf netting and the new city budget.

b. Public acknowledgement

Chair Anton extended a welcome to Ben Harvey, now that he has been hired as City Manager, and applauded staff members Daniel Gho and Jessica Kahn for their patience at late-hour meetings and their abilities to be clear and informative.

5. UNFINISHED/ONGOING BUSINESS

None

6. NEW BUSINESS

a. Tree appeal for 854 Sunset Drive

City Arborist Albert Weisfuss permitted home owner Charles Shinhut to remove three of seven Monterey pines on his property as they were dead or dying. Then an adjacent homeowner, Herbert Behrens of 861 Marino Pines, hired an independent arborist and asked for a permit to remove three more pines that were next to his fence and leaning towards his home. On closer examination, the city arborist permitted two of those to be removed but found the third had to indications of instability that would warrant its removal. It is a mature tree that should be retained and monitored.

The Behrens, who are paying for the removals on their neighbor’s property, appealed the decision to the BNRC. Robbi Behren said their independent arborist told them the third tree was the worst of the bunch.

Commissioners discussed the different arborists' opinions and on a motion by Commissioner Akeman seconded by Commissioner Flaig, voted 5-1 to uphold the city arborist's decision to deny removal of the third pine. Commissioner Myers dissented.

b. Trees in city budget

Jessica Kahn, environmental programs manager, reported that the current city budget has \$177,000 for trees, \$175,000 of it used for contracts with the part-time city arborist and two tree contractors. She also reported that 175 property owners have yet to plant required replants for trees they have removed. The staff sends letters reminding property owners of the replant requirements. Commissioners and staff discussed how compliance might be improved with penalties and "more teeth" in the reminder letters. Chair Anton offered to help write letters or stuff envelopes or whatever it takes.

7. COMMISSIONER'S REPORTS

Vice Chair Flaig reported that she and Chair Anton attended a seminar organized by Assemblymember Mark Stone on beach erosion that was very informative. She said it would be worth watching on his Website.

Commissioner Akeman reported this year's harbor seal pupping is nearly over and 11 pups were born on or around the 5th Street beach. Those were among the healthiest of this year's pups as most looked good and have weaned successfully. Overall, warm water and the resultant absence of fish caused a food that have devastated the local harbor seals and their pups, holding this year's generation to about a third of what it has been.

Chair Anton suggested forming a committee to see what can be done about saving the Magic Carpet west of Lovers Point.

8. STAFF REPORTS

a. Lovers Point Watershed Project

Public Works Director Gho reported the work to replace failing stormwater and sanitary sewer lines in the watershed for approximately a fourth of the city will start at the end of May and stretch into December. Road and underground work will be done in sections from Pine Avenue down to Lovers Point in the \$3.5 million project designed to reduce storm water and pollution flows into Monterey Bay. Most of the cost is provided by a state Clean Beaches initiative grant.

Public comment was received from Lisa Ciani, who wondered if stormwater could be diverted to the Marina treatment plant in rainless periods of the rainy season, and Mrs. Kabat of Jewell Street who wondered how construction would impact her home.

b. Contacting the Commission via email

Jessica Kahn reported that a link has been added to the BNRC Website that allows anyone to send an email that will automatically be forwarded to Commission members.

9. ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA (June 21, 2016)

Chair Anton wants to discuss a way to save the Magic Carpet west of Lover Point and the Mesembryanthemum crystallinum that provides the stunning blooms. .

10. ADJOURNMENT at 5:35 p.m.