



## MINUTES

### CITY OF PACIFIC GROVE BEAUTIFICATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES 4:00 p.m., Tuesday, July 19, 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](http://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 ), Frances Grate, Dave Myers, Kelly Terry, Thom Akeman (S) (Absent: Mary Flaig)

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Daniel Gho, Jessica Kahn, Wendy Lao

**1. CALLED TO ORDER** at 4 p.m.

**2. PUBLIC COMMENT**

a. Written Communications:

Frances Grate expressed concerns about the impacts of tree trimming on private property adjacent to the Monarch Grove Sanctuary.

b. Oral Communications:

Don Murphy expressed concerns about George Washington Park, specifically about illegal parking in the park along Short Street; wood chips dumped in the park that aren't dispersed quickly, may have pathogens in them and it doesn't seem to be an appropriate use of a park; and a fallen tree blocking a trail so people create their own trails around it.

Sally Moore said one of the new plants at Lighthouse and Forest has grown tall and could obstruct drivers' views of pedestrians entering the crosswalk.

**3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES of June 21, 2016**

On a motion by Commissioner Grate, seconded by Commissioner Myers, the Commission voted 5-0 to approve the

minutes with one correction.

#### **4. REPORTS NOT REQUIRING ACTION**

##### **a. Council liaison announcements**

Councilmember Bill Peake reported on local coastal plan progress and letters the City Council endorsed to the State Water Resources Control Board and the Monterey County Board of Supervisors.

##### **b. Public acknowledgement**

Chair Anton acknowledged Marge Ann Jameson and her Cedar Street Times for maintaining a good community newspaper that has fair reporting and supports community organizations.

#### **5. UNFINISHED/ONGOING BUSINESS**

None

#### **6. NEW BUSINESS**

##### **a. Allowing dogs in Elmarie Dyke Open Space**

Dr. Kim Wilkins of Cottage Veterinary Care asked for a variance to allow dogs in adjacent Elmarie Dyke Open Space so residents and tourists with dogs could walk through the parklet, sit with their animals and maybe have a picnic. She said her clinic would pay for pet waste stations in the park and even take care of raccoon feces they see there.

Joe Streng, gardener for Cottage Veterinary who picks up litter in the parklet every Monday, supported the request and said he thinks it would be a good place for people to sit with their dogs.

Linda Wilsey, in charge of adoptions for Animal Friends Rescue, said the parklet would be a good place for people to enjoy with their pets.

Jill Gomon, also with Animal Friends Rescue, said she thinks the parklet would be a good place for tourists to visit with their dogs.

Chair Anton asked commissioners for comments, noting the Commission has no authority to grant variances to city ordinances. One commissioner said it was a good plan that should be written carefully. A second said it could be tried for six months or 90 days to see how it works. A third had reservations about opening the parklet to dogs because not all dog owners clean up after their animals. A fourth had reservations because the commissioner has seen a number of people picnicking in the parklet and said people who rent adjacent Chautauqua Hall for events use the parklet for food service. The fifth commissioner suggested that if the park is opened to dogs it might be like Asilomar Beach – dogs restricted right around Chautauqua Hall but allowed elsewhere in the parklet.

#### **7. COMMISSIONER'S REPORTS**

Commissioner Terry said she likes seeing all the lanterns out this year for the Feast of Lanterns.

Commissioner Grate said there are a quite a few concerns about Butterfly Grove Inn trimming several trees next to the Monarch Grove Sanctuary. The city issued a permit but there was no public posting and the situation needs to be aired because Monarchs have clustered on trees along the driveway adjacent to the sanctuary for the past 25 years, she said.

Chair Anton said the cypress stumps in Berwick Park haven't yet been transformed into whale carvings because the carvers want a written contract and the person who handles contracts in their office has been out of town. The work, funded by the Rotary Club, is imminent.

She also passed along complaints to her that some of the newspaper racks downtown need cleaning.

## **8. STAFF REPORTS**

### **a. Update on required tree replants**

Daniel Gho, Public Works Director, reported that only 48% of the replacement trees required by city permits during the past four years are believed to be in the ground. He presented a chart that shows since 2013, the city has required 699 trees to replace trees removed by permits, but only 335 are believed to have been planted. Last year, for example, only 62 of the 231 replacement trees required – 27% -- have been planted.

Following up the permits is labor-intensive and time-consuming and the city staff has been struggling just to keep up with 5 to 10 new tree applications that come each day, Gho said. He said he plans to send another round of letters to permit holders but it takes time to stuff the envelopes, apply the postage and record the replies.

Chair Anton offered BNRC help with the labor involved.

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

George Washington Park – parking and maintenance

Monarch Grove Sanctuary plan for 2016

## **10. ADJOURNED at 4:44 p.m.**