



MINUTES

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

4:00 p.m., Tuesday, July 21, 2015

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.ci.pg.ca.us/hrc. Recordings of the meetings are available upon request.

DRAFT MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

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

COUNCIL LIAISON: Council Member Bill Peake present

STAFF PRESENT: Jessica Kahn

1. CALLED TO ORDER at 4:00 p.m.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

a. Written Communication

Letters commenting on the Local Coastal Plan Update were received from residents Lisa Ciani, Anthony Ciani, and Jane Haines.

b. Oral Communications

Resident Lisa Milligan urged the Commission to intercede as her neighbors have planted a podocarpus tree near their shared property line and she fears it could damage her property. Resident Sally Moore disagreed with the summary of her comments in the BNRC minutes from April 2015. Resident Barbara Thomas disagreed with the summary of her comments in the BNRC minutes from April 2015.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

a. April 17, 2015

On a motion by Commission Member Grate, seconded by Commission Member Akeman, the Commission voted 6-0 to approve the minutes. Motion carried.

b. May 19, 2015

On a motion by Commission Member Grate, seconded by Commission Member Akeman, the Commission voted 6-0 to approve the minutes. Motion carried.

4. REPORTS NOT REQUIRING ACTION

a. COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT

Council Member Bill Peake reported that SB 2481 has mandated that cities expedite approval of rooftop solar installations. There are potential conflicts between solar installation and tree preservation.

b. PUBLIC ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Chair Anton acknowledged the passing of Beverly Stillwell, an active and respected community member. She added that a memorial service is planned for a future date.

5. UNFINISHED/ONGOING BUSINESS

a. Litter and Cigarette Butts at Lovers Point Park

Reference: Kelly Terry

Commission Member Terry praised the installation of “Bait Tank” cigarette butt receptacles at Lovers Point beach and added that we still need signage on the Recreation Trail advising visitors that smoking is prohibited there. Commission Member Myers added that signage near the Monterey end of the Recreation Trail was taken down when trees were trimmed there. Commission Member Akeman stated that the cigarette butts being left on the Coastal Access Trail near the aquarium have been left by aquarium employees.

The following gave public comment:

Resident Cosmo Bua added that at a parking lot near the golf course, there are lots of cigarette butts.

6. NEW BUSINESS

a. Local Coastal Program: Draft Land Use Plan

Reference: Jessica Kahn

Ms. Kahn explained that the Local Coastal Plan is being discussed and reviewed by several commissions and that the BNRC will be going over it to allow more opportunities for public comment.

The following gave public comment:

Resident Lisa Ciani expressed several concerns. She is concerned that the current process does not allow for maximum public comment. She would like the plan to stipulate that no poison be used to control ground squirrels. She would like maps showing Pacific Grove’s ESHA and ASBS boundaries. She would like the black oystercatcher to be recognized as a special species. She would like to expand Pacific Grove’s coastal zone. She would like Hopkins Marine Station to be required to remove iceplant.

Resident Michelle Rainey was concerned that while monarchs are designated as a biological resource, the plan does not mention how they will be protected. She would like a statement saying that Pacific Grove will not use pesticides due to their detrimental nature.

Resident Cosmo Bua also would like a statement about Pacific Grove not using pesticides or herbicides.

Commission Member Flaig reported that residents also expressed concern over the speed of the Local Coastal Plan Update approval process and that the Planning Commission was discussing the possibility of getting an extension. She also praised staff for their huge efforts, especially for those surrounding the additions about future sea level change. Commission Member Grate was dismayed that Pacific Grove's specific concerns were not addressed in the update and would like a sub-committee. Jessica Kahn relayed that the public comment period ends on August 6, 2015. At that point, staff will consolidate all comments into one draft; if a sub-committee is to be formed, it would be best to wait until that draft is created. Commission Member Anton also would like more Pacific Grove specific information included and expressed appreciation for Council Member Peake's comments, read with his permission, that the updated plan should be Pacific Grove specific, in plain English, indicate the current state of the coast, and indicate future expectations. Commission Member Akeman wondered if the old documents from 1989 were being used. He stated that should the Local Coastal Plan Update call for removal of the fence around Hopkins Marine Station, he disagrees as that fence protects harbor seal adults and pups. Commission Member Myers would like to see Julia Platt mentioned in this document and valued the public comments that called for protecting Pacific Grove's viewshed. He would also like the magic carpet mentioned specifically by name so that it can be protected.

b. Trees in Drought Conditions

Reference: Mary Flaig

Commission Member Flaig suggested adding three links to the City's forestry website. These links are to websites that suggest procedures for keeping trees alive during times of drought. Commission Member Anton agreed and suggested that she would write a letter to the Cedar Street Times requesting an article on this topic.

The following gave public comment:

Resident Lisa Cianni shared that trees in Chase Park appeared stressed. Resident Sally Moore noted that the City arborist's job description includes education; she hopes he will play a part in the aforementioned article.

7. COMMISSIONER'S REPORTS

Commission Member Terry reported on an effective sign seen in Oregon that said "Squirrels Beware: Human Food is Bad for You." Commission Member Myers wanted to acknowledge a tree that fell over and hoped the arborist would apologize to the property owner. He asked that the Commission be kept abreast of the status of the lawsuit by residents living near the golf course. Commission Member Grate explained that milkweed is food for monarchs in their larval stage. Since our local monarchs are adults, milkweed should not be planted in this area and the Museum of Natural History should not give out milkweed seeds. Commission Member Anton attended an event at the Monterey Bay Aquarium and praised the summer show with its references to the diverse contributions to local history.

8. STAFF REPORTS

Jessica Kahn pointed out that to get updates on tree status, that would need to be agendized. The new waste management company begins providing service soon. An RFP for drafting a landscape ordinance has been issued. The tree inventory has been completed, and results will be shared at the next meeting.

9. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

Commission Member Grate would like to discuss what can be done about neighbor disputes involving trees. Commission Member Anton would like to add an update on the eucalyptus lawsuit. Commission Member Terry would like to include an update on signage discouraging wildlife feeding and smoking.

10. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Commission Member Akeman, seconded by Commission Member Myers, the Commission voted 6-0 to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

Submitted by:

Kelly Terry

Date