



NOTICE OF MEETING

CITY OF PACIFIC GROVE

BEAUTIFICATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION

MEETING AGENDA

4:00 p.m., January 16, 2018

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

1. Call to Order – 4:00 PM

2. Roll Call

Beautification and Natural Resources Commission Board Members: Jeanie Anton (Chair), Thom Akeman, Kelly Terry, David Myers, Mary Flaig, Colleen Goldsmith, Claudia Vierneisel

3. Approval of Agenda

4. Approval of Minutes

- a. Approval of November 21, 2017 Meeting Minutes

5. Public Comments

- a. Written Communications
- b. Oral Communications

Comments must deal with matters subject to the jurisdiction of the Commission that are not on the Agenda. Comments from the public will be limited to three minutes and will not receive Commission action. Whenever possible, letters should be submitted to the Commission in advance of the meeting.

6. Reports Not Requiring Action

- a. Council Liaison Announcements
Reference: Councilman Bill Peake
- b. Public Acknowledgment

7. Unfinished/Ongoing Business

- a. Newsrack update- Milas Smith
- b. Lovers Point update- Daneil Gho
- c. UAV or Drones update-Jean Anton

8. New Business

- a. BNRC 2018 Goals-Jean Anton

9. Commissioner's Reports

10. Staff Reports

11. Items for Next Agenda

12. Adjournment

This meeting is open to the public and all interested persons are welcome to attend. The City of Pacific Grove does not discriminate against individuals with disabilities and meetings are held in accessible facilities. A limited number of devices are available to assist those who are hearing impaired. If you would like to use one of these devices, please contact the Community Development Department at (831) 648-3183.



MINUTES

CITY OF PACIFIC GROVE
BEAUTIFICATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
4:00 p.m., Tuesday, November 21, 2017

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.

1. Call to Order at 4 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Beautification and Natural Resources Board Members:

Jean Anton (C), Mary Flaig (VC), Dave Myers, Kelly Terry, Colleen Goldsmith, Claudia Vierneisel, Thom Akeman (S)
All present.

3. Approval of Agenda

Unanimous approval

4. Approval of Minutes

After two corrections, October 27, 2017, meeting minutes approved unanimously.

5. Public Comments

a. Written Communications

Lisa Ciani requested two corrections in Oct. 27 minutes (item 4).
Barry Bedwell commented on Berwick Park issues in item 7b.

b. Oral Communications

Cathy Wooten, Nontoxic Pacific Grove, proposed a public workshop on the use of Roundup and other toxics.

6. Reports Not Requiring Action

a. Council liaison announcements

Councilmember Bill Peake provided updates on the cannabis ordinance, the improved role of the Historic Resources Committee, approval of a Tree City designation and pending

council topics.

b. Public acknowledgement

Chair Anton this month acknowledged Environmental Programs Manager Milas Smith for his dedicated efforts, particularly for obtaining the new trash and recycling receptacles distributed on city streets and public areas, and for his work to upgrade unsightly news racks.

c. Monarch Report

Nick Stong, education manager for the Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History, reported there are substantially fewer monarch butterflies in the Monarch Grove Sanctuary this year than last. The high count this November was 3,600 butterflies, compared to 17,000 in November 2016. There are hopes the migration is delayed, as it is with the Eastern population of monarchs, he said. There are also questions of whether the fire damage in Sonoma and Napa Valley might be a factor, or the late storms last winter. A number of monarchs- fewer than 100 so far this year – are also being killed as a food source by an unknown predator. .

7. Unfinished/Ongoing Business

a. News rack update

Public Works Director Gho said the city will take the lead to replace dilapidated news racks. He said a new ordinance will be needed to determine placement, sizes etc.

b. Discuss aloe plants at Berwick Park

People who live across from Berwick Park have asked the city to remove or cut back to a height of 24 inches the aloe plants at the back of the grassy area of the park to keep them from hiding people sleeping there, abusing drugs, toileting etc. Public Works Director Gho said Public Works cleaned up the park after neighbors complained in June and will again. But the plants are needed to support the hillside between the grassy park and the recreation trail and prevent erosion, he said. He said people should notify the police if they see illegal activities.

During public comment, Glynis Greening said the park is becoming a health problem because of activity the aloe obscures. Moe Ammar said he has taken his children to play in the park and now his grandchildren and finds a mess there that “is truly horrible.”

While the BNRC wasn't scheduled to vote on any action, Commissioner Myers said he agrees with Moe and

the neighbors because the aloe has overgrown and become unsightly. The other six commissioners said they don't see major landscaping problems at Berwick Park, although there might be police enforcement issues.

c. Perkins Park update

Public Works Director Gho reported a parttime employee dedicated to landscaping, principally in Perkins Park, will start working in early December.

During public comment, Lisa Ciani asked about water use in the park. Colleen Ingram of Nontoxic Pacific Grove asked about getting more volunteers to help clean the park.

8. New Business

Tree appeal – 120 Caledonia Street

Kayvan and Jeannie Kimyai, owner of the house at 120 Caledonia Street across from Caledonia Park, applied for a permit in March to remove a 93-foot Norfolk Island pine tree in the back yard, next to the house. They obtained a private arborist's report that says the tree appears to be increasing its lean and has had some surface roots cut, others blocked by a retaining wall, and could be hazardous. City Arborist Weisfuss examined the tree, disagreed with the private arborist's assessment, and called for a peer review by a master arborist. The master arborist's report says the tree appears to be stable and healthy, and the only photos provided – from 2011 – show the slight lean to be the same as it was. The master arborist explained that Norfolk Island pines have different wood than our more familiar Monterey pines and eucalyptus, store water differently, distribute weight differently, and tolerate winds better. He also said the tree's roots would grow deeper in the kind of soil in that area so surface interference might not matter. The master arborist recommended more detailed study of the roots and the lean before deciding if the tree needs to be removed.

City Arborist Weisfuss denied the removal request in September and the Kimyais appealed that denial in November.

Kayvan Kimyai told the BRNC that he believes a eucalyptus that fell in Caledonia Park last winter and subsequent removed of some Monterey pines there would affect his Norfolk Island pine. "I am worried that something will happen by the end of the year," he said. Two neighbors appeared before the BRNC to support the Kimyais' appeal, one saying he is an eye-witness that the tree has increased its lean in recent years, another saying he was afraid the tall tree could fall on the Kimyais' house and his own if it fails.

None of the commissioners were convinced the tree is an immediate hazard that needs to be removed. Three – Commissioners Goldsmith, Terry and Myers – said they would like to see the results of the further testing recommended by the master arborist. Four –

Commissioners Vierneisel, Flaig, Akeman and Anton – agreed that in light of the arborists' evidence, the beauty of the big tree and its value in the city treescape should be deciding factors.

Commissioners voted 7-0 to deny the appeal.

9. Commissioner's Reports

Chair Anton reported that Associate Planner Wendy Lao told her the tribal cultural resources policy presented at last month's BNRC meeting is now posted on the website.

10. Staff Reports

None

11. Items for Next Agenda (December 19, 2017)

Discussion of possible city forum on the use of pesticides and herbicides.

12. Adjournment at 5:32 p.m.