



MINUTES
CITY OF PACIFIC GROVE
BEAUTIFICATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION REGULAR
MEETING MINUTES
4:00 p.m., Tuesday, February 19, 2018

1. CALL TO ORDER AT 4 PM.

2. ROLL CALL

Beautification and Natural Resources Commission Members: Jeanie Anton (Chair), Dave Myers, Thomas Akeman, Lindsay Jacob, Colleen Goldsmith, and new member, Rebecca Lee. Absent: Kelly Terry

3. Approval of Agenda

Unanimous approval of agenda.

4. Approval of Minutes

Approval of December 18, 2018 minutes.

5. Election of Officers

Unanimous approval of Jean Anton, Chair; Dave Myers, Vice Chair, and Colleen Goldsmith, Secretary

6. Public Comments

a. Written Communication:

1. Michelle Raine, Craig Noke and Melanie Moreno expressed appreciation for new coastal signage; Lisa Ciani submitted photos by Jim Lindenthal and Kim Akeman; Cathy Wooten provided link for CNN article about glyphosate cancer study; Blake Matheson, Audubon Society, submitted "Black Oystercatcher Recommendations" memo of understanding; Thom Akeman shared photo of 2 male elephant seals; Maureen Mason emailed about Black Oystercatcher and Doug and Anne Downs emailed regarding hazard on bark trail of George Washington Park

b. Oral Communication:

1. Lisa Ciani regarding signage for Black Oystercatcher with total number of 16 signs; noted drone at Sea Palm and Crespi Cove; requested clarification for dog signs at Lovers Point
2. Maureen Mason regarding the Black Oystercatcher status and future protections

7. Presentations

- a. Nick Stong, Program Manager with PG Museum, presented report on PG Butterfly Sanctuary,

noting that docents contributed 446 hours of volunteer work in the sanctuary to 22,000 visitors including 36 groups of school children. Data provided included: peak count of 910 monarchs on 12/07/2018 (lowest count since 2009) and a count of 140 monarchs on 2/08/2019. While there are monarchs outside of the sanctuary in other neighborhoods that are not counted, during the 11/10 to 12/2 period of wintering sites surveyed, the PG census of 705 was lowest count on record. Of 213 sites monitored, the season population of 28,429 monarchs showed an 85% decrease this year compared to 200,000 last year. From data of the 1980's, this is a 95% reduction in the butterfly population. The June 2019 report may list Monarch butterflies as endangered. Nick also noted that warm weather in 2018 may have disrupted butterfly populations and California fires are being analyzed as a contributing factor in population declines.

8. Reports Not Requiring Action

a. Council Liaison Announcements:

Nick Smith not present

b. Public Acknowledgement:

Chair Anton acknowledgement of departing BNRC commissioner Claudia Vierneisel, commending her contribution as secretary and on George Washington Park sub-committee; Milas Smith for a 23% reduction in city greenhouse emissions using LED bulbs and award recipient; Weekly newspaper article about 3 special PG volunteers: Lynn Mason, Susan Pierszalkowski and Debbie Kenwood.

9. Unfinished/Ongoing Business:

a. Chair Anton provided update on first draft of the Reduction of Single-Use Plastics for City of PG with thanks to Colleen Ingram, Monterey Aquarium and Waste Management

1. Ximena Weismouth of Surfrider supports strong ordinance for city and noted "supply creates demand" with no compostible straws and re-useable containers encouraged. Also supported following the Monterey ordinance language.

2. Rebecca Lee stated need to demonstrate how to re-use plastics and advocates changes to packaging materials.
 3. Dave Myers stated Waste Management being forced to adapt and do more because of China not accepting some plastics and would like to see reduction in plastic demand by consumers.
- b. Dan Gho announced the formation of a Wildlife Committee that will convene in March and review the BLOY policies.
1. Jan Loomis, naturalist with NOAA, suggested need for police assistance and proposed that Pt. Pinos be closed to the public during nesting season due to off-leash dogs, public parties, "selfies" and native American burial grounds
 2. Blake Matheson of Audubon Society stated need for urgency with impending nesting season and sensitive nesting sites
 3. Stephanie Turcotte emphasized policing of sensitive areas and utilization of signage and roping off critical areas.
 4. Maureen Mason advised that BLOY have specific nesting territories and hopes interim policy may be adopted
 5. Lisa Ciani pointed out that ground nesting presents challenges and supports providing educational materials.
 6. Vicki Pearse recommended PG adopt a Memorandum of Understanding as a temporary measure
 7. Thom Akeman noted this will not be quick process with the California Coastal Commission and suggested docents and volunteers are desirable on site
 8. Milas Smith commented that draft guidelines from last year be used as a quick practical measure within critical time frame for the upcoming nesting season
- c. Thom Akeman provided draft report on the George Washington Park Subcommittee stating that about 30 years ago, the GW Master Plan was adopted but never implemented. Current report

recommends doing smaller projects now and in future. While pine trees are being regenerated, the subcommittee draft report suggests removal of invasive grasses with goats in specific areas. Report noted 33 species of birds and there is a recommendation to change the name of the park to George Washington Park and Nature Preserve. Request that the draft report be submitted to city council with unanimous support by BNRC .

1. Colleen Goldsmith thanked subcommittee for report and suggested that the park area be examined for fire danger within park and surrounding neighborhood.

10. New Business

a. Subcommittee for 2019 BNRC goals will include Lindsay Jacob, Rebecca Lee and Colleen Goldsmith

11. Commissioner's Report

a. Thom Akeman reported that harbor seals pupping season has not commenced

b. Dave Myers suggested that Nextdoor PG is well utilized and perhaps staff monitor to provide city information. As volunteer coordinator, suggestion that Amy Colony could monitor web-site

12. Staff Announcements

a. Dan Gho announced Perkins Park clean-up & weeding scheduled for April 13 and 14. Last chemical application was done in May 2018 and suggested that while labor intensive, a landscaping torch may be used. Also will apply fertilizer to purple carpet which may reduce weed growth.

b. Colleen Ingram stated concern that a volunteer is using Roundup chemicals in areas near City Hall

c. Lisa Ciani seconded her concerns about use of pesticides

13. Items for Next Agenda

a. Midway Island Birds-Jan Loomis

b. 2019 BNRC Goals

14. Meeting Adjourned at 5:30

