



CITY OF PACIFIC.GROVE

BEAUTIFICATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION

MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, January 21, 2020, 4:00 P.M.
Council Chamber- City Hall- 300 Forest Avenue, Pacific Grove, CA

CALL TO ORDER AT 4 PM.

1. Roll Call

Beautification and Natural Resources Commission Members: Dave Myers; Thom Akeman;

Colleen Goldsmith; Kelly Terry; Rebecca Lee. Absent: Jeanie Anton, Chair, and Lindsay Jacob

2. Approval of January Agenda

Motion to approve agenda carried 5-0-2 vote

3. Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve minutes of December 17, 2019 carried 5-0-2 vote

4. Presentations Monarch Sanctuary Docents

- a. Monarch Sanctuary Docent Report by Mary Dainton: updated count of 65 Monarchs in the sanctuary with 4064 visitors logged from December 15 to January 20, with note that volunteer shifts do not cover all visitation hours. School groups numbered 11 with 467 children visiting both the Museum and Sanctuary. Mary noted that 8 eucalyptus trees in portable pots are dead and ropes in sanctuary are sagging. The Euryops daisies in pots need to be planted out and No Dog sign installed at Grove Acre entrance disappeared within a week. Hotel staff have been observed smoking near the walkway and a nearby neighbor blew leaves off the roof of a building directly under the tree Monarchs were clustering in.
- b. Sanctuary Staff presentation by Caleb Schneider: reported that current work on maintenance is irrigation. Amy Colony's report noted 6 volunteers have been watering Sanctuary with total of 40 hours logged.
- c. Commission comments: Dave Myers reported that Robert Pacelli may replace the dead Eucalyptus trees and inquired about the process for BNRC and Public Works going forward in light of findings and conclusions by the Western Monarch Summit. Colleen Goldsmith asked when the daisy trees will be planted out and timing for repairs to the bathroom roof that was damaged by PW during installation. Caleb responded that he and Amy are going through a learning process and will

implement a series of plans for the Sanctuary. The daisies and roof will be addressed in April.

Rebecca Lee commented on the watering logs.

5. Public Comments

- a. Written Communication: Jan Loomis email regarding the newly installed signs along Ocean View at the turn outs; Lisa Ciani email requesting signage review of the 4 turn out signs; Dominick Sinicropi email to BNRC and City Council regarding the Western Monarch Summit; Tama Olver and Larry Hulberg email regarding the Monarch Summit (also article in January 17, 2020 Cedar Street Times); Barry and Kim Bedwell email regarding the planting of two trees in Berwick Park
- b. Oral Communication: Lynn Mason requested that the turn out signs be addressed as an agenda item for next BNRC meeting; Lisa Ciani stated that 6 turn out signs are confusing for emergency assistance and are in fact, in error and that BNRC should be involved in new signage installation

6. Reports Not Requiring Action

- a. Council Liaison Nick Smith absent
- b. Mayor Bill Peake thanked Kelly Terry for her service on the BNRC. Update for the Pt. Pinos trail is the \$1.8 million grant by the Coastal Conservancy, noting the total cost is \$2.4 million. Mayor also advised of new requirement for commission agenda items including agenda reports, some background information and possible action or recommendation to city staff and council.
- c. Dave Myers thanked departing BNRC members Kelly Terry and Lindsay Jacob for their service and also acknowledged Lindsay as a member of the George Washington sub-committee. Both Lindsay and former BNRC Claudia Verneisel will continue to serve on the sub-committee.

7. Items Requiring Action: None

8. Unfinished Ongoing Business

- a. Sanctuary Weather Station update by Dan Gho that PW has some questions for Dominick Sinicropi prior to receiving the weather station donation.
- b. Public Comment: Lisa Ciani expressed concern about the delay of the weather station.

c. BNRC Name Change

Public Comment: Barry Bedwell likes the word "environmental" and "beautification" for the new title; Sally Moore commented that this item should have had an agenda report

Commissioner Comments: Rebecca Lee likes "advisory" in the title and also prefers "stewardship" over "conservancy". Colleen Goldsmith thinks name should remain BNRC as "natural resources" encompasses trees, parks, seashore, ,native and non native plants, wildlife, butterflies, birds, coastal access and pathways within Pacific Grove as well as impact of pesticide use, climate change and erosion issues. Colleen also supports keeping "beautification" in the name as it is the BNRC who took a lead in replacement of dilapidated magazine racks, trash receptacles, landscaping and maintenance of coastal trail, litter reduction and cigarette butts, single use plastics ordinance, public art and improvements at Lovers Point. Thom Akeman stated he has no strong opinion on the name change and agrees with Colleen; Dave Myers commented on the historical context and the merging of two separate commissions. Dave likes the broad based connotation of "beautification" and thinks "natural resources" covers stewardship and environmental issues. Kelly Terry likes the current name as it now is.

d. George Washington Park Sub Committee

Thom Akeman reported that 27 volunteers removed invasive grasses on January 11, 2020 with Amanda Prees (?) identifying native and non native plants. The next volunteer park session is scheduled for February 8th. Thom also noted that the Recreation Board will be conducting a survey the end of January with a forthcoming report.

Public Comment: Lisa Ciani attended the volunteer work session and supports native planting;

Barbara Thomas inquired about the future of the project and scope of work to be accomplished

Commission Comment: Colleen Goldsmith inquired whether any goats will be reserved for park and status of the RFP. Dan Gho stated that there has been one response by a forestry person.

e. Native Nectar Plant Brochure (See Draft Attachment 2)

Rebecca Lee reported that since 2014, Monarch butterflies have been feeding on non-native plants and that is being regarded as an adaptation for survival (see Rebecca Lee article in January 17, 2020 in Cedar Street Times). Rebecca referenced climate change as a major issue.

Public Comments: Lisa Ciani thanked BNRC for their work on the brochure and likes the bold font design for native vs non native nectar plants. Barbara Thomas noted that the Latin names should be italicized and that Xerces Society supports the 5 mile milkweed distance from coast but the discussions note that more milkweed is needed. Rudy Fischer thanked Rebecca Lee and BNRC and suggested that city plant native nectars.

Commission Comments: Kelly Terry thanked Rebecca for her work on brochure; Colleen Goldsmith thanked Rebecca for the article in the Cedar Street Times that clarified the danger of tropical milkweed

9. New Business:

- a. Dan Gho reported that Stuart Weiss will do a Sanctuary visit in July
- b. Commission Comment: Rebecca Lee commented that with an earlier evaluation, actions can be implemented

10. Commissioner Reports

Rebecca Lee would like to see all interested parties working together on the Sanctuary including BNRC, Museum, Monarch Butterfly Docents, PG city council, Public Works, Xerces, Robert Pacelli, and a professional forestry person. Also commented on the idea of using quiet fireworks for the Feast of the Lanterns city event

11. Staff Announcements: none

12. Items for Next Agenda:

BNRC name change decision; Turn out signage; Stuart Weiss Sanctuary Visit; Memorial Tree Planting; RFP update; landscaping at Post Office; Nectar Plant brochure

Meeting Adjourned: 5:30 pm

Secretary

Signature

Date
