



CITY OF PACIFIC GROVE
300 Forest Avenue, Pacific Grove, California 93950

AGENDA REPORT

TO: Chair Anton and Members of the Beautification and Natural Resources Commission
FROM:
MEETING DATE: 07/21/2020
SUBJECT: February 18, 2020 meeting minutes

RECOMMENDATION

Approve the meeting minutes.

Attachments

Feb 17, 2020 Meeting Minutes

CALL TO ORDER AT 4 PM.

1. ROLL CALL

Beautification and Natural Resources Commission Members: Jeanie Anton, Chair; Thom Akeman; Colleen Goldsmith; Cathy Wooten; Barry Bedwell; Dave Myers; Rebecca Lee

2. Approval of February Agenda

Motion to approve agenda carried 7-0 vote

3. Election of Officers

Nominations and voting for officers carried by 7-0 vote for Chair Jeanie Anton, Vice Chair Dave Myers and Secretary Colleen Goldsmith

4. Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve minutes of January 21, 2020 carried 7-0 vote with correction noted to typo error in word ordinance under Item 8c.

5. Presentation by Monarch Sanctuary Docents

Mary Dainton presented updated count of 30 Monarchs in the sanctuary with 1300 visitors logged during period of January 20th until February 17th by the volunteer docents. Eight school groups were educated at the Museum and Sanctuary with total of 423 children and 109 chaperones. One tour group of adults on tour totaled 41. Watering in the Sanctuary is being done by city volunteers but it was noted that the Euryops daisies dry out quickly and need to be planted out. Monarch docent equipment is back at the Sanctuary and Caleb Schneider and Amy Colony were thanked for their efforts. Bathroom is well utilized and docents are working with the city and museum to coordinate opening the bathroom when staff are not on duty. A new No Dog sign has been installed at the Grove Acre entrance.

6. Public Comments

- a. Written Communication: 26 emails were received from residents: support of the program for memorial trees (12); assertion of too many trees in Berwick Park (1); turn out signage (3); nectar brochure (2); Monarch butterfly comments (2); bees (1); Sanctuary grants (1); poetry plaque (2);

Congressman Panetta visit to Sanctuary (1); and commendation Amy Colony and Caleb Schneider at city council meeting (1).

- b. Oral Communication: Lisa Ciani commented on the suggestion for a nectar garden at Lovers Point by Cynthia Garfield; the e-bike ordinance and need for community service officer to patrol recreation trail; and request for update of RFP for Geo. Washington Park.

7. Reports Not Requiring Action

- a. Council Liaison Nick Smith absent
- b. Chair Anton thanked the Geo. Washington sub-committee and volunteers working in the park; Rebecca Lee and Cathy Wooten were also thanked for their work on the nectar brochure.

8. Items Requiring Action:

- a. Capital Improvement Project (CIP) presented by Milas Smith is defined as a property, plant, or improvement having a useful life of 2 plus years and a total cost of \$5,000 or more. CIP are non-recurring projects and BNRC proposed 5 possible projects for consideration.

Public Comment: Lisa Ciani supports dedicated funding for tree planting. Commissioner

Comment: Dave Myers commented on the memorial wall at the cemetery for purpose of memorials; Barry Bedwell inquired about the funding for planting trees; Thom Akeman

commented that the CIP funding would be in addition to the Memorial Tree Project and suggested that an outside contractor be considered for planting and watering trees; also

stated that city of Pacific Grove is 8 years behind in planting replacement trees for the city-wide canopy; Rebecca Lee supports an outside contractor and would like to give trees to residents to

plant on their properties; Dave Myers raised question of best locations for planting trees; Cathy

Wooten supports the tree funding; Colleen Goldsmith noted the mature trees in the city that will

require replacement now and in the future; Barry Bedwell inquired about the placement of trees planted to replace existing trees. Other comments regarding CIP suggestions by the BNRC include

Jeanie Anton in support of replacing the sagging ropes at the Sanctuary; Colleen Goldsmith suggestion that mural on the rec trail be considered ; Cathy Wooten regarding the trail clarification in Geo. Washington Park. By a vote of 7-0, BNRC selected the dedicated tree funding and replacement of sagging ropes as the CIP proposals to be submitted to the city.

- b. Annual BNRC Goals Update presented by Chair Anton with recommendation that subcommittee review and update 2020 goals. Subcommittee formed with Colleen Goldsmith, Dave Myers and Cathy Wooten to meet with Milas Smith and bring forward to next BNRC meeting.

Public Comment: Lisa Ciani suggested that Wildlife be a separate category. Commissioner

Comment: Barry Bedwell inquired about the raccoon problem and suggested that raccoon issue be included under wildlife goals; PW Dan Gho noted that raccoon problems should be addressed to PG Animal Control.

- c. Nectar Plant Brochure summary provided by Chair Anton. Public Comment: Lisa Ciani suggested the addition of language "no pesticides"; Connie Masotti would like to see emphasis on native plants over non-natives. Commissioner Comment: Cathy Wooten likes the addition of wording "To prevent harm to Monarchs", it is recommended....Rebecca Lee supports additional wording; Dave Myers commented on the Nextdoor misinformation regarding milkweed; Jeanie Anton commented on non-natives that thrive in gardens that attract butterflies; Colleen Goldsmith remarked on the Nextdoor thread and the strong interest by the public for a nectar brochure; Rebecca Lee explained that while this may not be the perfect brochure, it is the result of months of discussion and debate concerning what should be planted to help our Monarchs. A vote was taken and passed 7-0 to add the suggested language to the brochure and commence printing.

9. Unfinished /Ongoing Business

- a. Dan Gho summarized the status of the turnout signage and 5 locations where signs are installed to assist PG Police and Fire Departments for emergency response. The Police Department would like to add 2 additional signs and is submitting alternative sign language consistent with location

identification. Public Comment: Lisa Ciani commented that current signs are confusing and do not require complete sentences; Lynn Mason inquired whether BNRC should be involved in approval of new signs and recommended numbers or simplified name as identification. Commissioner Comment: Barry Bedwell believes the full sentences are unnecessary; Chair Anton noted that a sign survey was conducted last year along the coastal trail; Dave Myers supports PGPD but would like to have better signage; Cathy Wooten suggested identifying numbers; Colleen Goldsmith endorses the addition of the word turnout for Sea Palm. Police Chief Cathy Madalone likes numbers on signs. After review of alternative signage language, the BNRC supports the replacement of the current turnout signs with the first 3 alternatives mocked up by the PD.

10. New Business

a. PW Dan Gho presented information about the Memorial Tree Program that was started by the city in 2012. Informational flyer and applications can be found on the city website. A map of pre-determined locations has been identified and were presented. Public Comment: Lynn Mason suggested that city promote this program and would like to see more trees on Lighthouse, Esplanade and Berwick Park. Don Murphy supports program and would like to expand planting to city streets. Bud Biery likes pruning at Berwick Park because some trees are 15-20 feet in diameter which block ocean views and public/residents will lose their view of the ocean; Lisa Ciani supports the program and emphasized that some of the parks need replacement trees but is concerned about replacement costs in the event a memorial tree dies. Commissioner Comment: Chair Anton thinks the program needs to be promoted; Rebecca Lee stated that city website does nothing to promote memorial program; Dave Myers inquired about how tree locations are determined and is mindful of trees along the coastline impacting ocean views; Thom Akeman supports planting trees along the coastline and promoting the program; Barry Bedwell advocates a balance between trees and ocean views with the ocean being one of the biggest assets in the city; Colleen Goldsmith emphasized that Berwick Park has a large expanse of green

grass that should not be planted with numerous trees and emphasized that the views of the ocean provide a beautiful calming effect for both residents and visitors, noting that visitors do not come to the city to view trees. Rebecca Lee noted that trees are for residents and that Berwick Park is reserved for events, while supporting the planting of trees on Lighthouse, the Monarch Sanctuary and in neighborhoods. Chair Anton enjoys seeing trees in her ocean views and it is not possible to consider everyone's view corridor. Dave Myers noted that old photos indicate there were no trees along the coast and does not support blocking of resident ocean views. Dan Gho stated that tree locations are determined by past tree locations and the arborist has selected appropriate locations for memorial tree planting.

- b. Monarch Sanctuary Plaque presented by Milas Smith concerning the offer by Poet Jon Plaisted to install an "October in Pacific Grove" plaque within the Sanctuary, with the costs borne by the author and location installment determined by Public Works. Public Comment: Lisa Ciani noted that this was first presented to the museum board but BNRC is tasked with the review of public art. Connie Masotti thinks that the Sanctuary should be kept natural and does not support a plaque. Commissioner Comment: Thom Akeman does not support a plaque but does believe interpretative signage would be of benefit; Dave Myers suggested that museum garden would be better location for poetry plaque. Motion to not install the plaque within the Sanctuary passed 7-0.

11. Commissioner's Report

Chair Anton noted that Form 700 must be filed every year; City Manager requests that city staff be present for subcommittee meetings. All commissioners can approve meeting minutes but if dissent, the name of the commissioner should be noted. Further a report is not open to discussion except for clarification purposes and if a report requires discussion, it should be on the agenda.

A special announcement for the Sanctuary will take place at noon on Thursday with Congressman Jimmy Panetta and BNRC commissioners are invited to attend the event.

Thom Akeman stated that 20 volunteers assisted at Geo. Washington Park and March 14th and

April 11th are the next scheduled park work sessions. Additionally Thom is trying to get some high school students to assist in the park work. The subcommittee will meet in the summer to assess progress. Harbor seals are expected to have a birthing season much like last year which will start in March. The population is faced with increased numbers of sharks in the bay

12. Staff Announcements: none

13. Items for Next Agenda: Arbor Day Event; Status of Harbor Seals; 2020 BNRC Goals; and discussion of BNRC and Public Works interaction.

Meeting Adjourned: 5:53 pm

Secretary

Signature

Date
