

**CITY OF SOUTH PASADENA  
NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION  
MINUTES – August 28, 2018**

- 1) **Call to Order/Roll Call:** The meeting called to order at 7:02 pm. Present were: Commissioner Findley, Chair Kelly, Commissioner Leider, Commissioner Wilms, Commissioner Benzoni, Commissioner Davis and Commissioner Puni was absent. Council Liaison Dr. Schneider was present. Staff present: Kristine Courdy, Public Works Operations Manager.
- 2) **Approval of Minutes – Meeting of July 12, 2018**  
Minutes approved as amended (Leider, Benzoni, unanimous)
- 3) **Public Comment**  
No Public Comment
- 4) **Discussion Action**
  - A. Continued Tree Removal Hearing for 728 Bonita Drive - Staff gave a brief overview of the tree removal for 728 Bonita. David Streshinsky, architect informed the Commission that the Oak tree is inside of the lower bedroom and not part of the deck, therefore cannot be saved. It is in the foot print of the house. A motion was made to approve the tree removal for 728 Bonita Drive and the tree replacement plan and quantities (Davis, Benzoni) unanimous.
  - B. 181-187 Monterey Road - Staff gave a brief overview of the tree removals for 181-187 Monterey Road. The project's consulting Arborist discussed the Project and provided an updated survey. The applicant presented the Project and proposed landscaping plan. The majority of the trees are on the hillside. 24 Oak trees are proposed for removal and 15 Oak trees will be preserved (39 total on the site). Removing five (5) and preserving two (2) other non-native trees (7 total protected trees). The applicant is proposing 58 tree replacements as part of the Project.

The Commission noted that the comments from the July 11, 2018 meeting, addressed most of their concerns, however the NREC Commission compiled the following list of comments for the Planning Commission and applicant:

- 1) Green coverage is being removed, therefore the Commission would like to ensure that trees are being put back to provide shade. Look at adding trees the courtyards, expanses, along the retaining wall, and driveway with more trees.
- 2) Looking at the uphill portion of the site with new trees being planted and ensure that the applicant is putting in the proper erosion control and native seed mix/grasses to help with erosion/weed control.

A motion was made to recommend to the Planning Commission that the plans for tree removals, replacements, and landscaping plans meet the Commission's concerns and the Commission would request that trees are added in the middle of the driveway, evergreen trees along the uphill passage in the two rows of units, and vegetation along the walls with native flowers/grasses used on the slope to mitigate erosion. (Chair, Leider; unanimous).

- C. 1225 Chelton Way - Staff gave a brief overview on the tree removal. The Architect presented the Project and explained that the optimal location of the ADU is in the same location as the Oak tree, therefore it needs to be relocated or removed. Applicant is proposing to use Brightview for the relocation, create an 18-foot box and move the tree to the front. The Commission requested information on the bonding and timeline assuring the survival of the tree. The applicant also proposed to replace the Oak tree with an 11-foot box Oak tree. The Commission noted adding an evergreen between the new ADU and the adjacent properties.

A motion was made to approve the removal of the Oak tree, replacing it with a large 11-foot box Oak tree in the front yard, and planting the additional replacement trees required by the code to mitigate the loss of the Oak tree between the neighboring properties, which is the difference in the existing diameter at breast height (DBH) and the proposed DBH amended (the additional trees to fit in character with the landscaping and native trees on the site). (Chair, Leider 4-1; Benzoni).

- D. Water Conservation Rebates - Staff gave a presentation of the water conservation rebates. The Commission discussed the water conservation rebate program including discussion on requiring water audits for high water users, discussed if Parkway trees could be funded from the water conservation fund based on a University of Utah study demonstrating that trees reduce the amount of irrigation, and discussed that the City Hall may not be the best location for the proposed demonstration Project. The Commission discussed adding a City incentive match to the MWD landscape transformation rebate program, however no recommendation was made.

The Commission approved the proposed Water Conservation Rebate Program and Capital Improvement Projects with the following comments to be provided to City Council:

- Remove any City Incentive for rain barrels in the Metropolitan Water District (MWD) residential rebate program which has been incorporated into staff's recommendation.
  - Expand the median Capital Improvement Project to include the entire stretch of Fair Oaks.
  - Consider a more visible location for the City impervious surface conversion demonstration project.
- E. Potentially Recovering the Value of City Trees - Chair Kelly discussed information he researched with the UC Davis Extension. The City of San Jose charges \$226 for removing the first tree when it is dead, diseased or inappropriate and the additional trees are \$32 per tree. For properties where healthy trees are being removed \$2,000 per tree (before replacement) and larger commercial properties \$2,419 per tree. This item will be discussed further at a future meeting.
- F. NREC Initiative Tracking – The Commission discussed the initiative tracking report and agreed to update it monthly.

**5) Council Liaison Comments**

Council Liaison Dr. Schneider suggested that the Commission should consider: 1) The time frame of tree survival; and 2) Consider adding a discussion on the tree ordinance regarding tree relocation and tree permitting process. He discussed maintenance of the medians around the City (Orange Grove and Pasadena) and requested it to be reported on in the future.

**6) Staff Liaison Comments**

Update on the tree ordinance and tree update process.

**7) Commission Comments**

Nancy Wilms commented on the recruitment of the Water Conservation Analyst. Add working relationship with the Planning Commission to a future meeting. Leider requested that bans of Roundup similar to Burbank, Carlsbad, and Encinitas, be added to a future agenda. Chair Kelly commented on native plants and finding tarantula wasps and noted that during high heat days he observed scorching trees and plants. Chair Kelly is concerned if the scorched trees/vegetation is going to provide more fuel for potential fires at the Arroyo. Findley commented on trimming of Oak trees being in the newspaper.

***Updates – No Discussion Required***

**8) Water Conservation Programs** – City had a total water use reduction of 21% for June 2018 and 14% for July 2018.

**9) Urban Forestry Update**

**10) Upcoming Events** – HHW Burbank 9/18; El Monte 9/15

**11) Adjourned**

Meeting adjourned at 9:42pm (Davis, Leider, unanimous)

  
William J. Kelly, Chair