



**CITY OF PETALUMA, CALIFORNIA
REGULAR MEETING OF THE TREE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

City Hall Council Chamber
11 English Street
Petaluma, CA 94952

**DRAFT MINUTES
Wednesday, November 15, 2023**

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Bill Cover, Eberle Ewing, Howard Formby, Taryn Obaid, Darren Racusen, Roger McErlane, Marianne Bertuccelli

ABSENT: None

GENERAL

PUBLIC

COMMENT

During **General Public Comment**, the public is invited to make comments on items of public interest that are within the City Council's subject matter jurisdiction and that are not listed on the current agenda. Public comments are limited up to three minutes per person. Depending on the number of persons wishing to address the Council, time will be allocated in equal shares totaling no more than twenty minutes, subject to the Council's discretion (Cal. Gov't. Code §54954.3(a), Petaluma City Council Rules, Policies and Procedures, III).

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Public Comment – Nickola Frye

Wendy Jacobs with ReLeaf sharing updates on the activities and upcoming events, completing tree plantings under the Urban Forest Management grant (50+ trees), and plantings at parks/schools in partnership with Daily Acts.

ReLeaf opening a study to expand species pallet, finding it necessary as they expand/diversify (street trees, residences, etc.). A survey will be going out soon to volunteers.

PRESENTATIONS

2. Six Parks 2 Tree Plantings (ReLeaf)
Carolyn Lacerra with ReLeaf shared the presentation provided showing the next proposed projects in the parks with the Six Parks 2 Tree Plantings.

Committee shared questions, concerns, comments, and thanked her/ReLeaf for their efforts and hard work on this project.

3. North River Park Project (Friends of the Petaluma River)

Elizabeth Howland and Stephanie Bastianon shared their presentation on the Petaluma River Greenway project, which included mission/goals, map overview, funding, grant application, partnerships, community engagement, and next steps.

Committee shared questions, concerns, comments, and shared their appreciation for this project.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

4. Approval of Minutes for the meeting of August 16, 2023

Minutes were deemed approved.

5. Approval of Minutes for the meeting of September 20, 2023

Minutes were deemed approved.

PUBLIC HEARINGS AND MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION

6. Communication and Outreach AdHoc Committee Progress Update
Committee Member Racusen stated they met internally and had discussions regarding outreach to other cities who have good street trees and urban forestry programs, possibly request presentations for our committee. Committee Member Obaid has done a lot of research as well. They read the City of Chico Urban Management Plan and states this is a great model.

Committee Member Obaid – Conversations with other cities can be so valuable and she encourages others to do so. This is a great resource to learn what is possible with fresh information from best practice cities.

Committee shared questions/concerns and discussed goals for tree ordinance, and a push for the city to take responsibility of street tree maintenance, etc.

7. Recommendation to establish an AdHoc Committee for Arbor Day Celebration 2024
Motion to establish an Arbor Day Celebration AdHoc Committee

Motion: Racusen
Second: Bertucelli
Vote:7-0

Committee Members: Bertucelli, Racusen, Formby

8. Recommendation on Kentucky Street Tree Species Replacement at Crosswalk

Nice presentation from Ken at meeting last week. Left it for Tree Advisory Committee (TAC) to make recommendations for street trees.

Howard discussed different tree options (habitat and preferred). Important to get approved street list updated. TAC can recommend/approve trees not on the list though. Chair Formby recommended the Western Sycamore/Platanus Racemosa.

Committee discussed options, planning ideas, etc.

Motion for a recommendation of species of the Western Sycamore/Platanus Racemosa:

Motion: Racusen

Second: Cover

Vote: 7-0

COMMITTEE COMMENT

McErlane: Planning meeting last night finished at 2:30am, Overlay ordinance passed, and the hotel is part of that envelope, so the hotel is proceeding ahead.

McErlane/Racusen have a hard time understanding what this project will do for the city.

Racusen: output from broad committee, he thinks a lot of people saw it as a pilot for testing more flexibility with building forms, in an attempt to follow the old general plan, intensifying downtown, argument made that this is a pilot until we get to the new general plan, etc.

Ewing: Urban Forestry program with Ben Anderson, is he doing inventory for us? Staff Liaison Chong explained this is a time for comments, not necessarily questions.

Happy to hear ReLeaf is expanding their plant palate, and they are taking into effect climate change, etc.

Cover: Spoke regarding some of the initiatives happening, i.e. Slow the Fast Down, excited about slowing traffic down with hopes to get more pedestrians out and grow our canopy. Appreciates raising awareness around beautifying our streets, the additional work involved (engineering, committees, etc.).

McErlane: small trees planted on Pet Blvd – where did those come from? Email Cindy for info/answer. Most likely property owner.

Obaid: Feedback from community members wanting her to point them to tree information. Would like more resources on our website for TAC and user-friendly options.

Repeated comments about Paula Lane Action Network, confusion, having a lot of trees waiting for protection, can we help get clarity on that? Can we do anything to help preserve that land? Asked Committee members to please try not to miss meetings.

Trees missing at Petaluma Swim Center. Parents concerned about particulate matter. Community member reached out re: Oak Hill Park; needs trees near Bocce Ball court. Need tree ordinance to review ASAP.

Bertuccelli – Recreation, Music & Parks Commission update: last meeting main focus was the integrated pest management policy, AdHoc completed draft, and city is reviewing, and hope to forward to council for adoption soon. There will be two presentations tonight, ReLeaf and Daily Acts (Climate Adaptation Landscapes). They will also be discussing the Kenilworth Park Revitalization Project.

STAFF COMMENT

Staff Liaison Chong stated the Urban Forest Management work is still in process (Ben is working on it). As far as the Tree Policy Ordinance goes, Planning and Heather wanted to come to this meeting, but timing was not allowed due to the other presentations, so they will attend the next meeting to allow sufficient time for review/discussion.

She agrees the City of Chico Urban Management Plan is a great model.

ADJOURNMENT – 5:02pm