



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

City Hall Council Chamber
11 English Street
Petaluma, CA 94952

**DRAFT MINUTES
Wednesday, September 20, 2023**

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Bill Cover, Howard Formby, Darren Racusen, Roger McErlane, Marianne Bertuccelli

ABSENT: Eberle Ewing, Taryn Obaid

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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General Public Comment – Stephanie Sanchez

PRESENTATIONS

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

2. Approval of Minutes for the meeting of August 16, 2023 – **Item moved to October 18, 2023**

PUBLIC HEARINGS AND MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION

3. Communication and Outreach AdHoc Committee Progress Update
No update given.

PUBLIC COMMENT
No Public Comment

PUBLIC COMMENT CLOSED

4. Heritage Tree List Ad Hoc Progress Update
Committee Member McErlane stated he gave Staff Liaison Chong information/documents (from David Baldwin, prior committee member). No other updates, this AdHoc is complete.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No Public Comment

PUBLIC COMMENT CLOSED

5. Street Tree List Ad Hoc Progress Update
Chair Formby said they did approach the Planning Department about adding some trees to the list as a measure until we get the update to the ordinance, but it's very close to being completed so it will be done at the same time.

The committee discussed communication with the community, recommendations the Tree Advisory Committee can make, and local arborists.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No Public Comment

PUBLIC COMMENT CLOSED

6. Recommendation Re-Open Ad Hoc Committee Memberships Committee

Chair Formby stated Committee Member Ewing (absent today) expressed an interest.

Motion to reopen to add members to AdHoc Committees

Motion: Racusen

2nd: McErlane

Vote: 5-0 (2 members absent)

Add to Street Tree List AdHoc: Committee Member Ewing

PUBLIC COMMENT

No Public Comment

PUBLIC COMMENT CLOSED

7. Recommendation to establish an AdHoc Committee for Arbor Day Celebration 2024
Staff Liaison Chong introduced the topic and explained more about Arbor Day and how we typically do the April date.
Event takes time to plan so it's good to plan ahead.
Committee Member Racusen likes idea, gave past idea with a Tree Fest,

shifting culture about trees, welcome the community.

Committee discussed doing a motion or moving to next meeting with more members available. Tabled to next agenda.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No Public Comment

PUBLIC COMMENT CLOSED

COMMITTEE COMMENT

Committee Member Bertuccelli no specific updates. The major item that went to Parks & Recreation was the turf issue and it did not move forward.

Committee Member McErlane: No Planning updates.

Committee Member Racusen: He and Committee Member McErlane did SPAR review of Chick-fil-A parking lot. They'll be planting 93 trees. The original trees chosen were not good shade trees, so they negotiated to go back to design arborist and shoot for more native trees, replace crepe myrtle and strawberry trees, and get better coverage trees. They had some progress and put temporary landscaping in 17 parking spaces.

Committee Member Cover: supports and encourages the tree suggestions on that project and appreciates the overlay planning involvement by Committee Member McErlane.

Committee Member Bertuccelli: when will we propose an ordinance regarding tree plantings/maintenance and mandates?

Chair Formby: appreciated Stephanie's public comment and concreted areas being removed for plantings. Discussed medians/landscaping too.

STAFF COMMENT

Heather Hines from the Planning Department joined the meeting to give an update to the committee on planning work with tree lists, ordinance, permits, etc. There are many different projects all at once and unfortunately, all can't be completed at once. They are looking to acknowledge trees for all the benefits and to make sure they are a part of the conversation early on in planning.

The committee discussed their questions/concerns and encouraged communication with the Planning Department.

Staff Liaison Chong thanked those for coming to UFM kickoff. Gave update working with Ben Anderson and will give updates on future meetings and events.

ReLeaf will have a busy fall planting season. Look for big news, may have been awarded a grant, once official, she'll share.

Chair Formby mentioned he brought up North River Project and partnership with Sonoma Land Trust/Coastal Commission previously and wanted to clear up it was with the Coastal Conservancy.
ReLeaf won large grant for urban forest.

ADJOURNMENT

5:03PM