

**CITY OF LOS BANOS
TREE COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 11, 2015**

**ACTION MINUTES – These minutes are prepared to depict
action taken for agenda items presented to the
Tree Commission.**

CALL TO ORDER: Chairperson Kaljian called the Tree Commission Meeting to order at 5:01 p.m. Prior to calling the meeting to order, the following Tree Commission Members received the oath of office: Mary Coakley and Tom Kaljian.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Commissioner Menefee led the pledge of allegiance.

ROLL CALL – MEMBERS OF THE TREE COMMISSION PRESENT: Coakley, Kaljian, Menefee, Spevak; Tietjen.

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Public Works Director/City Engineer Fachin, Parks and Recreation Operations Manager Cardoza, Public Works Administrative Clerk II Nelson

NOMINATION AND SELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR FOR 2015: Motion by Spevak, seconded by Coakley to nominate Kaljian to serve as Chairperson for 2015. After discussion, the motion to nominate Kaljian as Chairperson for 2015 carried by the affirmative vote of all Tree Commission Members present. Motion by Tietjen, seconded by Menefee to nominate Coakley to serve as Vice Chairperson for 2015. The motion carried by the affirmative vote of all Tree Commission Member present.

CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Motion by Coakley, seconded by Menefee to approve the agenda as submitted. The motion carried by the affirmative vote of all Tree Commission Members present.

CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL OF THE ACTION MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF NOVEMBER 12, 2014: Motion by Spevak, seconded by Menefee to approve the minutes as submitted. The motion carried by the affirmative vote of all Tree Commission Members present.

PUBLIC FORUM: MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC MAY ADDRESS THE COUNCIL ON ANY ITEM OF PUBLIC INTEREST THAT IS WITHIN THE JURISDICTION OF THE CITY; INCLUDES AGENDA AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS. NO ACTION WILL BE TAKEN ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS. DETAILED GUIDELINES ARE POSTED ON THE COUNCIL CHAMBER INFORMATIONAL TABLE. No one came forward to speak and the public forum was closed.

27th ANNUAL ARBOR DAY CELEBRATION AND 25TH TREE CITY USA PROGRAM REPORT: Parks and Recreation Operations Manager Cardoza reported on Arbor Day which is being held at Regency Lot D Park on Friday, March 6, 2015 at 4:00 p.m. Hopefully the commissioners will be able to attend this year. We

will be planting trees from the PG&E project: Chinese Pistachio, Zelkova and Oklahoma Red Bud trees. Spevak has some concern about how the trees will grow with regards to the soil and proper watering. Spevak requests that as the trees are planted, the right soil is used or have soil amendments with vitamin B added so the trees would have a good start to grow. Kaljian offered to contribute potting soil for the smaller trees.

CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL OF THE HERITAGE TREE LIST: Fachin explained the approval process. The list needs to be reviewed and agreed upon today. We will contact residents prior to going to Parks and Recreation, then it must go to the City Council. With that timeline, the list won't be ready for this year's Arbor Day. Motion by Coakley, seconded by Menefee for the Tree Commission to recognize and approve The Heritage Tree List as submitted. The motion carried by the affirmative vote of all Tree Commission Members present. Discussion continued to review the "Tree-Mendous Recognition List". Fachin explained that if the commission accepts the two businesses, that this is the only action that will happen at this level. The City will contact the businesses and ask if they choose to participate this year. Motion by Menefee, seconded by Tietjen to recognize the "Tree-Mendous Recognition List" for Arbor Day as submitted. The motion carried by the affirmative vote of all Tree Commission Members present.

PARKS & RECREATION MANAGERS REPORT: Parks and Recreation Operations Manager Cardoza answered some concerns from the previous meeting. First item: the Plant a Tree fund will not close if taken down to very little or no money at all. It will always be available and anybody can contribute to the fund. The second issue was the tree at Washington Avenue and Tenth Street. The only reason the City would "top" a private tree is for safety issues. Cardoza will make contact with the owner to see if it's possible to remove the dead tree to make the parking lot look nicer.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR/CITY ENGINEER REPORT: Fachin didn't have anything new coming up but Public Works did assist Code Enforcement with removing some tree stumps at Seventh Street and Jefferson Avenue. On Fourth Street and Jefferson Avenue, a tree was removed due to the bad storm. Spevak questioned how many PG&E trees have been planted. Fachin said around half have been planted and there is a balance of approximately 125 trees which will be planted in different parks over the next 3 to 4 months.

COMMISSION MEMBER REPORTS:

COAKLEY: She realizes that we focus on shade trees but has a couple ideas we might want to think about. What about Heirloom Fruit Trees? Years ago, there were really old and different varieties of fruit trees in town. It might be nice if people noticed those kinds of trees still exist around town. She read an article about a garden bonzi and there is a resident in town on Greenbriar with a bonzi trees in her front yard and has maintained them very nicely. I just think we might want to recognize these different types of trees in the future.

KALJIAN: Kaljian only has one comment. As I drive around town over the past few years, I've noticed that the topping of trees has diminished substantially compared to years past when you would see really bad trimming of city trees. I feel

staff needs to be commended on their efforts and whatever we're doing to keep moving forward to make that happen. So the only question is, "Are we at a point politically if someone does top trees, are we able to penalize them"? Fachin responded that there is no penalty for private tree topping that he is aware of. City trees are maintained for the city sweeper and PG&E needs to get a tree permit and follow standards and has been doing a much better job, as well.

MENEFEE: A resident contacted Menefee with concern regarding the oak tree covered with ivy located on Madison Avenue at the city yard. Fachin will have staff take care of it. She is looking forward to Arbor Day and seeing new trees planted.

SPEVAK: Thank you to Kaljian and Coakley for doing such a great job as chairpersons. Spevak is so excited on celebrating the 25th year of being Tree City USA and asks what entertainment is happening? Cardoza replied, "Rob is still working on it at this time." Spevak was asked by a resident who thinks that the lights on the downtown trees are harming them. Spevak didn't think so, but wanted to get another opinion. Fachin explained that it is possible but the City doesn't take care of the lights anymore. Cardoza will have staff take a look at the trees to make sure they are doing okay. The downtown merchants, along with the Chamber, like the lights all year long and are responsible.

TIETJEN: She is also excited about attending Arbor Day and is very happy with the selection of Heritage trees. She noticed the trees along the canal have had very nice growth over the years despite the drought we are having. Only a few have died and she can only hope some of the PG&E trees can replace them. She happened to talk with the superintendant of the school district. They are looking into replacing trees at Pacheco High School due to the water problem. They are planning on using Native Oak trees and have consulted with an arborist. She questioned about the trees at the new jr. high school. He explained that there will a lot of trees but not as many in the parking lot area because they're planning to install solar panels in the future that would fulfill the required 50% shade canopy.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at the hour of 5:50 p.m.

APPROVED:

Thomas Kaljian, Chairperson

ATTEST:

Patricia Nelson, Secretary