

**CITY OF LOS BANOS  
TREE COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES  
NOVEMBER 12, 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 4:57 p.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Chairperson Coakley led the pledge of allegiance.

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

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

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

**CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL OF THE ACTION MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF AUGUST 12, 2015:** Motion by Menefee, seconded by Coakley to approve the minutes as submitted. The motion carried by the affirmative vote of all Tree Commission Members present; Spevak absent.

**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. SPEAKERS ARE LIMITED TO A FIVE (5) MINUTE PRESENTATION. DETAILED GUIDELINES ARE POSTED ON THE COUNCIL CHAMBER INFORMATIONAL TABLE.** No one came forward to speak and the public forum was closed.

**DISCUSSION ON CITY SIDEWALK LIFTS AND CITY TREES:** Cardoza wanted to discuss City trees that are causing some issues in City strips and rights-of way. The roots of some trees are disturbing sidewalks, creating a tripping hazard, or rising above the grass, which can cause issues with resident water and sewer lines. Cardoza explained that the City will evaluate each situation, as needed, to determine whether the City will need to remove the problem tree and replant in place a new tree or remove the problem tree and offer to give the resident a tree to be planted in a different location in their front yard.

**PARKS & RECREATION MANAGERS REPORT:** Parks and Recreation Operations Manager Cardoza informed the Commission that even though we are in a drought, the City hasn't lost any trees that he is aware of. Cardoza is aware how concerned everyone is with the drought and how the state has lost thousands of trees but right now the City is doing really well. Cardoza recalled that Spevak had previously mentioned putting the top ten trees on the website but the City needs to update the City Tree List before that can happen. The City will be reevaluating the list and will take the drought into consideration.

**PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR/CITY ENGINEER REPORT:** Absent.

**COMMISSION MEMBER REPORTS:**

**COAKLEY:** She wanted to mention that the Los Banos Campus of Merced College has received a grant and they are in the process of designing a food forest. The concept is that various areas closest to the buildings will be normal park-like garden space but as you continue, it will turn into a forest type setting with the species of trees, shrubs, and under growth that being geared towards plants that produce food such as apple trees, raspberries, etc. Coakley feels it will be a neat resource for the community to see different types of planting schemas and planters, and to learn different ways to conserve water. Maybe it's a place to go see some ideas for our own yards and in the City parks. She is excited about this future project.

**KALJIAN:** Kaljian remembers years ago spending a lot of time on the tree list before we became a Commission. He asked, "How do you think we should come about to develop a new list? Do you have suggestions and can we talk about it?" Cardoza response, "We can come up with a suggestion and present it at the next meeting." Cardoza will research trees with O'Brien and come up with a top ten that will do well in our area, water supply and soil. Cardoza will bring a list to review and discuss, along with some information on each.

**MENEFEE:** She agrees that what is happening at the college sounds wonderful. Menefee went out of town and found a little book about advice from trees. She liked it so much she brought one to everyone. Everyone was very thankful for her kindness. Everyone wished each other Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas and see each other next year.

**SPEVAK:** Absent.

**TIETJEN:** Tietjen also reviewed the Spevak top ten tree list and she has driven around and looked at the trees which have survived this drought. "I will always pull for the Oak trees but sycamore trees didn't seem to do so well in my yard." She noticed at the College Campus that there are Italian Stone Pine trees that just are gorgeous and handled the drought with no problem. She didn't know if this tree was on the City Tree List and she would like to recommend adding it to the list when it is updated.

**NEXT MEETING:** Wednesday, February 10, 2016 at 5:00pm.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at the hour of 5:25 p.m.

APPROVED:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Thomas Kaljian, Chairperson

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Patricia Nelson, Secretary