

**CITY OF LOS BANOS
TREE COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
MAY 11, 2016**

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

CALL TO ORDER: Chairperson Coakley called the Tree Commission Meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

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

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

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

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

CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL OF THE ACTION MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF FEBRUARY 10, 2016: Motion by Menefee, seconded by Spevak to approve the minutes as submitted. The motion carried by the affirmative vote of all Tree Commission Members present; Tietjen 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. DETAILED GUIDELINES ARE POSTED ON THE COUNCIL CHAMBER INFORMATIONAL TABLE. No one came forward to speak and the public forum was closed.

28th ANNUAL ARBOR DAY CELEBRATION AND 26TH TREE CITY USA PROGRAM REPORT: Commissioner Coakley was disappointed that she was unable to attend this year's Arbor Day. Parks and Recreation Operations Manager Cardoza wanted to thank the commissioners who were able to attend; even though half way thru the program a tremendous downpour of rain started, we were able to relocate the celebration inside the Community Center. Cardoza estimated there were about 150 – 200 people that attended and felt everything turned out to be really nice. Cardoza explained that due to the rain, the actual planting of trees happened the next day. Spevak mentioned how nice it was when we honored Ms. Peggy Degregori and Ms. Irene Miano who were genuinely pleased to be honored with resident property tree certificates, which was great to see, as well as watching the kids receive their awards.

PARKS & RECREATION MANAGERS REPORT: Parks and Recreation Operations Manager Cardoza reported the city has returned to watering two days a week in parks and city right of ways. Cardoza explained the plans for trimming the trees with brittle or dead branches and possibly removing trees, if needed, for safety reasons at the Pacheco Park. The trees will be replaced sometime this Fall. Spevak inquired if any trees had been uprooted around town with the winds. Cardoza responded that the winds did cause a lot of broken tree limbs but no trees were uprooted, that he is aware of. Kaljian suggested that sometimes when trees are cut way down, they have re-grown into beautiful trees. There was discussion when Spevak questioned the problems and diseases of the Raywood Ash die back. Cardoza explained that this was the reason why this tree is no longer on the City Tree List. There was some discussion regarding the updated City Tree List amongst the Commissioners and City staff.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR/CITY ENGINEER REPORT: Public Works Director/City Engineer Fachin explained that when the landscape architects review the landscape ordinance specs and update all requirements, the City Tree List will be included and put on the website. He explained Public Works will start doing one year audits on commercial sites to make sure they keep their landscape in order. It will take some time with limited staff. Wal Mart needs to plant a few missing trees and then they will receive their final. Fachin discussed the conservation effort pertaining to watering days and the mandated percentage usage set for the City of Los Banos. The governor has said that the watering restrictions will continue thru January of 2017 and the conservation measures will be made permanent. Spevak asked, "Can we tell yet if any of the rain has helped with the City's aquifer problem?" Fachin responded, "Our City aquifer has stayed healthy over the past 3 years, plus or minus with three to four feet of dropping, and it's coming back. But, historically, this aquifer doesn't seem to have a quantity issue; it has more of a quality issue. The well depths are doing just fine."

COMMISSION MEMBER REPORTS:

COAKLEY: Coakley wanted to ask John and Paul if they had received any responses from the newspaper article that John had written regarding the need to recruit some younger adults to get involved in our trees. They both responded no they hadn't.

KALJIAN: Kaljian has no comments.

MENEFEE: Menefee has no comments.

SPEVAK: Spevak wanted to compliment the Arbor Day crew and everyone who was involved that day. Being inside the building made it special for everyone, seeing all the kids and family members really enjoying themselves was nice.

TIETJEN: Absent.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at the hour of 5:36 p.m.

APPROVED:

Mary Coakley, Chairperson

ATTEST:

Patricia Nelson, Secretary