

**CITY OF LOS BANOS  
TREE COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES  
AUGUST 10, 2016**

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

**CALL TO ORDER:** Vice-Chairperson Menefee called the Tree Commission Meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Commissioner Spevak led the pledge of allegiance.

**ROLL CALL – MEMBERS OF THE TREE COMMISSION PRESENT:** Kaljian, Menefee, Spevak; Coakley 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 Spevak, seconded by Kaljian to approve the agenda as submitted. The motion carried by the affirmative vote of all Tree Commission Members present; Coakley absent.

**CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL OF THE ACTION MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF MAY 11, 2016:** Motion by Spevak, seconded by Kaljian to approve the minutes as submitted. The motion carried by the affirmative vote of all Tree Commission Members present; Coakley 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 INFORMATION AL TABLE.** No one came forward to speak and the public forum was closed.

**REVIEW AND DISCUSSION OF COUNTY PARK TREE REPLACEMENT PROGRAM REPORT:** Public Works Director/City Engineer Fachin explained that quite a few trees in this park are coming to the end of their cycle. This will be a two to five year plan, but it actually started due to immediate safety issues of the large limbs falling. The City has removed two trees and will remove three more as soon as the equipment is repaired, and that will happen very quickly due to safety issues. Trees will be replaced in the spring time as we remove them, as budget permits. The City needs a Master Plan for this park even if its 10 years down the road. The park will have a different look by the end of the five years and Paul will explain more at this time. Parks & Recreation Manager Cardoza addressed which trees to be used in the park like Valley Oak, Chinese Pistachio, Red Bud and Sycamores which have non-evasive roots and are larger, which because of the size of the park could handle the bigger trees. The irrigation system has had some repairs over the years but hopefully one day it can redone and updated. The restrooms have been redone

and the trees are in need of replacing too. It was further discussed by staff and commissioners other problems that are happening, how many will need to be replaced and what selection of trees to be used. This park is used by many visitors when driving thru town, and residents enjoy it as well.

**REVIEW DOWNTOWN RAYWOOD ASH TREES REPORT:** Public Works Director/City Engineer Fachin explained the Arborist Report regarding the downtown trees and how the City will proceed. The report shows that (9) trees were required to be removed, but, since then, (3) more were added for a total of (12) trees. The balance of trees will be treated and maintained to stay healthy for as long as they can, but it's going to be a long process. Fachin commented that the Chinese Pistache is the recommended tree to be used for replacing. Cardoza said that the process could possibly start in the fall. There was further discussion regarding diseases, using a variety of trees, and maintenance.

**PARKS & RECREATION MANAGERS REPORT:** Parks and Recreation Operations Manager Cardoza discussed his concern about leaving the decorative lights on the downtown trees all year long. The City will again contact the downtown organization regarding maintenance. Spevak previously asked how the trees are being handled on the canal trail between Pioneer and West 'I' Streets. Cardoza explained that Ronny's Landscape has almost completed the trimming and removing of brittle or dead branches along the entire trail. He feels the committee will be happy with the results when they are finished.

**PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR/CITY ENGINEER REPORT:** Public Works Director/City Engineer Fachin reminded everyone that the open commissioner seat application deadline has been extended until Friday, May 13, 2016 at 5:00pm. The application is available on the City's website. Spevak is aware of one person, and possibly of another, that is very interested in applying.

#### **COMMISSION MEMBER REPORTS:**

**COAKLEY:** Absent.

**KALJIAN:** Kaljian didn't have any comments on trees. Kaljian did mention he noticed while driving around how sad our community looks with the majority of lawns dead or dying. "I understand the water issues but it's very sad to see how bad our community now looks."

**MENEFEE:** Menefee would like give thanks for the attachments in the meeting packet. "It was very interesting to read on the different articles on all the trees. It was a job well done." She also appreciated all the discussion tonight.

**SPEVAK:** Spevak would like to put information in his column about the "Plant a Tree Fund" to see if anyone would be interested in donating money that a tree could be planted. He asked where people could go to pay for that. Fachin explained he would have staff contact the finance department to get the account information and then city staff will call him with the information.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at the hour of 6:00 p.m.

APPROVED:

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Mary Coakley, Chairperson

ATTEST:

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Patricia Nelson, Secretary