



# City of Los Banos

At the Crossroads of California

[www.losbanos.org](http://www.losbanos.org)

## AGENDA

### TREE COMMISSION MEETING

CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
520 J Street  
Los Banos, California

NOVEMBER 12, 2020

In accordance with Executive Orders N-25-20 and N-29-20, with guidance from the California Department of Public Health, and in order to minimize the spread of the COVID-19 virus, the City Hall Council Chambers will be closed to the public during this Tree Commission Meeting. The following alternatives are available to members of the public who wish to watch the meeting and/or provide comments to the Commission before and during the meeting.

**Audio/Video Broadcast:** This Tree Commission meeting can be accessed in real time from your computer, tablet, or smartphone using GoToMeeting at the following link: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/427332205>. Get the free GoToMeeting application now and be ready when the meeting starts: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/install/427332205>. You can also dial in to listen to the meeting using your phone by calling (408) 650-3123 and using Access Code: 427-332-205.

**Public Comment:** If you wish to make either a general public comment for items not on the agenda and under the jurisdiction of the Commission or to comment on a specific agenda item, please submit your comments via email, preferably in advance of the meeting, by 4:30 p.m. on the day of the meeting. Please reference the agenda item you are commenting on and submit your comments to the Tree Commission Secretary at [jelene.demelo@losbanos.org](mailto:jelene.demelo@losbanos.org). Your comments will be placed into the record for the meeting. To be read into the record, your email subject line must include "Public Comment – Not on the Agenda" or "Public Comment – Agenda item #[insert item #]".

*If you require special assistance to attend or participate in this meeting, please call the City Clerk's Office @ (209) 827-7000 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.*

*The City of Los Banos complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990.*

*Si requiere asistencia especial para atender o participar en esta junta por favor llame a la oficina de la Secretaria de la ciudad al (209) 827-7000 a lo menos de 48 horas previas de la junta.*

*La Ciudad de Los Banos cumple con la Acta de Americanos con Deshabilidad (ADA) de 1990.*

*Any writings or documents provided to a majority of the Tree Commission regarding any item on this agenda will be made available for public inspection at the meeting and in the City Clerk's office located at City Hall, 520 J Street, Los Banos, California during normal business hours. In addition, such writings and documents may be posted on the City's website at [www.losbanos.org](http://www.losbanos.org).*

*Cualquier escritura o los documentos proporcionaron a una mayoría de la Tree Commission con respecto a cualquier artículo en este orden del día será hecho disponible para la inspección pública en la reunión y en la oficina del City Clerk del City Hall, 520 J Street, Los Banos, California durante horas de oficina normales. Además, tales escrituras y los documentos*

1. CALL TO ORDER.

5:00 PM

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

3. ROLL CALL:

Creighton \_\_\_\_, Heaton \_\_\_\_, Kaljian \_\_\_\_, Lieb \_\_\_\_, Ramos \_\_\_\_

4. CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL OF AGENDA.

*Recommendation: Approve the agenda as submitted.*

5. CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL OF THE ACTION MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF NOVEMBER 13, 2019.

*Recommendation: Approve the minutes as submitted.*

6. PUBLIC FORUM. (Members of the public may address the Tree Commission on any item of public interest that is within the jurisdiction of the Tree Commission; 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).

7. PRESENTATION OF CAL FIRE URBAN AND COMMUNITY FORESTRY PROGRAM GRANT REPORT.

*Recommendation: Informational item only, no action to be taken.*

8. PARKS & RECREATION OPERATIONS MANAGERS REPORT.


9. PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR/CITY ENGINEER REPORT.

10. COMMISSIONER REPORTS.

- A. Steve Creighton
- B. Laurel Heaton
- C. Tom Kaljian
- D. Gene Lieb
- E. Trinidad Ramos

11. ADJOURNMENT.

I hereby certify under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California, that the foregoing agenda was posted on the City Hall bulletin board not less than 72 hours prior to the meeting.

  
Jelene de Melo, Secretary

Dated this 3<sup>th</sup> day of November 2020

**CITY OF LOS BANOS  
TREE COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES  
NOVEMBER 13, 2019**

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

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chairperson Spevak called the Tree Commission Meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

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

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

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

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

**CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL OF THE ACTION MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF AUGUST 14, 2019:** Motion by Menefee, seconded by Creighton to approve the minutes as submitted. The motion carried by the affirmative vote of all Tree Commission Members present; Latham 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.** Resident Tom Balatti spoke on his concern regarding the trees in the downtown area on Sixth Street and some side streets especially M Street. Balatti is embarrassed and upset to drive down Sixth Street and see the trees dying and not taken care of properly. When Balatti worked downtown years ago on Sixth Street the trees were maintained by the City and looked really nice. Balatti noticed the City slowly started replacing the trees which was probably due to age and it seems the trees aren't watered anymore or taken care of as they should. Balatti commented, "You turn off of Hwy. 152 onto Sixth Street and the first thing you see are dead trees downtown." Balatti continued that City could do better taking care of the trees and hoped the Tree Commission could have some input to help with the situation. Balatti had nothing else and thanked the Commissioners for listening. No one else came forward to speak, and the Public Forum was closed.

**DISCUSS THE PLANT A TREE FUND, TREE IDENTIFYING MARKERS, AND FUNDS AVAILABLE TO REPLACE TREES:** First Item: Public Works Director/City Engineer Fachin stated the Plant a Tree Fund has been previously talked about and it is still available. Commissioner Spevak questioned, "If anyone makes a donation to the fund, will trees be planted?" Fachin responded, "Yes."

Second item: Fachin explained, "If the Tree Commission wants to pursue getting Tree Identifying Markers it wouldn't happen until the next budget session." There was discussion on how many markers, which parks they would have them, increase of graffiti and vandalism, and how that would be an impact on maintenance staff. Commissioner Menefee commented, "I like the idea of having framed pictures or markers in front of some trees so residents can see and relate to what trees work well in Los Banos."

Third item: Commissioner Spevak questioned, "How can we get more funds in the future to replace trees? He realizes that it's up to the City Council, but what are your thoughts?" Parks and Recreation Operations Manager Heim was going to talk about in his managers report is a new grant just released. Heim is hoping thru this grant to create an Urban Forest Management Plan which will develop a system to manage trees throughout town. There was discussion among Commissioners and staff regarding removing, planting and maintenance to the downtown trees.

**PARKS & RECREATION OPERATION MANAGERS REPORT:** Parks and Recreation Operations Manager Heim reported there were 18 new trees planted along Stonewood Drive medians and the City is putting in a new dog park by the Ag Complex which will include new trees planted. Heim verified the City is in the processing of applying for the grant that was just released which was previously talked about earlier. Heim will make a formal presentation about the forestry grant program at the next meeting in February. Commissioner Spevak asked for an update regarding the Pacheco Park grant the City applied for. Heim is hoping to hear the results in January or February if we are approved to receive it.

**PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR/CITY ENGINEER REPORT:** Public Works Director/City Engineer Fachin complimented Joe Heim on what a fantastic job is has done for the department and what he has accomplished in the short amount of time he has been with the City. Fachin misinformed Mr. Lieb at the last meeting regarding the empty planters along Place Road. Fachin explained the correct answer to the Commissioners and that he spoke Mr. Lieb giving him the correct information. Commissioner Menefee asked, "Does the school district have a copy of the City Tree List for the new school being built?" Fachin response, "Yes, I believe they would. As you know, the City is not allowed to do on-site review at any schools."

**COMMISSION MEMBER REPORTS:**

**CREIGHTON:** Creighton has two topics to talk about. First: He acknowledges that this topic has been discussed at previous meetings but what can be done about shopping centers not watering the trees. Is there anything the City can tell them? Fachin explained about the City's program that is still in place and businesses are being monitored. There was continued discussion among the Commissioners and staff. Second: The City's hired landscape company isn't pruning properly they are butchering the trees I have seen. Has anyone trained them on how to prune a tree? Fachin explained the landscape company does know how to prune trees and different situations that can happen when you see landscape employees pruning trees throughout town especially if they are working for a homeowner. There was further discussion among the Commissioners and staff.

**KALJIAN:** Kaljian most of his questions were answered that he was concerned to get back and reinforce the landscape plan on watering. He would like to see it continue because there are businesses that need some help.

**LATHAM:** Latham absent.

**MENEFEE:** Menefee has made enough comments for tonight.

**SPEVAK:** Spevak stated all his concerns were addressed and discussed on the agenda. My last comment as a Tree Commissioner is that, I've been serving on the Tree Commission for the last eight consecutive years. I'm encouraging other people to apply. In his opinion this Commission is a very important because it's the reason why we became a Tree City USA. We have Arbor Day but more importantly we are the tree conscientious of the community.

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

APPROVED:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Commissioner

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jelene de Melo, Secretary



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**Agenda Staff Report**

**TO:** Los Banos Tree Commission

**FROM:** Joe Heim, Parks & Recreation Operations Manager

**DATE:** November 12, 2020

**SUBJECT:** Cal Fire CCI Urban and Community Forestry Grant Update Presentation

**TYPE OF REPORT:** Informational Item

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**Recommendation:**

Information item only, no action to be taken.

**Discussion:**

In Spring 2020, the City of Los Banos was awarded the Cal Fire CCI Urban and Community Forestry Grant. This presentation will discuss the award and the next steps in the grant process. Discussion of the Urban Forest Management Plan, as part of the grant, will be included.

*Los Banos Parks & Recreation*

**CAL FIRE CCI  
URBAN AND  
COMMUNITY  
FORESTRY  
GRANT**

NOVEMBER 2020



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# *Award Process*

**RFP PROCESS**

**TREE PLANTING**

**STAFF TRAINING AND FUTURE**

**COMPLETION REQUIRED BY MARCH, 2024**



LOS BANOS PARKS AND RECREATION



# *What is an Urban Forest Management Plan?*

## ELEMENTS



Tree Inventory and  
Tree Canopy  
Analysis



Mapping for the  
Future and Public  
Input



Municipal Ordinance  
Update and Tree  
Canopy Goals



# *Planting Trees in Our Parks*

## **100 TREES AT FIVE PARK LOCATIONS**

- REGENCY LOT D PARK
- RAIL TRAIL
- CRESTHILLS PARK
- MEADOWLANDS II PARK
- VINEYARDS B BASIN PARK
- GHG CALCULATIONS AND ANNUAL INSPECTIONS

LOS BANOS PARKS AND RECREATION

# Questions?



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**PARKSANDRECREATION@LOSBANOS.ORG**

LOS BANOS PARKS AND RECREATION