



REVISED

NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETING

Beautification and Natural Resources Committee

DATE & TIME: Tuesday, July 28, 2009 – 4:00 P.M.

LOCATION: Museum of Natural History Conference Room-Natural History Museum 165 Forest Ave

MEETING AGENDA

1. Call to order.
2. Oral Communications (*Comments from the audience will not receive Committee action. Comments must deal with matters subject to the jurisdiction of the Committee and will be limited to three minutes. Comments regarding agenda items not on the Consent Agenda shall be heard prior to the consideration of such items at the time such items are called. Whenever possible, letters should be submitted to the Committee in advance of the meeting.*)

REGULAR AGENDA:

3. Approval of Minutes June 23, 2009 meeting
Reference: Jean Anton
Recommended Action: Approve minutes
4. **Old Business**
 - A: Rip Van Winkle Parking
Reference: Celia Perez Martinez
Recommended Action: Update
 - B: Enforcement/compliance of replanting trees
Reference: Celia Perez Martinez
Recommended Action: Nothing to report
 - C. McIndoo Estate plans
Reference: Celia Perez Martinez
Recommended Action: Nothing to Report
 - D. Cemetery
Reference: Celia Perez Martinez
Recommended Action: Nothing to Report
 - E. Fog Horn Building
Reference: Celia Perez Martinez
Recommended Action: Update



H. Tree Ordinance

Reference: Celia Perez Martinez

Recommended Action: Review comments to Article 1-4 and make recommendations for City Council consideration

J: BID – **Reference: Jean Anton**

K: Goals – **Reference: Jean Anton**

Recommended Action: Review

5. New Business

A: Tree Permit Summary May 2009 Monthly tree activity for permits relating to removals and City Standard trimming.

Reference: Public Works Superintendent Martinez

Recommended Action: Accept

6. Sub-committee reports

A: Recycling

7. Correspondence:

8. Agenda Items for next meeting:

9. Adjournment:

This meeting is open to the public and all interested persons are welcome to attend. The City of Pacific Grove does not discriminate against individuals with disabilities and meetings are held in accessible facilities.

City of Pacific Grove
Beautification & Natural Resources Committee
Minutes of Meeting – June 23, 2009

Present: Committee members: Akeman, Myers, Anton, Kapp, Phillips

Staff: Martinez

Absent: Travaille (UE)

Guest: Guest 1, Mary O'Connell, Georgia Booth, Sally Moore, Mary Craft, Jessie Bray, Bruce Cowan, John Fischer, Barbara Thomas, Bruce Obbink, Guest 2, Guest 3, Bill Kampe, Barbara Puget, Frank Ono, Sally Herrgott, Pat Herrgott, Bill Kampe, Jim Gunter

A site visit was made to Forest Ave. and Hillcrest Ave. to look at the light poles on Forest Ave. A color selection was recommended and Ms. Anton is going to secure the services of the Bridge Ministry to paint the poles.

1. The meeting was called to order at 4:05 pm in the Education Room of the Library
2. A presentation was made by Fire Inspector Jim Gunter to review the Uniform Fire Code Requirement. Fire Inspector Gunter stated that this is the time of year that notices are issued to property owners regarding fuel reduction. He shared that the City adopted the ordinance for Very High Fire Hazard Safety Zone (VHFHSZ) in April of 2009. He stated that the fire department does not consider the type or quantity of trees on property. They are concerned with dry fuel and ladder fuel. Dead brush is key. We do not want trees removed from properties; the Fire Department is concerned with dry fuels. He went on to state the basics of fuel reduction around a home. These include 10 feet of clearance from the ground up to eliminate "fuel ladders". He also spoke to the 10 foot clearance that is required for roof tops and chimneys. He stated that the Fire Dept. wants the roofs, and roots of trees clear of dry fuel. The specifics in the handout he provided are for homes that are in CalFire defense lands. He answered questions regarding the fire department's review of tree removal applications. He stated that issue is not under the purview of the fire department. He stated that the Union Pacific Right of Way (Railroad Way) is not city property and not under the responsibility of the City. He shared that Pebble Beach Co. is a good neighbor and clears the lands in the Del Monte Forest adjacent to the City of Pacific Grove limits.

Oral Communications: Frank Ono stated that his concern was regarding whether or not re-planting is taking place and how the city and the committee is determining where replants are taking place. He stated that replanting areas need to be assessed. He referred to the Basil Method that is one method of determining how many trees to plant. He stated that hazardous trees should come down

immediately and not be posted. (This is the City's policy: hazardous trees are removed immediately under an emergency permit.)

Mr. Kapp moved to approve the minutes as received. Seconded by Mr. Akeman.

5 ayes

3. Approval of minutes for June 23, 2009: Corrections for clarity and typographical errors were made to Page 3 regarding the scope of the "committee". 5(b) spelling of "harbor". Item G typographical error.
Motion to approve Kapp Second: Akeman 5 ayes.

4. Old Business

A. 69 17 Mile Dr. Appeal: Mr. Akeman spoke to past practice of holding up a tree permit when a re-plant has not occurred from a previous permit. He stated at the property of 69 17 Mile Dr. the tree is dead and needs to be removed. He stated that the permit should be issued and approved and a 60 day follow up should be performed for re-plant.

The applicant contends that there is no room for two trees. Mr. Akeman stated that once the second tree is removed there is a planting area that can accommodate trees. Mr. Myers agreed with Mr. Akeman that two (not three) trees would fit in the area. Mr. Phillips stated he noticed several oaks and overgrown bushes. He also thought there was room for a maximum of two trees when the second pine is removed. Mr. Kapp stated he had no opinion on numbers and type of tree. Ms. Anton concurred that there is room to plant two or even three trees. She stated the driveway is going to be replaced.

Ms. Puget, the applicant, stated she wants to have her driveway replaced and the trees caused the damage to the current driveway. She stated that she has four (4) oaks, six (6) pittosporums, and a palm. She stated that the trees are a financial burden and additional trees would be an increase in her financial burden. She stated that her corner is surrounded by trees and that she wants to replace her driveway. Mr. Myers asked her to plant one tree. She asked why she needs one tree. She also stated that the bottlebrush is her road barrier. She also stated that there is not room to plant where she removed another pine tree a year and a half ago. She made other comments. The committee discussed the need for replants and that trees need to be replanted. The committee voted 3 to 2 to have Mrs. Puget plant two trees.

(This vote was not a valid vote as the committee is a seven (7) person committee with one vacancy thus a successful aye vote needs four votes.)

B. Rip Van Winkle Parking: Staff reported that the proposed vehicle arrangements at the open space park were turned down by the City Council and their recommendation was to return to "No Parking" and enforcement. Staff further reported that a Council member will be bringing the item back to the council in August.

C. Tree Replant Compliance

There was nothing to report.

D. McIndoo Estate

There was nothing to report.

E. Golf Course Parking Lot Lights

Staff reported that the issue of parking lots will be determined through the Planning Commission decision regarding extended use of the facility through the use permit. Staff told the committee that the item will be taken off the agenda of the BNRC until the Planning Commission makes a decision. The item will come back to the committee for style recommendations and then be forwarded to the Architectural Review Board.

F. Cemetery

There was nothing to report.

G. Fog Horn Building

Staff reported that the grant deed did not indicate that the building was protected but that the National Registry information needed to be checked and it was not available on line at this time. Staff requested that a committee member assist with the research. Mr. Phillips volunteered for the task.

H. Tree Ordinance

Ms. Anton reviewed the methodology to be used. Mr. Akeman stated that he had reviewed the Coastal Plan and the General Plan and the sections of Article I are set in those documents. He also stated that he had reviewed the tree ordinances of Monterey and Carmel and that they express similar considerations.

The committee members were in agreement that no changes need to be made to Article I.

Article II is definitions. Mr. Myers asked about the specifics to Pine Trees and pitch canker and whether or not other diseases or definitions. Staff responded. There were no other changes or questions. Ms. Anton asked if the committee wanted to make a change and add height to the tree definition. There was general agreement that the definition is fine as it currently reads. Article III was next reviewed. Mr. Akeman pointed out the definition of city tree and property owner's responsibility for those trees. Mr. Phillips discussed the clearance for the street and sidewalks and referred to the need for a permit in the ordinance and the responsibility to maintain. The committee noted that the article has language regarding the Mr. Phillips question. Article IV presented a question by Mr. Myers regarding snags. The committee shared that the snags are important habitats. Mr. Myers thought that "shall" regarding snags would be better served with the words "should be".

Public Comment: Mr. Fischer stated that the General Plan will be reviewed soon.

Ms. Hergott: stated that she made a public records request and did not have the correct copy. Staff will get her a corrected copy.

Mrs. Booth with regard to Article I stated that the comments regarding encouraging citizens to plant trees is contrary to the enforcement of the code. Item 6 in Article I is not appropriate when trees cause damage. She also commented that with regard to Item 8 is not appropriate when trees are

dangerous. She does not understand the language for 12.16.140 (b). She does not understand the requirement to maintain city trees that are adjacent to public property. She supports city reforestation in City properties.

Mrs. O'Connell stated that she would like to see a definition of the BNRC and in-lieu fees in Definitions – Article II. In Article I she questioned whether or not Monterey pines are native. Under the arborist definition, she highlighted the openness to expert opinion. She pointed out words that she thinks are negative. She thinks that the committee may go outside the scope of its advisory role.

Mr. Cowan stated that the Monterey pine is a native tree and shared the characteristics of the other native trees.

Mrs. Craft presented a page that staff read aloud for the committee with several points.

Guest 1 suggested the articles point out the hazards that trees can create. He stated that removal denials should come with a reason.

Mrs. Booth encourages the re-centering of the committee.

I. Rocky Shores Trail: Staff reported that this item will be coming off the agenda as there is no funding for the completion of neither the plan nor the trail itself. Staff will look for funding in future years.

J. BID: Ms. Anton shared the new plantings that have occurred and will continue to occur in medians on Lighthouse Ave. Volunteers and City staff will maintain them. Ms. Anton and Mr. Bill Valuch will seek volunteers to maintain

K. Goals: Ms. Anton stated that the Bridge Ministry will most likely be helping paint the light poles on Forest between David and Pine Avenues.

6. Sub Committee reports

A. Recycling: Ms. Anton sent to staff where new recycling containers should go.

B. Shoreline Steering Sub Committee: Signs will be going up over the summer

Other items:

Mr. Akeman shared that 19 pups were born this season on the 5th St. beach and the protection fence can come down.

7. Correspondence: Mr. Akeman passed out the current tree list. Mr.

8. Agenda items for next meeting: 69 17 Mile Drive appeal

Site visit at Hillcrest and Forest re: lamposts

9. Adjournment Motion by Mr. Phillips second by Mr. Akeman at 6:05 pm. 5 ayes