

City of Pacific Grove
Beautification & Natural Resources Committee
Minutes of Meeting – April 28, 2009

Present: Committee members: Akeman, Phillips, Kapp, And Travaille

Staff: Martinez

Absent: Anton (e), Myers(e)

Guest: Guest 1, Guest 2, B. Thomas, S. Hergott, Pat Hergott, Kevin Howe, Jessie Bray, Bruce Cowan, Donald Murphy, John Fischer, Bruce Obbink, S. Lee Willoughby,

1. The meeting was called to order at 4:00 pm.

Committee moved to change order of agenda and move item New Business 5D – Tree Ordinance to the first item on agenda after approval of minutes.

2. Oral Communications: Mrs. Willoughby suggested the meetings be taped so members of the committee and the public can review the minutes in the future. Mr. Akeman responded that the minutes had not been taped for three to four years. Mrs. Willoughby suggested the committee resume taping the minutes.

3. Approval of Minutes: Mr. Travaille moved to approve the minutes as received. Seconded by Mr. Phillips. 4 ayes

- 5 D. Tree Ordinance

Mr. Akeman opened the discussion with a short history of the last tree ordinance review that was concluded with adoption of the ordinance in September 2007. The review took 29 months and had about 18 public meetings between city committees, commissions, and the Council. Mr. Akeman recommended the committee carry over the item to next month's meeting. By this time the Municipal Code with regards to the Tree Ordinance will be updated and all can be working from the same page. He stated that most of the changes were minor, but there were several of significance. He also stated it would be better to deliberate the tree ordinance with a full committee. Mr. Akeman stated that he would like to participate if a sub-committee is set up but does not want to lead the effort as he did before. The committee agreed to take oral communications on the item due to the number of people who were present.

Public Comment was opened.

Mrs. Bray asked for a printed copy of the ordinance.

Guest #2 asked for an introduction of the committee members.

Ms. S. Hergott asked how she could get information. Staff let her know that the link to the municipal code and ordinance was on the website.

Guest #2 inquired as to the directive of the Beautification and Natural Resources Committee (BNRC). Mr. Akeman explained that the Municipal Code provides the authority and mission.

In discussing the code, Mrs. Thomas stated that she thought Mr. Akeman had a good point and that all should be on the same page. She said that everything does not have to change and hope there would not be resistance to change.

Mr. Akeman asked for clarifications to what she meant and she referred to the 2 for 1 replant requirement.

Ms. S. Hergott asked for clarification on that item.

Mrs. Bray asked for a current copy of the ordinance and an organizational chart.

Mr. Cowan presented his experiences and stated he moved here for the pine forest and has a lot of experience with falling pine trees. He spoke to the oak forest in the Del Monte Park area of the city and that many trees de-wood as they do not live well under the pines. He stated that in the forest trees grow in groves with few branches. In Del Monte Park there is no forest so trees grow large branches. He felt that in all fairness to the residents of Del Monte Park residents they should have a choice besides a Monterey Pine for an upper canopy tree. He said that Cypress trees are sturdier, but people should have an option to plant, what he referred to as a safer tree, such as a Japanese Pine or an oak.

Mr. Fischer spoke to choices and shared with the group that there is a landscape tree list. He stated that in addition to Monterey Pines, Robert Reid, Arborist for the City of Monterey is planting Canary Island Pines. He also stated there is a hazardous tree ordinance. He asked if city attorney Laredo had reviewed the penalties and their legality. He referred to them as Napoleonic and that they needed to be changed. He stated that for him the bottom line is process, he referred to the landscape tree list and shared that it has the guidelines in the booklet that the public follows.

Mrs. Willoughby asked for a copy of the ordinance. She stated she objects to the penalties, that they create a feeling of intimidation in the city. She mentioned that it creates an anti tree ordinance. She stated that people need more control for re-plant on their property and the unintended consequences of the tree ordinance.

Mr. Fischer stated he lives on Grove Acre Ave. and that along the Union Pacific Right of Way south from his home there are no trees for a few hundred feet.

Barren areas are popping up and that the Urban Forest is disappearing.

Mrs. Willoughby asked if the city can re-forest the Union Pacific Right of Way.

Mr. Cowan again mentioned the planting of Japanese pines and Canary Island pines.

Guest 2 referred to the Hazardous Tree policy and that there have been applicants who have had denials.

Public Comment was closed.

A motion was made to carry the item to the next meeting by Mr Kapp and seconded by Mr. Travaille. Mr. Travaille, in discussion, stated that there seemed to be two issues for the main discussion, the type of trees for re-plant and the issue of control on private property. The motion carried with 4 ayes.

4. Old Business:

A. Rip Van Winkle Open Space. Staff reported a plan for vehicles had been agreed upon by the sub committee of the Traffic and Safety Commission and was presented to the

Traffic and Safety Committee at their April 14, 2009 meeting. The plan will go to the City Council on May 20, 2009.

B. Enforcement/compliance of replanting trees: Staff reported that the reminders being sent out are resulting in compliance and that compliance was at 62%.

C. McIndoo Estate: Staff updated committee on the pt. Pinos Lighthouse project and that the Lighthouse Preservationists LLC had visited the Lighthouse the previous week and had found the cistern that was known to be on the property. Their report is forthcoming. Staff also reported that the meeting with Jeanne Byrne had gone well and the recommended material for the decorative crosswalks for the Lighthouse Ave./Forest Ave. intersection would be concrete.

E: Rocky Shores Trail: Nothing to report.

F: BID: Nothing to report.

H: Goals: Nothing to report

5. New Business:

A. Tree Permit Summary: Reports Accepted

B: Golf Course parking lot: Nothing to report by Staff. Mr. Travaille met with an electrician who offered the observation that low lights would not accomplish the lighting need to allow for sight lines for the public getting to their vehicles. In Public Comment, Mr. Fischer offered that the down-lights that were proposed to be installed were at MPC. They were in general accepted by the neighbors of the golf course. Mr. Obbink stated that the lights were going to be approved by the City Council but the lights presented at the meeting were the wrong ones and the Council did not approve them as they were presented.

C: Cemetery: Staff reported that they were looking into the natural burial idea, scattering garden, natural inurnments, and a memorial wall as well as an additional columbarium.

6. Sub Committee reports

A. Recycling: Nothing was reported.

B. Shoreline Steering: Staff reported that the remainders of the signs were due this week.

7. Correspondence: None

8. Agenda items for next meeting: Mr. Akeman asked for the Fog Horn building to be placed on the agenda and added that he would like some additional signs for the seal pupping beach at 5th St.

Motion to adjourn by Mr. Travaille and seconded by Mr. Phillips. 4 ayes.

9. The meeting was adjourned at 5:50pm.

Next regular meeting will be on May 25, 2009 at 4PM at the Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History, 165 Forest Avenue, Pacific Grove.

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