

DRAFT

PIEDMONT PARK COMMISSION

Regular Meeting Minutes for Wednesday, February 7, 2024

A Regular Session of the Piedmont Park Commission was held on February 7, 2024, in the City Hall Council Chambers at 120 Vista Avenue. In accordance with Government Code Section 54954.2(a), the agenda for this meeting was posted for public inspection on February 2, 2024.

CALL TO ORDER

Vice-Chair Moses called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners Jack Fischrup, Barbara Giuffre, Arden Hall, David Johnson, Kimberly Moses, Sharon Shoshani

Absent: Tom Smegal

Staff: Director of Public Works David Gonzales, Parks & Project Manager Nancy Kent, and Public Works Supervisor Nick Millosovich

PUBLIC FORUM

There was no **Public Testimony** on the matter.

REGULAR AGENDA

The Commission considered the following items of regular business.

Minutes

Resolved, that the Park Commission approves the **amended** meeting minutes of January 3, 2024.

Moved by Fischrup Seconded by Hall

Ayes: Fischrup, Giuffre, Hall, Moses, Shoshani

Noes: None

Abstain: Johnson

Absent: Smegal

Note: For the January minutes please note the discussion the Commissioner's had in regard to trying to save the Leptospermum trees in Crocker Park.

**Update on Annual
Report to City Council**

Ms. Kent noted that beyond the duties of the Park Commission, there is an option for the Commission to present an annual report to City Council. The duties of the Park Commission include to consider and make recommendations to Council including beautification plantings, litter control, development uses, acquisition and disposal, and maintenance of all parks, parks improvements, park memorials, street trees, parking strips, and a portion of the street right of way between the sidewalks and curbs. The Commission can also consider and make recommendations to Council concerning proposed solutions to additional matters which may be referred to Council, relating to beautification.

There has been some interest about expressing the Park Commission's visions. The vision's can be expressed in an annual report. The annual report criteria is expressed in the Municipal Code, which can be submitted annually on or before May 1st.

Ms. Kent recommended forming a subcommittee to represent the Park Commission and create a report that would be voted on by the Park Commission and given to the City Council Mr. Gonzales stated they could look at the uses of spaces, how the uses impact the spaces, and the health of the parks. The work of the Park Commission is valued.

There was no **Public Testimony** on the matter.

Commissioners asked questions and made suggestions.

**Informational Update
on the Urban Forestry
Inventory and Analysis**

Ms. Kent presented that the second half of the urban forestry inventory has been completed. A program called i-Tree is a tool used for assessing and managing forests and community trees and it was used to summarize data in the inventory..

Urban Forest Structure. There are 8,839 trees in Piedmont's urban forest. There are 995 vacant sites and 211 stumps on streets and parks. There are 185 unique tree species that were identified. The top three most prevalent trees are London Plane, Liquidambar, and Coast Live Oak. 47% of the trees are 8 inches in diameter or less and 8.6% of the trees are larger than 24 inches in diameter. 93% of the trees are in fair condition or better. Public trees provide 394.5 canopy acres or 7.4% of all land cover. To date, Piedmont's trees are storing 3,296 tons of carbon.

Prevalent Species. The most prevalent species are London Planetree 22.3%, Liquidambar 10.1%, Coast Live Oak 8.4%, Chinese Pistache 7.8%, and Coast Redwood 6.2%.

Species Diversity. Maintaining diversity is important in an urban forest. Dominance of any single species or genus can have detrimental consequences. All tree species or genus have a potential vulnerability to pests, and disease. Therefore, no single species should represent greater than 10% of the total population and no single genus more than 20%. Among Piedmont's tree population, the London Planetree and Liquidambar exceed the widely accepted rules. Managers should continue to strive for increased diversity to promote greater resiliency and reduce the risk of a significant loss of benefits should any species become a liability.

Benefits of a healthy urban forest. Public trees continuously mitigate the effects of urbanization and development. They protect and enhance the quality of life within the community. A healthy urban forest helps with air quality and stormwater runoff reductions, and energy savings. It also helps with aesthetics, property value, and socioeconomic benefits. Trees provide beauty in the urban landscape, privacy and screening, improve human health, a sense of comfort and place, and habitat for urban wildlife.

Three goals for managing our urban forest are (1) increase species diversity, (2) recognize the mature nature of the prevalent tree species, especially in our street trees and plan for staged replacement, and (3) inventory of vacant species in our Right of Way offers opportunities for new plantings.

There was no **Public Testimony** on the matter.

Commissioners asked questions and made suggestions.

**Update on Riparian
Plant Donation and
Opportunities for
Bushy Dell Creek
Planting**

Ms. Kent and Vice-Chair Moses discussed the riparian plant donations and the opportunities for Bushy Dell Creek plantings. A planting project and how to participate will be determined. The goal is to accomplish the planting project before the wet season is over.

There was no **Public Testimony** on the matter.

Commissioners asked questions and made suggestions.

**Arbor and Earth Day
2024 Update**

Ms. Kent stated that for Arbor/Earth Day, the Lindsay Wildlife Center will provide a raptor or owl for the presentation. There will be kid-oriented projects available. It will be celebrated on Friday, April 26, 2024, at the Community Hall.

There was no **Public Testimony** on the matter.

Commissioners asked questions and made suggestions.

**Update on Heritage
Tree Nominations for
2024**

Ms. Kent stated that Heritage Tree nomination form will be available on the website by mid-February and can also be submitted on the website. Nominations will close mid-March. Park Commissioners can nominate trees. At the April 2024 meeting, the Park Commission will vote on the nominations, and may announced at Arbor Day.

There was no **Public Testimony** on the matter.

Commissioners asked questions and made suggestions.

**Update on Selborne Dr.
Phased Liquidambar
Street Tree Removal**

Ms. Kent stated that Phase 1 of the Liquidambar street tree removal on Selborne Dr. is complete, and they are working on Phase 2. Once the trees have been removed and replanted, then next year's tree removals can be determined.

There was no **Public Testimony** on the matter.

Commissioners asked questions and made suggestions.

**City Park Projects
Update**

Ms. Kent reminded the Commission that there is a City ordinance that allows for temporary closure of parks and there is a limit for how long a park can be closed, which is 30 days. Due to the conditions at Linda Off Leash Dog Park, the 30-day limit closure has been exceeded. City Council passed a resolution to extend the temporary closure.

The status of the park's closure is posted on the City's website.

Ms. Kent stated photos have been posted of the recent improvements of the Dracena Park ADA ramp. There have been some rain delays but the project is on schedule for completion. There is an oak tree previously designated for removal that will remain.

Ms. Kent stated that one of the Canary Island Pine trees will be removed at Crocker Park. The bid opening for the Crocker Park ADA Improvements will be on February 8, 2024.

There was no **Public Testimony** on the matter.

Commissioners asked questions and made suggestions about the projects discussed.

**Monthly Maintenance
Report**

Public Works Supervisor Nick Millosovich stated that two trees on Wildwood Ave. have failed due to root work and they have been replanted. He stated that the staff was busy over the last month and storm preparation was a priority. All of the 31 hot spots were the rain that was forecasted. There were no flood

repairs needed. Additional sandbags are available; ten bags per household. On January 11, 2024, there was a landslide on Moraga Avenue. A private water line had burst causing the hillside to fail. The crew cleared over 25 yards of debris from the road. On January 14, 2024, there were fallen trees that blocked the road on LaSalle Avenue. An Oak tree was lost and removed on 124 Sunnyside Avenue. Over 600 trees have been pruned.

There was no **Public Testimony** on the matter.

Commissioners asked questions and made suggestions about the projects discussed.

**REPORTS AND
ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Some topics included the replacement option of the Sequoia tree on Bellevue Avenue, update on Piedmont Garden Club donation, and the report to City Council.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, March 6, 2024, at 5:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Vice-Chair Moses adjourned the meeting at 7:19 p.m.