

**DRAFT**

**PIEDMONT PARK COMMISSION**

Regular Meeting Minutes for Wednesday, May 2, 2018

A Regular Session of the Piedmont Park Commission was held May 2, 2018, 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 April 27, 2018.

**CALL TO ORDER**                      Chairperson Goodman called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**        Chairperson Goodman led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL**                              Present: Chairperson Betsy Goodman; Vice Chairperson Eileen Ruby;  
Commissioners Amber Brumfiel, Jim Horner, Brian Mahany and Robin Wu

Absent: Commissioner Patty Dunlap

Staff Present: Parks and Project Manager Nancy Kent; Public Works Director Chester Nakahara; and Public Works Supervisor Dave Frankel

**PUBLIC FORUM**                         There were no speakers.

**REGULAR AGENDA**

**Minutes**

Commissioner Horner requested the following amendments:

- Page 3, in the italicized section, “The Commission suggested that the existing trees, especially the grove of Redwoods, a row of Melaleucas and 2 Live Oaks need to be a focus....”

**Resolved,** that the Park Commission minutes of April 4, 2018 be approved, as amended.

Moved by Wu, Seconded by Ruby

Ayes: Brumfiel, Horner, Ruby, Wu and Goodman

Noes: None

Absent: Dunlap

Abstain: Mahany

**Damaged Street Trees  
At 426 Pala Avenue**

Parks and Project Manager Nancy Kent reported on the City’s review of three Liquidambar trees planted along 426 Pala Avenue after learning that previous residents had illegally pruned and topped the trees. She indicated that an independent arborist had reviewed the trees in question, finding evidence of severe decay and tear out of branches. The independent arborist came to the conclusion that these trees posed a danger to the public and should be removed. Ms. Kent provided detail on the arborist’s comments and his recommendation. Ms. Kent indicated that the trees will be replaced with Purple Leaf Plum trees, which are the designated street tree for Pala Avenue.

The Commission thanked Ms. Kent for her report and asked questions regarding the condition of the trees in question. Commissioners also made suggestions as to actions regarding other trees on the block.

Public Works Director Chester Nakahara then described the possible penalties if street trees are illegally pruned by parties other than approved City contractors or Public Works staff.

**Update on Arbor Day 2018**

Commissioner Mahany reported that Arbor Day was a great success and well-received. He recognized the Jazz Lab Band and the Piedmont High School Jazz Combo Band and thanked Commissioners Dunlap and Ruby for their work on the subcommittee. Ms. Kent thanked Commissioner Mahany on the great photography work.

**Tea House Bench Lighting**

Ms. Kent reported that the City has installed new under-mounted LED bench lights at the Piedmont Park Tea House benches, made possible by a civic projects donation from Piedmont Garden Club in 2015. Staff recognized the professional installation by electrical contractor Mark Schulkamp and lighting design by Lumen Works.

**Linda Beach Master Plan**

Ms. Kent reported that a community meeting was held specifically for the neighbors of Linda Park with the goal of listening and receiving comments from residents. She indicated that over fifty residents attended. The discussion and concerns expressed were well documented and will be provided to the City Council for consideration at its May 7<sup>th</sup> meeting to discuss the 35% conceptual plan. Ms. Kent indicated that neighbor concerns included parking, noise from new activities at the park, and emphasized the importance of the tot lot for the neighborhood.

**Public testimony** was received from:

Lena Fleischer cited the importance of the tot lot and agreed that more than 75% of users walk to the park. Ms. Fleischer spoke of the park's family-friendly environment. She also asked that neighbors be involved in any installation of public art in the park.

The Commission thanked Ms. Kent for the update.

**Monthly Maintenance Report – April 2018**

Mr. Frankel gave his monthly maintenance report, indicating that Public Works crews have been working on weed abatement and mulching at parks, islands and rights-of-way, planting street trees, grinding out stumps from removed trees and replanting trees. He also indicated that staff has also worked on spring clean-up of the City's 22 pedestrian pathways, repairing sidewalks, and clearing an Acacia tree which fell in Piedmont Park. He reported that the annual paving project was now underway at various intersections.

Mr. Frankel and Ms. Kent discussed the final phase of the removal of four diseased Elm trees on Highland Avenue, replacing them with London Plane trees. Mr. Frankel indicated that after the elms on Highland were removed, there were only a handful more in the City which would need to be removed. Ms. Kent and Mr. Frankel discussed whether there are any disease resistant species of elm trees. Commissioner Horner indicated that some Accolade Elms in Illinois and some Frontier Elms which, to date, have not gotten diseased.

**Public testimony** was received from:

Katherine Irving asked the City to plant more native trees in the City, stating there are many non-native trees.

Isabella West supported the planting of Coast Live Oak trees.

Natasha Yskamp Long commented on the trash left by PHS students in Piedmont Park, especially behind the gymnasium. She suggested a park cleanup day be scheduled. Ms. Kent reported that trash in Piedmont Park left by students is an ongoing issue and encouraged Ms. Yskamp Long to speak with teachers and ask that they contact her to propose a cleanup event which could also be used for student volunteer hours.

**Announcements, Old  
Business and Consideration of  
Future Agenda Items**

Chairperson Goodman announced that Groundworks will present the Linda Beach Master Plan to the City Council on May 7 at 7:30 p.m. Also, a CIP tour will be held Saturday, May 5 at 8:30 a.m.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, June 6, 2018

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Chairperson Goodman adjourned the meeting at 6:20 p.m.

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