



Parks and Recreation Commission  
October 4, 2007

AGENDA ITEM 6

DEPARTMENT OF  
PARKS AND RECREATION

**CITY OF SACRAMENTO  
CALIFORNIA**

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September 25, 2007

Parks and Recreation Commission  
City of Sacramento, California

Honorable Members in Session:

**SUBJECT: PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION DISCUSSION ON A  
PROPOSAL TO CREATE AN URBAN FOREST SERVICES  
CITIZEN'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE REQUESTED BY  
COMMISSIONER RAYA**

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Per direction from the Commission chair, staff has agendized the item. Staff recommends the Parks and Recreation Commission discuss and determine any action on the attached proposal submitted by Commissioner Raya.

**CONTACT PERSON:** Lori Harder, Support Services Manager, 808-5172

**FOR MEETING OF:** October 4, 2007

**SUMMARY:** At the September 20, 2007 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting, Chair Cooke approved Commissioner Raya's request to agendize a discussion to propose the creation of an Urban Forest Services Citizens Advisory Group. Commissioner Raya distributed the attached written proposal to the Commission.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lori Harder  
Support Services Manager

## **Proposal for the Creation of a Urban Forest Services Commission: George Raya – September 6, 2007**

When the new Director for Parks and Recreation gave his first Director's Report, Director Combs stated that he would like to see a **trees services advisory committee** created. As we plan for the reorganization of Urban Forest Services to the Transportation Department, I believe now more than ever is the time to finally create a City Commission on Urban Forest Services.

A little history: In 1992, Wolfe Mason Associates prepared the City of Sacramento Urban Forest Management Plan. This 1992 Plan was the first to advocate creation a new advisory group to implement the Urban Forest Management Plan.

Twelve years later, in 2004, Robert Tate Associates in their Sacramento Tree Services Best Management Practices Review and Report also called for the creation of a strong and well-recognized **citizen advisory group** to aid in setting policy, provide checks and balances, and advocate for the urban forest.

<http://www.cityofsacramento.org/parksandrecreation/urbanforest/pdf/tree-practices-aug04.pdf>  
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in 2006, the City Council adopted the Urban Forest Services Best Management Practices Implementation Plan. Once again, the creation of a Citizen's Advisory Group on Trees was included in the plan.

The Urban Forest Services Committee of the PRC has served in a limited capacity as a citizen advisory group as called for in the Wolfe Mason Report and the Tate Report. The Tate Report, papers 34 and 35, enumerated quite clearly the duties and responsibilities of a Citizen Advisory Group on the Urban Forest:

1. Advise the Mayor, City Council, and appropriate City departments on urban forestry concerns.
2. Review of project plans for major publicly sponsored developments, civic improvements, and changes to public right-of-way relative to their projected impact on trees and make recommendations regarding these projects to the Mayor, City Council and appropriate City Departments.
3. Encourage early and continuous public participation in urban forestry projects and programs.
4. Facilitate the cooperative interaction of tree-related activities within the City among various city, state and federal agencies, as well as among businesses, non-profit groups, and the public.
5. Provide a regular forum, according to an establish, publicized agenda, of scheduled topics for public discussion of urban forestry issues.
6. Assist with the development of policies that affect trees.
7. Ensure the effective implementation and administration of the Urban Forest Best Management Practices Plan.
8. Assist and support public education efforts on the value and benefits of the urban forest.
9. Identify and support procurement of adequate funding, especially alternative funding opportunities, and staffing to ensure that the needs of the urban forest are effectively addressed.
10. Actively advocate and champion the commitment of adequate resources for tree programs.
11. Monitor and annually report on the state of the urban forest.
12. Hear tree appeals regarding street trees, Parks and Recreation Commission would continue to hear tree appeals for trees located in City parks.