

**DRAFT MINUTES OF THE
CITY OF SACRAMENTO
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

**REGULAR MEETING
September 6, 2007**

BUSINESS ITEMS:

The Regular Meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission was called to order by Chairperson Cooke at 6:15 p.m. on the above date at City Hall, Commission Hearing Room, 915 I Street, Sacramento CA 95814.

2. Introduction of Commission Members, City Staff and Guests

MEMBER	PLANNING AREA	Present	Absent
George Raya	Planning Area 1- Central City	X	
Cindy Cooke	Planning Area 2- Land Park	X	
Patrick Lynn	Planning Area 3- Pocket	X	
Dave Tamayo	Planning Area 4- South Sacramento		X
Brett Williams	Planning Area 5- East Broadway	X	
John Deglow	Planning Area 6- East Sacramento	X	
Bruce Pomer	Planning Area 7- Arden/Arcade	X	
Leo Lujan	Planning Area 8- North Sacramento	X	
Deirdre Price	Planning Area 9- South Natomas	X	
Sheila DeBlonk	Planning Area 10- North Natomas	X	
Virginia Guadiana	Planning Area 11- Airport/Meadowview	X	
TOTAL MEMBERS PRESENT- Quorum is 6 members		10	1

3. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE AUGUST 2007 DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

Not heard.

4. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Not heard.

5. STANDING COMMITTEES REVIEW

Not heard.

6. CONFIRM ROLES, EXPECTATIONS AND SUGGESTED IMPROVEMENTS

Not heard.

7. PUBLIC TESTIMONY FOR MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA

None.

TREE APPEAL HEARINGS:

Chair Cooke and Mr. Lan Wang, Senior Deputy City Attorney, reviewed procedure for the tree appeal hearings, and stated the applicants will present first and have the burden of proof, and that the applicants could state if they were not prepared. None of the applicants responded at the time nor during the hearings.

3. APPEAL OF A DECISION OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION TO APPROVE THE REMOVAL OF A HERITAGE TREE AT 216 O STREET (CROCKER ART MUSEUM)

Joe Benassini, Urban Forest Services Manager, gave a brief overview. The applicant for tree removal, Ms. Sue Akiyama, gave testimony and referred to site drawings and displays. Ms. Akiyama reviewed the design, preservation, access and environmental processes relative to the Crocker Art Museum expansion over the past five years which included consideration for the Bunya Bunya tree. Commissioners made inquiries about the project, the public process, the size and health of the tree and root zone, and questioned the feasibility of leaving the tree intact and concerns that branches and cones falling from the tree would cause a public safety issues.

The appellants, Ms. Susan Brank and Ms. Michelle Egan, emphasized the health and historic value of the tree and circulated copies of historic drawings and photos. They disputed findings the tree would cause public safety issues. Several members of the public spoke to the Commission on the item.

Commissioners commented there had been a lengthy public process on the project to expand the Crocker Art Museum with approvals made by the City Council; the project is on the verge of construction; it is too late in the process to find other design alternatives without significant risk and additional cost to the project for the City of Sacramento and, as designed, the excavation

and construction to implement the project would lead to tree failure. Commissioner Raya opposed the removal of the tree.

Motion approved to uphold the decision of the director of the Department of Parks and Recreation to grant a permit to remove a heritage Bunya Bunya tree located at 216 O Street based on the requirements in Sacramento City Code Section 12.64.050, Subsection (C)(1)(a), and that the appeal of this decision by Susan Brank and Michelle Egan is denied.

Motion made by:	Cooke
Seconded:	Deglow
Ayes:	Cooke, Lynn, Deglow, Pomer, Lujan, Price, DeBlonk, Guadiana
Nays:	Raya
Abstain:	Williams
Absent:	Tamayo

9. APPEAL OF A DECISION OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION TO APPROVE THE REMOVAL OF A HERITAGE LONDON PLANE TREE AT 2432 SIXTH AVENUE

Chair Cooke stated she is acquainted with the appellants, but has not discussed the item with them nor seen the property. Joe Benassini, Urban Forest Services Manager, gave a brief overview of the item. Mr. Jeff Wallace, the applicant, distributed written information which included a statement the appellant did not file the appeal in time. Staff responded the timeliness issue was tied to calendar vs. business days and had been addressed. Mr. Wallace and his architect, Ms. Debbie Gualco, gave testimony on the proposed expansion of the home and their request to remove the London Plane tree in the backyard. Commissioners inquired about the existing home and garage, proposed design options, cost to the project to further develop a second or third story, overall lot size, and the tree in question.

The appellants, Ms. Ann Shook, Daniel Bernstein and Jill Estroff, emphasized the value of the tree and the need to change the design of the proposed expansion to include the tree. They circulated architectural drawings of a residential expansion on 6th Avenue that preserved a large tree. Several members of the public spoke to the Commission on the item, including concerns about the lack of real estate and architectural professionals in Sacramento not disclosing the Heritage Tree ordinance to customers.

Motion approved to continue the public hearing to October 4, 2007 which is the Parks and Recreation Commission's next regularly scheduled meeting; that the applicant is to provide additional design and schematics for the proposed residential addition and any other relevant information to the subject of the hearing prior to October 4, 2007, and that Department of Parks and Recreation staff is requested to distribute such information to neighboring residences.

Motion made by:	Pomer
Seconded:	Williams
Ayes:	Raya, Cooke, Lynn, Williams, Deglow, Pomer, Lujan, Price, DeBlonk, Guadiana
Nays:	None
Abstain:	None
Absent:	Tamayo

10. APPEAL OF A DECISION OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION TO APPROVE THE REMOVAL OF A HERITAGE BUNYA BUNYA TREE LOCATED AT 800 – 39TH STREET

Commissioner Lynn recused himself as he is an employee of the applicant's organization. Commissioner Deglow recused himself as he owns property in the neighborhood. Chair Cooke stated she had discussed the tree appeal hearing process with the applicant. Commissioner Raya stated he had no financial interests related to this appeal, and had heard of opposition to tree removal at other neighborhood and community meetings.

Joe Benassini, Urban Forest Services Manager, gave a brief overview of the item. The applicant, Jeremy Schrimsher with Mercy General Hospital, and their project architect gave testimony regarding the proposed project design, use, circulation, and reasons to remove the heritage tree. The appellants, Mr. Dave Edwards, the East Sacramento Preservation Task Force, the McKinley East Sacramento Neighborhood Association and the East Sacramento Improvement Association, and gave testimony in opposition to removing the tree.

Commissioners stated the proposed project is in a preliminary stage and design revisions may occur as it moves through various public processes with the City of Sacramento and the City Council. Commissioners disagreed with the applicant's statements regarding public safety concerns, and with statements that children would regularly gather at the tree given its close proximity to H Street, and that the proposed school playground is sited elsewhere in the plan. Commissioners also disagreed with the applicant's architect there were no reasonable design options for the school that would allow for preservation of the tree, for example, the possibility of a three story school rather than the proposed two story school.

Motion approved the applicant failed to establish the need to remove a heritage Bunya Bunya tree located at 800 – 39th Street based on the requirements in Sacramento City Code Section 12.64.050, Subsection (C)(1)(a) and (b), and that decision of the director of the Department of Parks and Recreation to grant a permit to remove the tree is denied.

Motion made by:	Raya
Seconded:	Pomer
Ayes:	Raya, Cooke, Williams, Pomer, Price, DeBlonk, Guadiana
Nays:	None
Abstain:	None

Absent: Tamayo, Lujan
Recused: Lynn, Deglow

CONSENT ITEMS:

11. TOT LOT ORDINANCE REVISIONS TO RESTRICT USE OF PLAYGROUNDS TO CHILDREN AND THOSE ENGAGED IN THE CARE, CUSTODY AND SUPERVISION OF CHILDREN.

Not heard.

12. URBAN FOREST SERVICES REORGANIZATION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Not heard.

13. TRANSMITTAL OF PARK OPERATIONS COMMITTEE DRAFT MINUTES

Not heard.

14. SUPPORT AN APPLICATION TO REPROGRAM STATE OF CALIFORNIA PROPOSITION 40 RIVER PARKWAYS GRANT FUNDS TO TWO RIVERS TRAIL PHASE II PROJECT

Motion approved to support a grant application to reprogram \$1.5 in State of California Prop 40 Grant funds to Two Rivers Trail, Phase II.

Motion made by: Williams
Seconded: Deglow
Ayes: Raya, Cooke, Lynn, Williams, Deglow, Pomer, DeBlonk
Nays: None
Abstain: None
Absent: Tamayo, Lujan, Price, Guadiana

STAFF REPORTS:

15. TRIPLE RT PROGRAM UPDATE

Not heard.

16. EXPIRATION OF PROPOSITION 12 GRANT FUNDING FOR FIELD RENOVATION SERVICES

Not heard.

17. DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION'S KEY OBJECTIVES AND
WORKPLAN FOR FISCAL YEAR 2007/08

Not heard.

18. CITY PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN UPDATE

Not heard.

DIRECTOR'S UPDATES

None.

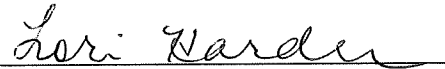
COMMISSIONERS' IDEAS, QUESTIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

The Parks and Recreation Commission meeting adjourned at 11:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:



Lori Harder, Support Services Manager
Department of Parks and Recreation

Approved:

Cindy Cooke, Chairperson
Parks and Recreation Commission