



City of Sebastopol
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APPROVED MINUTES

TREE BOARD
CITY OF SEBASTOPOL
MINUTES OF JUNE 15, 2016

SEBASTOPOL CITY HALL
CONFERENCE ROOM
7120 BODEGA AVENUE
4:00 P.M.

TREE BOARD:

The notice of the meeting was posted on June 09, 2016.

1. CALL TO ORDER: Chair Luthin called the meeting to order at 4:08 P.M.

2. ROLL CALL:

Present: Ted Luthin, Chair
Lynn Deedler, Vice Chair
Cary Bush, Board Member
Christine Level, Board Member

Absent: Alexis Persinger, Board Member (excused)

Staff: Jonathan Atkinson, Assistant Planner
Rebecca Mansour, Planning Technician
Becky Duckles, City Arborist

Assistant Planner Atkinson noted that a letter of resignation had been received by Board Member Shortridge. Copies of the letter were provided to members of the Board.

3. ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

Board Member Level nominated Board Member Luthin to continue serving as Chair.

Board Member Bush seconded the nomination.

Board Member Luthin expressed being amenable to that.

Board Member Level commented that Board Member Luthin has done an exceptional job as Chair.

Board Member Bush echoed Board Member Level's comment.

Board Member Luthin thanked Board Members Level and Bush for their comments.

AYES: Board Members Luthin, Deedler, Bush and Level
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None

Board Member Level nominated Board Member Bush to serve as Vice Chair.

Board Member Luthin seconded the nomination.

Board Member Bush expressed being amenable to that.

AYES: Board Members Luthin, Deedler, Bush and Level
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None

Chair Luthin thanked Board Member Deedler for his service as Vice Chair.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: There were none.

5. PLANNING DEPARTMENT UPDATES:

Assistant Planner Atkinson provided the following updates:

- The Public Arts Committee will continue its review at their next meeting of Request for Qualifications (RFQ) responses for a public art project for placement on City property. Following the RFQ process, up to three artists will be selected to submit proposals, then one will be selected for the project. The meeting will take place Wednesday, July 6, 2016 at 10:30 A.M. at the City Hall Conference Room (7120 Bodega Avenue).
- The Laguna Skategarden will be closed today and tomorrow to complete several improvements, including night-lighting, as part of the ongoing Skategarden Expansion Project. There may be other temporary closures in the next several months. Please contact Planning Director Kenyon Webster if you have any questions.
- The draft General Plan and Environmental Impact Report are available for public review and comment. Copies of both documents are available at the Planning Department, Sebastopol Regional Library, and on the City's website. Written comments on the draft General Plan and EIR may be submitted in writing to Kenyon Webster, Planning Director at 7120 Bodega Avenue, Sebastopol, CA 95472 or by email to: kwebster@cityofsebastopol.org. The deadline to submit comments is July 08, 2016 at 5:00 p.m.

The Board had no questions for staff.

6. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ON ITEMS NOT ON AGENDA: There were none.

7. STATEMENTS OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST: There were none.

8. CONSENT CALENDER: There were none.

9. REGULAR AGENDA:

A. TREE REMOVAL PERMIT – Coast Live Oak (Project 2016-31) – This is an application submitted by Clive Sharrocks, requesting approval to remove one Coast Live Oak at 7631 Healdsburg Avenue.

Assistant Planner Atkinson presented the staff report.

There were no questions for staff.

One behalf of the applicant, Kathy Austin, introduced interested parties in attendance, gave a brief presentation, and was available for questions.

The Board asked questions of Ms. Austin.

Chair Luthin asked if members of the public wished to speak on this item.

Hearing none, Chair Luthin brought it back to the Board for discussion.

Vice Chair Bush commented:

- This request is pretty straightforward.
- The tree poses significant restrictions on the property and on site development.
- Removal of the tree, if in better form and structure, may be more disputed.
- The suggestion to put two 24" Coast Live Oaks in replace of the tree that is being proposed for removal, or payment of an in-lieu fee, is a great consolation to the site and site development.

Board Member Level commented:

- Understands need for removal for development of this project.
- Additional landscaping is being proposed.
- Trees and vegetation provide a vital service to any site.
- Would condition the removal of the tree on approval of the project.
- Would not want the tree to be removed without development of the project.

Board Member Deedler commented:

- Agrees with comments expressed.
- This is a very convincing case for removal.
- To Board Member Level's suggestion, he suggested that removal be subject to issuance of a building permit rather than approval of the project.

Board Member Deedler asked a question of Landscape Architect, Parker Smith.

Mr. Smith responded.

Chair Luthin commented:

- Supports removal of the tree for purposes of this development.
- Agreed with the suggestion to condition removal on the development of the project.
- Glad that the one, nicely formed tree on the site is being protected.

A representative of the applicant made a clarifying comment on the interest of Exchange Bank as mentioned in the Arborist's report.

Board Member Deedler made a motion to approve the application as submitted with the following condition: Removal of the tree is subject to issuance of a Building Permit.

Vice Chair Bush seconded the motion.

Board Member Level requested that the motion be amended as follows: Removal of the tree is subject to issuance of a Grading and Foundation Permit.

Board Member Deedler agreed to amend his motion as stated by Board Member Level.

Vice Chair Bush seconded the amended motion.

AYES: Chair Luthin, Vice Chair Bush and Board Members Deedler and Level

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

10. DISCUSSION ITEMS: There were none.

11. REPORTS FROM THE BOARD/STAFF: There were none.

12. ADJOURNMENT: Chair Luthin adjourned the meeting of the Tree Board at 4:30 p.m. to the next Tree Board meeting to be held July 06, 2016 at 4:00 p.m., at the Sebastopol City Hall, 7120 Bodega Avenue, Sebastopol, CA.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Jonathan Atkinson
Assistant Planner