



City of Sebastopol
Incorporated 1902
 Planning Department
 7120 Bodega Avenue
 Sebastopol, CA 95472
 707-823-6167
 707-823-1135 (Fax)

www.ci.sebastopol.ca.us

Email: dmorrison@cityofsebastopol.org

APPROVED MINUTES

TREE BOARD
 SPECIAL MEETING
 CITY OF SEBASTOPOL
 MINUTES OF December 19, 2018

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

TREE BOARD:

The notice of the meeting was posted on December 13, 2018.

1. CALL TO ORDER: Chair Luthin called the meeting to order at 4:00 P.M.

2. ROLL CALL:

Present:	Cary Bush, Vice Chair Lars Langberg, Board Member Gregory Beale, Board Member Ron Hari, Board Member
Absent:	Ted Luthin, Chair (excused) Christine Level, Board Member (excused)
Staff:	Dana Morrison, Assistant Planner

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: November 14, 2018 (Design Review Board)

Board Member Langberg made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted.

Board Member Hari seconded the motion.

Vice Chair Bush commended staff on the minutes.

The Board concurred.

The Board voted to approve the minutes as submitted as follows:

AYES:	Vice Chair Bush, Board Member Beale, Board Member Langberg, and Board Member Hari
NOES:	None
ABSTAIN:	None
ABSENT:	Chair Luthin and Board Member Level

4. PLANNING DEPARTMENT UPDATE ON MATTERS OF GENERAL INTEREST:

Assistant Planner Morrison provided the following updates:

- At their meeting on December 5, the Sebastopol Public Arts Committee selected Michael McGinnis' artwork titled 'Gray Matter' as the finalist to advance for City Council consideration. The City Council is expected to receive a presentation by Mr. McGinnis and review the Committee's recommendation at a future meeting. That meeting date is not yet known.

The Board had no questions for staff.

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

6. STATEMENTS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST: Board Member Beale recused himself from item 8C on the agenda due to a conflict.

7. CONSENT CALENDAR: There were none.

8. REGULAR AGENDA:

- A. TREE REMOVAL – Robinson Road:** This is a Tree Removal Permit application, requesting approval to remove one multi-trunk coast redwood from St. Stephen's Episcopal Church located at 500 Robinson Road. This application requires Tree Board approval because it involves the removal of a multi-trunk tree with a d.b.h. that exceeds 10" from a commercial property.

Assistant Planner Morrison presented the staff report.

The Board asked questions of staff.

Vice Chair Bush asked if the applicant wished to make a presentation.

A representative of the applicant gave a brief presentation and was available for questions.

The Board asked questions of the applicant.

Vice Chair Bush asked for comments from the public.

Hearing none, the Board discussed the application as follows:

Board Member Hari commented:

- Has years of experience with redwood trees.
- Redwood trees are not native here.
- This tree was planted in an area that it never should have been planted in.
- In his opinion, the tree in question is not a safety concern at this point.
- Because this tree is not native to Sebastopol, he would support removal of it.
- There is what looks like a pine tree, right next to the classrooms, that poses the greatest threat.
- Because this redwood is not an old growth he wouldn't object to its removal although he did not believe removal of it was necessary.

Board Member Langberg commented:

- Felt similarly to Board Member Hari in that the redwood is not a danger now but could be in the future.

- Interested in the proposed replacement tree as it sounds like it'd be part of a larger program for the site.
 - The idea of the oak trees flourishing more is great.
 - Likes creation of a fruit tree orchard, which relates to what the applicant wants to do on site, as well.
- For all the reasons mentioned, he supports removal of the tree as requested.

Board Member Beale commented:

- Concurred with Board Member Langberg.
- Supports the driving force behind this request, as described by the applicant.
- While this may not pose an imminent threat, the overall proposal seems reasonable.
- Supports removal of the tree as requested.

Vice Chair Bush commented:

- Thanked the Board for their comments.
- This tree is evergreen, not deciduous.
- This tree will rob light from the planned orchard of trees.
- This tree, which is fairly immature, appears riddled with failure to begin with.
 - Cabling such an immature tree would represent a bad start.
- Supports removal of this tree.

Board Member Hari asked a question of the applicant.

Board Member Hari commented:

- The tree will not die if the stump remains, it will keep putting up sprouts and will require a lot of maintenance.

Board Member Langberg made a motion to approve the application as submitted.

Board Member Beale seconded the motion.

Board Member Hari commented:

- Would prefer to abstain from this vote.
- Does not think that this tree needs to be removed.
- Supports somebody's right to cut down a tree that is on their own property.
- If him abstaining presents a quorum issue, he will vote to support this request.

The Board asked a clarifying question of staff and discussed process.

The Board voted as follows:

AYES: Vice Chair Bush, Board Member Beale, Board Member Langberg, and Board Member Hari
 NOES: None
 ABSTAIN: None
 ABSENT: Chair Luthin and Board Member Level

B. TREE REMOVAL – Healdsburg Avenue: This is a Tree Removal Permit application, requesting approval to remove one 21" d.b.h. coast live oak from 7345 Healdsburg Avenue. This application requires Tree Board approval because it involves the removal of a tree with a d.b.h. that exceeds 10" from a commercial property.

Assistant Planner Morrison presented the staff report.

The Board asked questions of staff.

Vice Chair Bush asked if the applicant wished to make a presentation.

The applicant, Chip Sandborn, gave a presentation and was available for questions.

The Board asked questions of Mr. Sandborn.

Vice Chair Bush asked for comments from the public.

Hearing none, the Board discussed the application as follows:

Board Member Hari commented:

- The tree is dead.
 - The fact that it's surrounded by concrete and asphalt has likely been the cause of its demise.
- Wouldn't suggest planting another tree in this location.
 - Perhaps a shrub would fair better.
- Supports removal of this tree and more appropriate replacement planting along with a watering system.

Board Member Hari asked a clarifying question of staff regarding replacement planting.

Board Member Beale commented:

- Only question involves replacement.
- Removal of the tree seems warranted.
- Asked if it was the desire of the property owner not to plant if they don't have to.

Mr. Sandborn responded:

- Cannot recall the property owner's preference.
- Will be onerous to grind the stump sufficiently enough to plant anything due to the surrounding concrete and asphalt unless a large section of it were to be removed.

Board Member Beale commented:

- Thanked Mr. Sandborn for his comments.
- Didn't have a chance to walk the site.
- Questioned if there was an alternative location on the site for replacement planting.

Vice Chair Bush and Board Member Hari responded that there was not an alternative location on the site for replacement planting.

Board Member Langberg commented:

- Referred to agenda item 8C and questioned the survivability of trees that are surrounded by concrete and asphalt, in general.

Assistant Planner Morrison responded:

- The City Arborist felt that a tree could survive in this location.
 - Sufficient grinding of the stump was the main concern.
 - Choosing the right type of tree is important as well.

Vice Chair Bush commented:

- It's not for the Board to specify the types of trees that should be planted.
 - It's for the professionals to determine based on the desires of the applicant.
- The tree should be removed.
- Appreciated seeing the backstory when reviewing this request.
- The replacement should be up to the owner.

Board Member Beale commented:

- Would like to see a replacement tree planted in this location.
 - Sufficiently grinding out the stump in order to plant something would place an undue burden on the applicant.
- Supports removal of this tree.
- Retaining the in-lieu fee (replacement deposit) seems to be the only viable option in this case.

Board Member Beale made a motion to approve the application as submitted with the following:

- Suggested that the replacement planting deposit be maintained in the City's Tree Fund which will be used to plant trees elsewhere in the city in-lieu of replacement planting on-site.

Board Member Hari commented:

- They put fences around the trees at Armstrong Redwoods so the soil is not compacted by people walking by the trees.
 - Over time, compaction due to people walking nearby could lead to a trees death.

Board Member Langberg seconded the motion.

The Board voted on the motion as follows:

AYES: Vice Chair Bush, Board Member Beale, Board Member Langberg, and Board Member Hari
 NOES: None
 ABSTAIN: None
 ABSENT: Chair Luthin and Board Member Level

Board Member Beale departed the meeting.

C. TREE REMOVAL – Petaluma Avenue: This is a follow up on a recent Tree Removal Permit application for the former Aubergine Site, located at 755 Petaluma Avenue. The current application is requesting approval to remove three trees from the site. This application is subject to Tree Board approval because it involves the proposed removal of heritage size trees each with a d.b.h. that exceeds 10" and are located on a commercial property.

Assistant Planner Morrison presented the staff report.

Vice Chair Bush commented that it would have been helpful to have City Arborist, Becky Duckles in attendance to answer questions.

The Board asked questions of Assistant Planner Morrison.

The applicant, David Fowler, gave a presentation and was available for questions.

Mary Paternoster, a representative of the property owner, gave a presentation and was available for questions.

The Board asked questions of Mr. Fowler and Ms. Paternoster.

Vice Chair Bush asked for comments from the public.

Hearing none, Vice Chair Bush closed the public comment period and brought it back to the Board for discussion.

Board Member Hari commented:

- Thanked the applicant for returning with this application.
- The applicant appears to have followed much of what the Board had suggested in terms of the planting plan, etc.
- This area is outside of his expertise.
- Supports the City Arborist's recommendation.

Board Member Langberg commented:

- Great to see a comprehensive site.
- As this is at the Southern entrance to town, this is an important site.
- Sounds like the applicant is very aware of the issues.
- Curious about the allee of trees along Petaluma Avenue.
 - The Crepe Myrtle or Pistache will work well.

Vice Chair Bush commented:

- Thanked the applicant for returning with this proposal.
 - A lot of work went into it.
- Supports the City Arborist's recommendations.
- Supports removal of the London planetrees because they are a large stature tree and they are too big for the space that they are in.
 - Replacing them with a tree with longer term value makes good sense.
 - Public safety concerns and maintenance issues are important considerations here.
- They Crepe Myrtle and Pistache are both great choices.
- The Maple trees on the Palm Drive side will probably need to come out eventually.
 - It may be advantageous for the applicant to consider removing them (they're under the size threshold to require Board review) and replacing them at the same time as they do this other work.
- Suggested adding a root zone watering system because it will direct the water down which will help the roots to go down.

Mr. Fowler responded:

- There are different opinions on the use of root zone watering systems.
- Couldn't hurt but wouldn't want to rely on that alone.
- Would use drip rings and potentially add a root zone watering system as well.
- Roots generally like to spread outwardly.
- Could add a root zone watering system if that is the preference of the Board.

Vice Chair Bush commented:

- Believes a root zone watering system would be helpful.
- Suggested using three inches of mulch.
- A new soil profile is a good thing.
- Expressed having vision triangle concerns.

Assistant Planner Morrison responded:

- Will look into Vice Chair Bush's vision triangle concerns.
 - Can add a condition of approval if there are vision triangle requirements that this could be tied to.

Vice Chair Bush responded that he would be comfortable with Assistant Planner Morrison doing that, if possible.

Vice Chair Bush commented:

- Likes the planting plan overall.

The Board discussed the planting plan with the applicant and the applicant asked clarifying questions of the Board.

The Board asked clarifying and procedural questions of Assistant Planner Morrison.

Board Member Langberg made a motion to approve the application as submitted with the following:

- The applicant shall follow the City Arborist's recommendations.

Board Member Hari seconded the motion.

AYES: Vice Chair Bush, Board Member Langberg, and Board Member Hari

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Chair Luthin, Board Member Level and Board Member Beale

9. DISCUSSION ITEMS: There were none.

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

11. ADJOURNMENT: Vice Chair Bush adjourned the meeting at 5:17 p.m. The next regularly scheduled Tree Board/Design Review Board meeting will be held on January 02, 2019 at 4:00 p.m., at the Sebastopol City Hall, 7120 Bodega Avenue, Sebastopol, CA.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Dana Morrison
Assistant Planner