



City of Sebastopol
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APPROVED MINUTES

TREE BOARD
CITY OF SEBASTOPOL
MINUTES OF July 18, 2018

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

TREE BOARD:

The notice of the meeting was posted on July 12, 2018.

1. CALL TO ORDER: Chair Luthin called the meeting to order at 4:02 P.M.

2. ROLL CALL:

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

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: June 20, 2018

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

Chair Luthin seconded the motion.

AYES: Chair Luthin and Board Members Hari
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: Board Member Beale

4. PLANNING DEPARTMENT UPDATE ON MATTERS OF GENERAL INTEREST:

Assistant Planner Morrison updated the Board on the following:

- New Planning Director, Kari Svanstrom will begin her term on August 1.
- The City Council's continued review of the Zoning Ordinance and related Map will return to the Council at their regular meeting on August 7, 2018.
 - In addition, annexation of a property just south of Park Village will also be considered.

The Board had no questions for staff.

5. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC REGARDING ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA:

Loriel Golden, a resident of Sebastopol, commented:

- Wishes to speak on some trees, which she believed would be considered heritage, that are very near and dear to her.
- Asked a clarifying question of staff.
- The trees in question are located on the Village Green Condominium property which is where she lives.
- These trees are oaks, pines and redwoods in the pool area of Village Green Condo's which is located behind Pacific Market.
- Trees on the property have been improperly managed and pruned.
- The Homeowner's President and Property Manager have a consistent pattern of hiring Tree Pro, a tree removal company, who prune up to two-thirds of the crown of many gorgeous, healthy trees.
- Some trees which have been pruned in the past have died.
- Has documentation of the many trees that they have mutilated and killed.
- This has nothing to do with the trees being in decline.
- Their work is unprofessional.
- The oaks, pines and redwood trees around the pool area of the complex are now in danger.
- The gardeners mutilate the landscape as well.
- The declining appearance of the property will have financial implications.
- The Homeowner's President and Property Manager say they're working with arborists.
- There is an oak tree that is at about 22 inches diameter at breast height that has been showing brown leaves and fungus for a few months.
 - Concerned that pruning may kill the tree.

Staff noted that Ms. Golden's three minutes had been reached.

Board Member Beale asked staff to explain the process that Ms. Golden should follow in terms of addressing her concerns.

Assistant Planner Morrison commented:

- Ms. Golden should submit something to staff which outlines the issues.
- Upon receipt, staff can forward that information to City Arborist, Becky Duckles.
- The City Arborist can then go out and assess the trees, discuss mitigation measures if appropriate, and/or issue fines for violating our ordinance if that has occurred.

Ms. Golden commented:

- The Board needs to know what is going on.
- She has been threatened with eviction due to her having raised these concerns.

Chair Luthin reiterated that somebody would need to provide a formal complaint to staff in order for this to be pursued.

Board Member Beale commented:

- The Board cannot comment and participate on this issue at this time.
- Additional steps need to be taken by Ms. Golden.

Board Member Hari asked a clarifying question of Ms. Golden.

Ms. Golden commented:

- Will provide the requested information to staff so that action may proceed.
- Thanked the Board and staff for their time.

6. STATEMENTS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST: There were none.

7. CONSENT CALENDAR: There were none.

8. REGULAR AGENDA:

- A. TREE REMOVAL PERMIT:** This is a Tree Removal Permit application, requesting approval to remove one multi-trunk locust tree at 876 Gravenstein Highway South. This application requires Tree Board approval because it involves the removal of a multi-trunk tree from a commercial property.

Assistant Planner Morrison presented the staff report.

The Board asked questions of staff.

The applicant was not present.

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

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

The Board discussed the application and was in consensus on the following:

- The requested removal is warranted.
- The tree is competing with oaks.
- The oaks will benefit from its removal.

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

Board Member Hari seconded the motion.

AYES: Chair Luthin and Board Members Hari and Beale

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

9. DISCUSSION ITEMS: There were none.

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

11. ADJOURNMENT: Chair Luthin adjourned the meeting of the Design Review Board at 6:10 p.m. to the next Design Review Board meeting to be held August 01, 2018 at 4:17 p.m., at the Sebastopol City Hall, 7120 Bodega Avenue, Sebastopol, CA.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Dana Morrison
Assistant Planner