

**CITY OF LOS BANOS
TREE COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 8, 2017**

**ACTION MINUTES – These minutes are prepared to depict
action taken for agenda items presented to the
Tree Commission.**

CALL TO ORDER: Chairperson Latham called the Tree Commission Meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Commissioner Rubio led the pledge of allegiance.

ROLL CALL – MEMBERS OF THE TREE COMMISSION PRESENT: Latham, Rubio, Spevak; Creighton and Menefee absent.

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Public Works Director/City Engineer Fachin absent, Parks and Recreation Operations Manager Cardoza, Public Works Administrative Clerk II Nelson.

CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Motion by Spevak, seconded by Rubio to approve the agenda as submitted. The motion carried by the affirmative vote of all Tree Commission Members present; Creighton and Menefee absent.

CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL OF THE ACTION MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF AUGUST 9, 2017: Motion by Rubio, seconded by Latham to approve the minutes as submitted. The motion carried by the affirmative vote of all Tree Commission Members present; Creighton and Menefee absent.

PUBLIC FORUM: MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC MAY ADDRESS THE COUNCIL ON ANY ITEM OF PUBLIC INTEREST THAT IS WITHIN THE JURISDICTION OF THE CITY; INCLUDES AGENDA AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS. NO ACTION WILL BE TAKEN ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS. DETAILED GUIDELINES ARE POSTED ON THE COUNCIL CHAMBER INFORMATIONAL TABLE. No one came forward to speak and the public forum was closed.

PARKS & RECREATION MANAGERS REPORT: Parks and Recreation Operations Manager Cardoza reported the city decided on a softer approach regarding the downtown trees. They will only trim and not remove any trees at this time. Cardoza received a call from Commissioner Menefee concerned with the Burger King construction. Cardoza reported that the building plans are approved but that the landscape plans haven't been submitted. Cardoza spoke with Stacy Elms in planning and she confirmed that they must submit and have approved plans per the

city's landscape and tree standards; otherwise they won't be allowed to reopen the business. Cardoza wants the Commissioners to be reassured that the City is overseeing that the construction company will comply with city standards. Cardoza explained and discussed the problems the large Egret birds migrating in the trees are causing along the walking path between Center Avenue and Pioneer Road. The City consulted with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife, Game Wardens and Department of Health to handle this problem properly. Cardoza informed the Commissioners that he is retiring and his last day will be December 22, 2017.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR/CITY ENGINEER REPORT: Parks and Recreation Operations Manager Cardoza spoke on behalf for Public Works Director/City Engineer Fachin and Public Works staff to wish the Tree Commissioners a Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas.

COMMISSION MEMBER REPORTS:

CREIGHTON: Absent.

LATHAM: Latham gave an update on the progress of the Food Forest that's happening at the local community college campus.

MENEFEE: Absent.

RUBIO: Rubio was unable to attend the Senior Day Event and hopes to have a better 2018 year to participate and start with all her ideas she presented. Commissioner Spevak suggested trying to get contributions for the fund to help get Rubio's ideas started. Spevak voiced his support for the great ideas of shirts, business cards, and advertising that Rubio has brought to this commission. Rubio asked if there is a list of events available so she and the other commissioners could attend and inform residents what the tree commission is about. Cardoza suggested putting a free ad on the Community Center Sign.

SPEVAK: Spevak wanted on record is that he wants to thank Paul Cardoza for his 25+ years of service to the City and, particularly, in his position as Parks and Recreation Manager. "I think he has given exemplary service to the city and the entire community. All of us who have worked with Paul will miss him and wish him well." Spevak, if reappointed to the Commission, would like to work with Mark or someone before the February meeting on a draft of plan for the report to Council. Make it simple on what the tree commission does and its history. And would also include what can be done about budget funds, tree trimming, plant trees, parks, and bring the draft to the next tree commission meeting to review. Spevak encouraged all tree commissioners to think about which trees around town should be honored for Heritage, Residents, and Businesses on Arbor Day on March 2, 2018. This will be discussed at the February meeting.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at the hour of 5:45 p.m.

APPROVED:

Brenda Latham, Chairperson

ATTEST:

Patricia Nelson, Secretary