CITY OF LOS BANOS
TREE COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 14, 2018

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 Spevak led the pledge of allegiance.

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

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Public Works Director/City Engineer Fachin, Interim Parks and Recreation Operations Manager O'Brien, Public Works Administrative Clerk II Nelson.

NOMINATION AND SELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR FOR 2018: Motion by Spevak, seconded by Menefee to nominate Latham to serve as Chairperson for 2018. After discussion, the motion to nominate Latham as Chairperson for 2018 carried by the affirmative vote of all Tree Commission Members present; Creighton absent. Motion by Spevak, seconded by Menefee to nominate Rubio to serve as Vice Chairperson for 2018. After discussion, the motion to nominate Rubio as Vice Chairperson for 2018 carried by the affirmative vote of all Tree Commission Members present; Creighton absent.

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

CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL OF THE ACTION MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF NOVEMBER 8, 2017: Motion by Spevak, seconded by Rubio to approve the minutes as submitted. The motion carried by the affirmative vote of all Tree Commission Members present; Creighton 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 IFORMATION AL TABLE. No one came forward to speak and the public forum was closed.

30TH ANNUAL ARBOR DAY CELEBRATION AND 28TH TREE CITY USA PROGRAM REPORT: Interim Parks and Recreation Operations Manager O'Brien reported on Arbor Day which is to be held again at Los Banos Community Center on Friday, March 2, 2017 at 4:00pm. This year, it was decided to plant the Oklahoma Red Bud tree to add some color to the courtyard area. O'Brien and Fachin explained the commissioners need to decide on the special awards given to businesses and residents. After some discussion, the Commissioners decided to have the following businesses and residents contacted: Merced Community College Los Banos Campus, Wal Mart Parking Lot, Tom Kaljian on Seventh Street, Jean Sagouspe on Monroe Circle, and Doug Hendricks on Hillview Drive. Fachin inquired who would be attending Arbor Day. Latham, Menefee, and Rubio responded they were planning on attending.

INTERIM PARKS & RECREATION MANAGERS REPORT: Interim Parks and Recreation Operations Manager O'Brien reported the city has started early spring trimming and storm damage clean up due to the weather we are having and will follow up with replanting later in the spring. O'Brien commented that during the fall season, the city replanted between 20 – 30 trees and will be planting around the same amount in the spring time. "Do any commissioners have questions?" Spevak commented, "What areas of the City are you replanting?" O'Brien answered, "Different park locations and residential right-a-way strips." Latham asked, "When processing storm down trees, what is the City doing with the big branches and tree trunks?" O'Brien explained that if it doesn't all fit into the chipper it's taken to the airport and processed to be taken to the dump. Spevak questioned, "What places suffered the most from storm damage?" O'Brien explained the older sections of town in the residential areas with Modesto Ash trees. The city is replacing with a different variety of trees.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR/CITY ENGINEER REPORT: Public Works Director/City Engineer Fachin talked about how low rain fall this year, drought, and three days of watering has put the City over the state water allocation which has caused the state to not be happy with Los Banos. It's not only Los Banos; there are other cities in the same situation. It's a possibility the City will go back to two days of watering. The City parks have already been cut back to two days. Fachin informed the commission that 26 new businesses qualify for letters pertaining to maintaining their landscape. The City has sent 12 of the 26 and nobody has complained so far and they are correcting the issues regarding their landscape. Menefee questioned how the Egret problem is going because she had missed the last meeting. Fachin explained and discussed the process of handling the Egrets along the walking path between Center Avenue and Pioneer Road.

COMMISSION MEMBER REPORTS:

CREIGHTON: Absent.

LATHAM: Latham would like invite everyone to take part in the planting for the Food Forest that's happening at the Merced Community College Los Banos Campus on Saturday, February 24, 2018 at 9:00am. Latham commented that she is interested in using tree trunks for the campus parking. If possible, rather than the City taking the tree trunks to the dump, would it be possible they could delivery them to the campus? O'Brien saw no problem doing that.

MENEFEE: Menefee had her concern answered in the previous discussion pertaining to the Egret problem.

RUBIO: Rubio wanted to wish everyone Happy Valentine's Day.

SPEVAK: Spevak would like to bring up a subject from previous meetings about the tree commission working together on a presentation to be presented at a City Council Meeting. Spevak primarily wants a way to keep residents aware of the value and importance of trees along with all the work the City does to foster and nurture the trees. Spevak asked, "How can the Tree Commission proceed to be put on the City Council Agenda?" Fachin explained that when the commission is ready with their presentation, they should contact Public Works who would then put the presentation on the Council Agenda. Fachin recommended some items be mentioned in the presentation: tree issues, letter program, and the future master planning 5 year capital budget. Spevak asked, "What is the best time of year to go before Council?" Fachin answered, "Either July or August." Spevak will contact the tree commissioners, Fachin, and O'Brien for information to make a draft presentation for City Council. Spevak requests to put the presentation on the agenda for the next Tree Commission meeting in May for discussion. Spevak announced he was honored to be selected, again, as Tree Commissioner but that this would be his last term ending in December 2019. He started as a Parks and Recreation Commissioner in 1999, so 20 consecutive years serving is a long time but that it's great that people have come forward like Stefanie and Steve to continue on. "For the record, this will be my last term."

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at the hour of 5:50 p.m.

APPROVED:

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Brenda Latham, Chairperson

ATTEST:

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Patricia Nelson, Secretary