



City of Los Banos

At the Crossroads of California

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AGENDA

TREE COMMISSION MEETING

CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS
520 J Street
Los Banos, California

FEBRUARY 13, 2020

If you require special assistance to attend or participate in this meeting, please call the City Clerk's Office @ (209) 827-7000 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.

The City of Los Banos complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990.

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Si requiere asistencia especial para atender o participar en esta junta por favor llame a la oficina de la Secretaria de la ciudad al (209) 827-7000 a lo menos de 48 horas previas de la junta.

La Ciudad de Los Banos cumple con la Acta de Americanos con Deshabilidad (ADA) de 1990.

Any writings or documents provided to a majority of the Tree Commission regarding any item on this agenda will be made available for public inspection at the meeting and in the City Clerk's office located at City Hall, 520 J Street, Los Banos, California during normal business hours. In addition, such writings and documents may be posted on the City's website at www.losbanos.org.

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Cualquier escritura o los documentos proporcionaron a una mayoría de la Tree Commission con respecto a cualquier artículo en este orden del día será hecho disponible para la inspección pública en la reunión y en la oficina del City Clerk del City Hall, 520 J Street, Los Banos, California durante horas de oficina normales. Además, tales escrituras y los documentos pueden ser anunciados en el website de la Ciudad en www.losbanos.org.

1. CALL TO ORDER. **5:00 PM**
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.
3. ROLL CALL:
Creighton ____, Heaton ____, Kaljian ____, Ramos ____
4. NOMINATION OF AND SELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR FOR 2020.

5. CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL OF AGENDA.

Recommendation: Approve the agenda as submitted.

6. CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL OF THE ACTION MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF NOVEMBER 13, 2019.

Recommendation: Approve the minutes as submitted.

7. PUBLIC FORUM. (Members of the public may address the Tree Commission on any item of public interest that is within the jurisdiction of the Tree Commission; includes agenda and non-agenda items. No action will be taken on non-agenda items. Speakers are limited to a five (5) minute presentation. Detailed guidelines are posted on the Council Chamber informational table).

8. 32nd ANNUAL ARBOR DAY CELEBRATION AND 30TH TREE CITY USA PROGRAM REPORT.

Recommendation: Informational item only, no action to be taken.

9. PRESENTATION OF CAL FIRE URBAN AND COMMUNITY FORESTRY PROGRAM GRANT REPORT.

Recommendation: Informational item only, no action to be taken.

10. PARKS & RECREATION OPERATIONS MANAGERS REPORT.

11. PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR/CITY ENGINEER REPORT.

12. COMMISSIONER REPORTS.

A. Steve Creighton

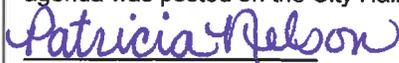
B. Laurel Heaton

C. Tom Kaljian

D. Trinidad Ramos

13. ADJOURNMENT.

I hereby certify under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California, that the foregoing agenda was posted on the City Hall bulletin board not less than 72 hours prior to the meeting.


Patricia Nelson, Secretary

Dated this 13th day of February 2020

**CITY OF LOS BANOS
TREE COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 13, 2019**

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

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

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

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

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

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

CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL OF THE ACTION MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF AUGUST 14, 2019: Motion by Menefee, seconded by Creighton to approve the minutes as submitted. The motion carried by the affirmative vote of all Tree Commission Members present; Latham 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. Resident Tom Balatti spoke on his concern regarding the trees in the downtown area on Sixth Street and some side streets, especially M Street. Balatti is embarrassed and upset to drive down Sixth Street and see the trees dying and not taken care of properly. When Balatti worked downtown years ago on Sixth Street the trees were maintained by the City and looked really nice. Balatti noticed the City slowly started replacing the trees which was probably due to age and it seems the trees aren't watered anymore or taken care of as they should be. Balatti commented, "You turn off of Hwy. 152 onto Sixth Street and the first thing you see are dead trees downtown." Balatti continued that the City could do a better job taking care of the trees and hoped the Tree Commission could have some input to help with the situation. Balatti had nothing else and thanked the Commissioners for listening. No one else came forward to speak, and the Public Forum was closed.

DISCUSS THE PLANT A TREE FUND, TREE IDENTIFYING MARKERS, AND FUNDS AVAILABLE TO REPLACE TREES:

First Item: Public Works Director/City Engineer Fachin stated the Plant a Tree Fund has been previously talked about and it is still available. Commissioner Spevak questioned, "If anyone makes a donation to the fund, will trees be planted?" Fachin responded, "Yes."

Second item: Fachin explained, "If the Tree Commission wants to pursue getting Tree Identifying Markers it wouldn't happen until the next budget session." There was discussion on how many markers, which parks they would have them, increase of graffiti and vandalism, and how that would be an impact on maintenance staff. Commissioner Menefee commented, "I like the idea of having framed pictures or markers in front of some trees so residents can see and relate to what trees work well in Los Banos."

Third item: Commissioner Spevak questioned, "How can we get more funds in the future to replace trees? I realize that it's up to the City Council, but what are your thoughts?" Parks and Recreation Operations Manager Heim was going to talk about in his manager's report, a new grant just released. Heim is hoping that through this grant create an Urban Forest Management Plan which will develop a system to manage trees throughout town. There was discussion among Commissioners and staff regarding removing, planting and maintenance to the downtown trees.

PARKS & RECREATION OPERATION MANAGERS REPORT: Parks and Recreation Operations Manager Heim reported there were 18 new trees planted along Stonewood Drive medians and the City is putting in a new dog park by the Ag Complex which will include new trees planted. Heim verified the City is in the processing of applying for the grant that was just released which was previously talked about earlier. Heim will make a formal presentation about the forestry grant program at the next meeting in February. Commissioner Spevak asked for an update regarding the Pacheco Park grant the City applied for. Heim is hoping to hear the results in January or February if we are approved to receive it.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR/CITY ENGINEER REPORT: Public Works Director/City Engineer Fachin complimented Joe Heim on what a fantastic job he has done for the department and what he has accomplished in the short amount of time he has been with the City. Fachin misinformed Mr. Lieb at the last meeting regarding the empty planters along Place Road. Fachin explained the correct answer to the Commissioners and that he spoke to Mr. Lieb giving him the correct information. Commissioner Menefee asked, "Does the school district have a copy of the City Tree List for the new school being built?" Fachin response, "Yes, I believe they would. As you know, the City is not allowed to do on-site review at any schools."

COMMISSION MEMBER REPORTS:

CREIGHTON: Creighton has two topics to talk about. First: He acknowledges that this topic has been discussed at previous meetings, but what can be done about shopping centers not watering the trees. Is there anything the City can tell them? Fachin explained about the City's program that is still in place and businesses are being monitored. There was continued discussion among the Commissioners and staff. Second: The City's hired landscape company isn't pruning properly and they are butchering the trees I have seen. Has anyone trained them on how to prune a tree? Fachin explained the landscape company knows how to prune trees. It depends who the landscape company is working for, a City property or a homeowner. There was further discussion among the Commissioners and staff.

KALJIAN: Kaljian said most of his questions were answered that he was concerned to get back and reinforce the landscape plan on watering. He would like to see it continue because there are businesses that need some help.

LATHAM: Latham absent.

MENEFEE: Menefee no comments for tonight.

SPEVAK: Spevak stated all his concerns were addressed and discussed on the agenda. My last comments as a Tree Commissioner is that, I've been serving on the Tree Commission for the last eight consecutive years. I'm encouraging other people to apply. In his opinion this Commission is very important because it's the reason why we became a Tree City USA. We have Arbor Day but more importantly we are the tree conscientious of the community. Anybody who has ever planted a tree, watch it grow over a period years, it's exciting, and it really makes Los Banos a better place to live. And that is my final comment.

Spevak announced that due to Lincoln's Holiday the next meeting will be on Thursday, February 13, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.

Commissioner Creighton wanted to thank Commission Spevak for his many years of service on the Tree Commission and he is a true Los Banos person. Fachin commented, "Los Banos staff 100% agrees."

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

APPROVED:

Chairperson

ATTEST:

Patricia Nelson, Secretary



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Agenda Staff Report

TO: Los Banos Tree Commission
FROM: Mark Fachin, P.E., Public Works Director/City Engineer 
DATE: February 13, 2020
SUBJECT: 32nd Annual Arbor Day Celebration and 30th Tree City USA Program
TYPE OF REPORT: Informational Item

Recommendation:

Information item only, no action to be taken.

Background:

The City of Los Banos is hosting the 32nd annual Arbor Day Celebration and 30th Tree City USA program on Friday, March 6, 2020 at 4:00 p.m. at Skylark Park located at the 700 block of Fairmont Drive.

Discussion:

The Arbor Day celebration is an annual event for the public to attend. Awards are given to participants who submit art work, and a tree planting demonstration is held, along with community groups such as 4-H, Boy Scouts, and Girl Scouts planting trees.

Los Banos is named a Tree City USA by the Arbor Day Foundation in honor of its commitment to effective urban forest management. This will be the 30th year Los Banos earns the national designation. The Arbor Day Foundation's mission is to inspire people to plant, nurture, and celebrate trees.

Attachment:

Arbor Day Flyer

32ND ANNUAL

03.06.20

ARBOR DAY

SPRING PARTY IN THE PARK!

TREES ARE TERRIFIC!



NEW
ACTIVITIES!



TREE CITY USA

"OTHER HOLIDAYS REPOSE ON THE PAST, ARBOR DAY PROPOSES THE FUTURE" - J. STERLING MORTON, FOUNDER OF ARBOR DAY

REFRESHMENTS & MUSIC FOR YOUR ENJOYMENT!

ENTER OUR ART CONTEST!

JOIN US FOR ADDED FUN THIS YEAR!

INFLATABLES AND NEW ACTIVITIES!

FREE!

FRIDAY, MARCH 6TH 4PM

AT SKYLARK PARK - 700 BLK FAIRMONT



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Agenda Staff Report

TO: Los Banos Tree Commission
FROM: Mark Fachin, P.E., Public Works Director/City Engineer *MFachin*
DATE: February 13, 2020
SUBJECT: Presentation of Cal Fire Urban and Community Forestry Program Grant
TYPE OF REPORT: Informational Item

Recommendation:

Information item only, no action to be taken.

Discussion:

Presentation of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection 2019/2020 California Climate Investments Urban and Community Forestry Program Grant. A concept proposal was submitted to Cal Fire in November, 2019 by Los Banos Parks and Recreation. The presentation provides an overview of the grant opportunity and submission. The concept proposal includes the following elements: planting of 100 trees, creation of an urban forest management plan and funding for tree-care training for City staff members. Future updates will be noted in upcoming tree commission meetings.

2019/2020 CAL FIRE CCI URBAN AND COMMUNITY FORESTRY GRANT

City of Los Banos
Parks and Recreation Division



TODAY'S PRESENTATION

What is a grant?

What is the Cal Fire Grant?

Timeline

Concept Proposal Submission

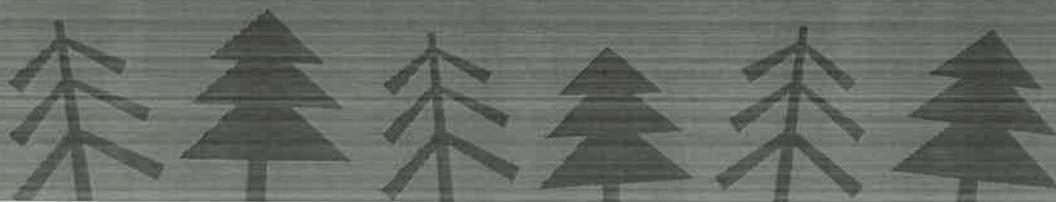
What is an Urban Forest Management Plan?

Questions?



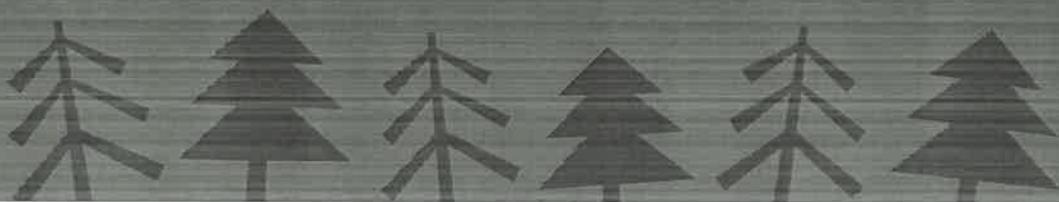
WHAT IS A GRANT?

- A grant is a funding source from a cooperating agency.
- Grants are offered in many different forms, by organizations such as the Government, Foundations and Non-Profit Organizations.
- The purpose of grants is to make an impact on the area the grant is addressing.



WHAT IS THE CAL FIRE GRANT?

- Projects must contain a tree planting component, be in an urban area, multiple benefits and net GHG benefits.
- Funded by California Climate Investments (CCI)
- Projects must be complete by March 30, 2024
- Priority is given to populations in disadvantaged and low-income communities.
- CCI grant types



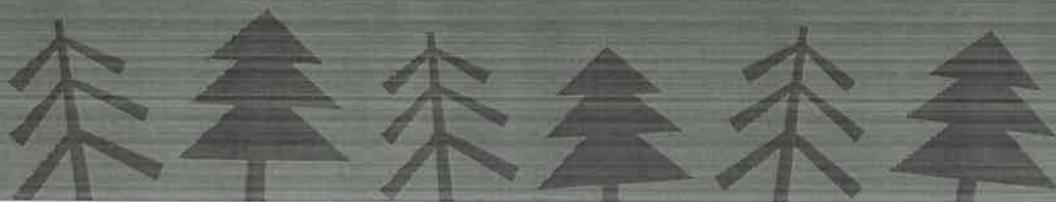
WHAT IS THE TIMELINE?

- December, 2019: Concept proposals submitted to Cal Fire
- Early Winter: Cal Fire will notify applicants if their concept proposal has been invited or not.
- Late Winter: Applicants will submit their applications to Cal Fire
- Early Spring: Applicants are notified if the project has been approved



CONCEPT PROPOSAL SUBMISSION

- Planting of 100 trees throughout 5 park locations
- Report GHG reductions quarterly to Cal Fire per grant guidelines (3 years)
- Tree-Care education and training for city staff
- Creation of Urban Forest Management Plan



WHAT IS AN URBAN FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN?

- Tree Master Plan targeting a 40-50 year plan
- Tree inventory, analysis, planning
- Review of tree ordinance and policy
- GIS software for tree-care tracking improvement
- Establish tree canopy goals
- Improves competitiveness for future Cal Fire funding projects



QUESTIONS?



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