

**DRAFT**

**PIEDMONT PARK COMMISSION**

Regular Meeting Minutes for Wednesday, January 3, 2024

A Regular Session of the Piedmont Park Commission was held on January 3, 2024, in the City Hall Council Chambers at 120 Vista Avenue. In accordance with Government Code Section 54954.2(a), the agenda for this meeting was posted for public inspection on December 28, 2023.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Smegal called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Commissioners Jack Fischrup, Barbara Giuffre, Arden Hall, Kimberly Moses, Sharon Shoshani, Tom Smegal

Absent: David Johnson

Staff: Director of Public Works David Gonzales, Parks & Project Manager Nancy Kent, and Public Works Supervisor Nick Millosovich

**PUBLIC FORUM**

There was no **Public Testimony** on the matter.

**REGULAR AGENDA**

The Commission considered the following items of regular business.

**Minutes**

**Resolved**, that the Park Commission approves the **amended** meeting minutes of October 4, and December 6, 2023.

Moved by Hall Seconded by Moses

Ayes: Fischrup, Giuffre, Hall, Johnson, Moses, Shoshani, Smegal

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Johnson

Note: For the December minutes rephrase to, there are 27 trees named Heritage trees. (not new trees)

**Informational Update  
on the Renewal of the  
Municipal Services  
Parcel Tax/Measure F**

City Administrator Rosanna Bayon Moore updated the Commission on the Renewal of the Municipal Services Parcel Tax/Measure F. She noted that the City will visit with each of the Commissions to discuss the City Services Tax, Measure F, what the existing ordinance allows for, and what the future may look like after the outcome.

City Administrator Moore reported that the City Service Tax funds official City services. It has been in place since 1981 and has been renewed 10 times. Currently the tax represents 7% of the General Fund revenues and expires in June 2025.

The continued need for the Parcel Tax is demonstrated from the City of Piedmont Budget Advisory & Financial Planning Committee's review of the City's recently provided ten-year General Fund financial projects and the City's facilities maintenance needs.

Measure F would renew tax for 12 years with a 20% increase. It would ensure ongoing core City services. It would improve 911 capabilities and technology. and would generate an additional \$545,000. Measure F would increase the current City Services Tax by \$12-21/month, depending on property size.

The renewal of the Municipal Services Parcel Tax/Measure F is slated for the March 2024 election. The decision will impact all City services.

There was no **Public Testimony** on the matter.

Commissioners asked questions regarding the parcel tax.

**Opportunities to  
Memorialize the Sidney  
Dearing Family History  
Update**

Mr. Gonzales reported that the video from the Walter Hood presentation is posted on the City website under Public Works- City Projects as well as additional information on the Sidney Dearing Memorial Project.

The City's technical advisory committee met in December with landscape designer, Walter Hood and his design team at the Hood Design Studio in Oakland. The discussion included physical constraints of the site and the City's standards as applied to park landscapes.

There was no **Public Testimony** on the matter.

Commissioners asked questions and made suggestions about the project discussed.

**Arbor and Earth Day  
2024 Update**

Ms. Kent stated that the program is being formulated for Arbor/Earth Day. It will be celebrated on Friday, April 26, 2024, at the Community Hall. Lindsay Wildlife Center will give a presentation as well as have a live owl or raptor. A professor at UC Berkley, that specializes in urban ecology, may provide a presentation. There will be an art project available for young residents and informational tabled events including Piedmont Beautification Foundation.

Chair Smegal noted there may be seedlings available to plant instead of boxed trees.

There was no **Public Testimony** on the matter.

Commissioners asked questions and made suggestions about the event discussed.

**Heritage Tree  
Nominations for 2024**

Ms. Kent stated that in February the City's website will provide the Heritage Tree nomination form. There will also be a list of all past nominated trees. Only five nominations will be accepted from the submissions. At the April 2024 meeting, the Park Commission will vote on the nominations, and they will be announced at Arbor Day.

Ms. Kent suggested policy changes and/or suggestions for future discussion.

Commissioners asked questions and made suggestions about the project discussed.

There was no **Public Testimony** on the matter.

**City Park Projects  
Update**

Ms. Kent discussed the Linda Off Leash Dog Park temporary closure. The City was concerned that hay bale waddles installed last year had been damaged by the dog activity. The waddles were installed to control erosion from the hillside and limit the storm water runoff. Another layer of waddles has been installed along the Linda Ave. fence line. The status of the park's closure is posted on the City's website.

Ms. Kent stated an update for Dracena Park ADA Path project will be provided once the start of construction is scheduled. Public Works is focusing on the removal of dead trees and reforestation plans.. The City is partnering with PBF to fund raise for the reforestation effort.

Ms. Kent noted that the drawings for the Crocker Park ADA Improvements are with the City Engineer. Mr. Gonzales stated a bid date should be advertised by January 10<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Kent stated that an existing pine tree that was previous noted as remaining, will now be removed after it was reviewed by the City's consulting arborist.

Ms. Kent discussed the removal of Sequoia at the Traffic Circle at Bellevue and Mountain Aves. and replacement options with a focus on planting an oak species. Staff will be reviewing planting options.

There was no **Public Testimony** on the matter.

Commissioners asked questions and made suggestions about the projects discussed.

**Monthly Maintenance Report**

Public Works Supervisor Nick Millosovich reported the staff planted the remainder of the 16,000 bulbs that were picked up in November. The team also planted annual color over multiple areas where tulips were planted. Over 30 flats of 4" violas were planted in these areas. Tree lighting was stressful but successful. The street trees that the Park Commission reviewed in previous meetings, on Park Way were removed. One Source Tree Service removed the two trees and pruned the two liquidambar and ground out the stumps. The annual tree pruning contract will start next week. Two trees were lost due to past storms. Additional sandbags were made and are available. Ten sandbags per household.

There was no **Public Testimony** on the matter.

Commissioners asked questions and made suggestions about the projects discussed.

**REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Some suggestions included a list of tentative agenda items (a wish list),stewardship and sustainability in our parks, street tree selection process and challenges of planting under power lines, public park pictures, website dedication to parks, and the Watershed Nursery donation of riparian saplings.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, February 7, 2024, at 5:30 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Chairperson Smegal adjourned the meeting at 6:52 p.m.