

DRAFT

Chair Matteo noted the Commission has no jurisdiction over State Fish and Game or Fish and Wildlife Codes. The Commission would be making a decision based on the Larkspur Municipal Code.

Commissioner McNally asked how these trees were selected for removal- there were so many trees on the property. Ms. Clark stated there were trying to bring more tenants to the property. Some of the vacant spaces are very dark and they are trying to bring light into those spaces. They like the trees and were trying to be very selective. They chose the trees that were closest to the building. Some of the trees have outgrown the area.

Commissioner Blauvelt asked if she spoke to the arborist about trimming some of the trees. Ms. Clark stated they have trimmed a few of the trees significantly in the past.

Ms. Barbara Freitas, 40 Lark Court, distributed a photograph to the Commission. She stated part of the problem is that the trees were badly trimmed in the past and are heavy at the top. She displayed photographs of bird droppings which indicate nesting. She noted she did not see any evidence of sidewalks being uplifted by tree roots as noted in the arborist report. Seeking more light is not a valid reason for removing Heritage trees. These are heritage trees and a habitat for birds and they should not be removed.

Chair Matteo closed the Public Hearing.

Commissioner McNally referred to a photograph and stated the tree could be trimmed differently so they do not take away all the light. These trees were not trimmed properly in the past. Ms. Clark stated the trees could be trimmed more but it would still be very dark and the trees are very close to the building.

Commissioner Blauvelt agreed that the trees could be trimmed and maintained in a more efficient manner. She did not see any evidence of damage to any hardscape. These trees are not that close to the building and there is no indication that they are posing a hazard. She could not make any of the findings to grant the request to remove any of these trees.

Ms. Clark stated there were 77 trees on the property and these particular trees had challenges of their own including light. It is affecting their ability to rent these spaces.

Commissioner Friedel asked how many spaces were affected. Ms. Clark stated there were three suites. Commissioner Friedel asked about the square footage of the spaces. Ms. Clark stated one was about 2,500 square feet, another was about 2,000 square feet, and the last was about 1,300 square feet. All three buildings represent about 199,000 square feet. Commissioner Friedel asked how long the spaces have been vacant. Ms. Clark stated one has been vacant about a year, one about 2-½ years, and the third has been vacant for about three years.

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Chair Matteo stated he agreed with the comments that have been made by other Commissioners. He saw no evidence of sidewalk damage. This Redwood grove, compared to others, is not that crowded or close to the buildings.

Commissioner McNally stated he could not make the findings to grant this request.

Recreation Director Whitley distributed a diagram of the trees with the trees numbered one through five.

Chair Matteo asked for comments regarding the Redwood trees (#1 through #5) as depicted on the handout submitted by Recreation Director Whitley.

M/s Blauvelt/Friedel to deny the request for removal of Redwood tree #1.

Ayes: Blauvelt, Friedel, McNally, Chair Matteo

M/s Blauvelt/McNally to deny the request for removal of Redwood tree #2.

Ayes: Blauvelt, Friedel, McNally, Chair Matteo

M/s Blauvelt/Friedel to deny the request for removal of Redwood tree #3.

Ayes: Blauvelt, Friedel, McNally, Chair Matteo

M/s Friedel/Blauvelt to deny the request for removal of Redwood tree #4.

Ayes: Blauvelt, Friedel, McNally, Chair Matteo

Chair Matteo asked for comments regarding tree #5, the Monterey Pine, as depicted on the handout submitted by Recreation Director Whitley.

Commissioner McNally stated the arborist report indicates this tree could be diseased. It is an old, unattractive tree.

Commissioner Blauvelt stated she looked carefully at the tree and did not see any symptoms of disease in this tree. It looks healthier than a lot of other Monterey Pines. It could be trimmed- she saw no reason to remove the tree.

M/s Blauvelt/Friedel to deny the request for removal of the Monterey Pine, tree #5.

Ayes: Blauvelt, Friedel, Chair Matteo

Noes: McNally

Chair Matteo stated there was a 15-day appeal period.

BUSINESS ITEM

1. Election of Vice Chair

DRAFT

Recreation Director Whitley stated the Commission needs to elect a Vice Chair given the opening created by former Vice Chair Hauser's end-of-term.

M/s McNally/Blauvelt to elect Commissioner Friedel to serve as Vice Chair.

Ayes: Blauvelt, Friedel, McNally, Chair Matteo

RECREATION DIRECTOR'S ORAL REPORT

Recreation Director Whitley reported tomorrow was the last day of Super Cool Summer School. He stated Larkspur/Corte Madera School District Superintendent Valerie Pitts facilitated the participation of approximately 20 ESL students this year. He noted it was another successful year for Super Cool Summer School on the Kent Middle School Campus. Teen/tweens programs continue to be a huge success thanks to the efforts of Recreation Supervisor Clegg. Approximately 15 kids went to the Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk yesterday. Other offerings planned for the summer include a trip to Great America, ice- skating, laser tag, Piper Park sleep over, and more. The Public Works Department office has moved across the street to the Tamalpais Union High School District Corporation Yard and the Recreation Department is temporarily housed in its former location. The City Council approved the contract to renovate the Recreation Department office- the work will start within the next several weeks. When the Recreation Department moves back to its permanent location the Public Works Department trailer would be removed from the park. The 40th Anniversary Celebration at Piper Park will have to be postponed. He would keep the Commission informed about future plans. The plans for a Veteran's Day Run have changed- it will be a joint effort with the Corte Madera Recreation Department and will be held on July 4th instead of Veteran's Day. It will be a ½ mile run from Piper Park to Red Robin Catering on Magnolia Avenue and another 2 miles to Town Park. The Commission thought this was a great idea since the roads would be closed to traffic due to the parade.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Commissioner McNally had questions about the Station Area Plan (SAP). City Manager Schwarz reported the City Council adopted a resolution last night formalizing statements made in June asking staff to halt the planning process.

Chair Matteo asked about the June 25th meeting regarding the Larkspur Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan. Recreation Director Whitley stated he did not attend but heard there were some good comments from the public.

Commissioner Blauvelt reported the Larkspur Community Foundation recently obtained its not-for profit status.

Commissioner Friedel reported the Larkspur Rec-ing Crew also received confirmation from the IRS.

DRAFT

Commissioner McNally asked for a status report on plans for the Rose Lane community facility/library project. Recreation Director Whitley stated a meeting is planned with Councilmember Way, Library Director Gordon, and others about preliminary plans, fundraising, etc. They are working on a unified vision.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Toni DeFrancis
Recording Secretary