



**ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**OCTOBER 26, 2023
7:00 PM**

1. CALL TO ORDER:

- a. The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Nygard at 7:09PM.

2. ROLL CALL:

- a. Present: Dotty Nygard, James Damasco, Tony Acosta, Nicholas Sese, and Navi Kahlon
- b. Absent: None.
- c. Staff Present: Karin Schnaider, Assistant City Manager
Stephanie Reyna-Hiestand, Assistant Director of Utilities
David Murphy, Assistant Director of Operations
John Newman, Operations Superintendent
Necy Lopez, Deputy City Clerk
- d. Recorded by: Carla Sorich, Executive Assistant
Isabel Espinosa, Administrative Technician

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

4. ITEMS FROM THE AUDIENCE

None.

5. REGULAR AGENDA

Chairperson Nygard asked if there were any items they wished pulled. Vice-Chair Damasco requested Agenda Item 6.a. be pulled from the agenda and not presented because he felt it was not ready.

Discussion continued regarding Item 6.a.

Motion was made by Chairperson Nygard and seconded by Commissioner Kahlon to continue the presentation and discussion for tonight's meeting agenda as posted. All in favor; passed and so ordered. (5,0,0)

Public Comment:

Veronica Vargas was very disappointed that this item was going to be pulled from the agenda without a discussion. She stated that she was working on this plan for 5 years,

staff worked hard on this report. Allow due process so the public can have input on this item.

6. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

a. REVIEW AND APPROVE THE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 28, 2023

ACTION: Motion was made by Vice Chairperson Damasco and seconded by Commissioner Kahlon to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes from September 28, 2023. All in favor; passed and so ordered. (5,0,0)

7. OLD BUSINESS

a. THE COMMISSION, BY MOTION, RECOMMEND TO CITY COUNCIL TO ADOPT THE CITY-WIDE URBAN FORESTRY MANAGEMENT PLAN

John Newman, Operations Superintendent, provided the staff report.

Public Comment:

Jennie Wood had questions regarding the canopy spot percentages and stated that she is happy the plan includes protection, maintenance, and pest control for the trees.

Veronica Vargas a board member for the Tracy Tree Foundation commented she would like to see irrigation infrastructure and budget outline for irrigation added to the plan. There are lots of losses due to lack of maintenance. She is requesting that language be added to the report to include that trees will be watered regardless of drought situation, and those restrictions only affect lawns. Thanked the commission for the report.

Anthony Wahhab had questions regarding the significance of the different species of trees selected from a biology perspective. He also had questions regarding prevention of root encroachments on sidewalks.

Leah Shoaito had questions whether we are planting by seed, if the trees are genetically modified, and the maintenance plan.

John Newman replied to public questions.

Commission discussion continued.

ACTION: Motion was made by Chairperson Nygard and seconded by Commissioner Sese to recommend adoption of the City-Wide Urban Forestry Management Plan with amendments to include: 1) guidelines regarding working with PG&E for power lines and tree trimming 2) Slide 14-Methodology behind numbers, locations where fruit bearing trees, root barrier for all new trees 3) 10-20-30 impact on native trees, irrigation policy ensuring trees have an adequate water supply. Roll call found four in favor and one against. Passed and so ordered. (4,0,1)

8. NEW BUSINESS

a. THE COMMISSION, BY MOTION, REVIEW AND APPROVE THE 2023-2024 CALENDAR YEAR REGULAR MEETING SCHEDULE.

Stephanie Reya-Hiestand, Assistant Director Utilities, provided the staff report.

No public comment.

Students commented that school ends at 3:55 PM, and that 7 PM meetings work fine. And request that this committee takes into consideration civic clubs, and school related activities. Students inquired about meeting date in May.

ACTION: Motion was made by Chairperson Nygard and seconded by Commissioner Kahlon to cancel December 2023 and July 2024 meeting, move November 2023 meeting to November 27, 2023 at 7 PM. All in favor, passed and so ordered. (5,0,0)

b. COMMISSION TO REVIEW AND PROVIDE INPUT ON THE ESC WORKPLAN BASED ON COUNCIL STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

- Sustainability Action Plan
- Environmental Compliance
 - Stormwater Pollution Prevention

Karin Schnaider, Assistant City Manager, provided the staff report.

This is a reoccurring item for board members and public to add items to the agenda. Most items will be 90 days out to allow for review and staff reports. Coordination with an outside department may take longer than 90 days depending on their availability.

Public Comment:

Veronica Vargas requesting optimizing environments, socioeconomic public health benefits. Senator Eggman SB 746 for Valley Link and the installation of the Hydrogen fuel facility in Tracy. Based on this new technology I would suggest this group to research how this affects our environment and the benefits. Creating a fuel income, taking vehicles off the road. TOD has impact of walkability, biking, hydrogen plant and workforce that it will bring.

Jenni Wood commented the housing element has been opened. Is it possible to bring that on an informational basis to this commission make suggestions on the housing element. Are there any issues that may be detrimental to the environment. Specifically, under the purview of density, permeable roads and sidewalks, development and overall policies.

ACM Schnaider responded it can be added to workplan to bring in for comments.

Chair Nygard said she would like to see how to implement SB 746 with Valley Link and Hydrogen fuel facility and SB 335 to allow low-income housing and disadvantaged communities to take advantage of solar energy programs under quality of life and infrastructure.

Commission questions and comments followed.

ACTION: Motion was made by Chairperson Dotty Nygard and seconded by Vice Chairperson James Damasco to amend the ESC Workplan based on Council Strategic Priorities to include SB 355, SB 746/Hydrogen Facility Plant, EIR for Housing Element and commission. All in favor; passed and so ordered. (5,0,0)

9. STAFF ITEMS

Karin Schnaider, Assistant City Manager, provided the staff report.

The City of Tracy has been working with California League of Cities regarding E Commerce and tax dollars associated with warehousing in Tracy. Moving from point of sale to destination. We are working on something to start acting in the 12-24 months on the state level. The loss is between \$16-50 million dollars. It is a very significant loss.

10. ITEMS FROM THE COMMISSION – Youth commissioner, next steps. Two are selected, the other two will remain on eligibility list. Will move forward once appointed by City Council at their next meeting on November 7, 2023.

11. ADJOURNMENT – Time: 9:57 PM.

ACTION: Motion was made by Vice Chairperson Damasco and seconded by Commissioner Kahlon to adjourn. Roll call found all in favor; passed and so ordered. (5,0,0)