

AGENDA ITEM: IV-B

DATE: March 16, 2011

ACTION: APPROVED

CITY OF MORRO BAY  
PLANNING COMMISSION  
SYNOPSIS MINUTES

(Complete audio- and videotapes of this meeting are available from the City upon request)

Veteran's Memorial Building  
Regular Meeting, 6:00 p.m.

209 Surf Street, Morro Bay  
March 02, 2011

Chairperson Rick Grantham

Vice-Chairperson John Diodati  
Commissioner Paul Nagy

Commissioner Jamie Irons  
Commissioner John Solu

Rob Livick, Secretary

I. ESTABLISH QUORUM AND CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Grantham called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and noted all Commissioners are present with the exception of Commissioner Nagy.

Staff Present: Rob Livick, Kathleen Wold, Damaris Hanson, Rob Schultz, Joe Woods

II. MOMENT OF SILENCE / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Jeff Eckles led the pledge.

III. DIRECTOR'S REPORT/WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

Rob Livick briefed the Commission on action taken by the City Council at the February 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting and for the upcoming March 8<sup>th</sup> City Council meeting. Livick also noted that there will be a State water shutdown later this month in order to allow maintenance activities.

IV. CONSENT CALENDAR

A. Approval of minutes from the meeting on February 16, 2011.

**MOTION:** Irons moved the Planning Commission approve the minutes. Solu seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously (4-0).

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairperson Grantham opened the Public Comment period.

- Betty Winholtz, resident of Morro Bay spoke about PG&E's new smart meters and encouraged everyone to learn more by coming to County Board of Supervisors meeting next Tuesday, March 8<sup>th</sup> at 9am.

Hearing no further comment, Chairperson Grantham closed Public Comment period.

VI. PRESENTATIONS – None

VII. PUBLIC HEARINGS

- A. Site Location: 2511 Juniper, 205 Surf, 214 & 225 Beach, 1129,1149, and 1169 Market and 1320 Main  
Appellant: Robin Cole  
Request: No trees be removed and careful pruning to accommodate the power lines, also consider the aesthetics and appearance of the said trees.  
CEQA Determination: N/A  
Staff Recommendation: Denial of appeal and remove/replacement of said trees.  
Staff Contact: Damaris Hanson, Engineering Division, (805) 772-6265.

Livick presented the staff report and stated that the applicant has removed the tree located at 2511 Juniper from consideration in the “Right Tree, Right Place” program.

Commissioners discussed with staff:

- The standard safe distance for trees. Livick clarified safe distance is considered 10 feet for vegetation and high voltage lines;
- High cost of uplifting of sidewalks as a result of tree damage; and
- The “Right Tree, Right Place” program by PG&E through which the removed trees would be replaced with new trees.

Chairperson Grantham opened the Public Comment period:

- Robin Cole, Appellant and resident of Morro Bay, presented an overview of why she made the appeal and urged the Planning Commission to not remove the trees.
- The following residents of Morro Bay spoke against removing the trees:
  - Amy Perry, Michelle Arete, Jane von Koehe, Pauline Stansbury on behalf of Mrs. Howard, Alex Beatty, Natalia Merzoyan, Ann Reeves, Monique Nelson who also asked that Robin Cole be refunded for her appeal fee paid, Rigg Marr (*sic*), David Nelson and Betty Winholtz.
- The following residents of Morro Bay spoke for removal of the trees by encouraging the right tree in the right place:
  - Debra Hilyard spoke in favor of removing the tree in front of 205 Surf Street; Jeff Eckles spoke in favor of removing the tree in front of 214 Beach Street; Gary Johnson stated the City needs to better maintain the trees to avoid having to remove them; and Nancy Johnson spoke regarding the need to have the right tree in the right place.

Hearing no further comment, Chairperson Grantham closed Public Comment period.

Commissioners discussed with staff clarification regarding:

- The City has the resources to remove the material greater than 4” and grind the stumps;
- The PG& E program that utilizes an arborist to identify trees for removal every summer with prunings and removal typically occurring in late fall;
- The proposed type and size of new trees that would be planted as replacement for the removed trees; and
- The appeals process which allows fee reimbursement to an Appellant in the event of a successful appeal.

Commissioners had continued discussion on:

- The high cost of undergrounding of utilities;
- The responsibility to protect citizens and balance that with environmental needs;
- Ensure public safety in regards to sidewalk maintenance;
- Insurance liabilities; and
- Involve the tree committee and get their feedback.

Commissioners discussed their support for trees, but also noted that the trees will be replaced with new trees which will allow a diversification of trees, the ability to share space effectively with the power lines and also prevent future sidewalk damage.

**MOTION:** Diodati moved the Planning Commission deny the appeal of the removal for eight trees at 205 Surf, 214 & 225 Beach, 1129, 1149, and 1169 Market and two trees at 1320 Main. Irons seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously (4-0).

Chairperson Grantham called for a ten minute break.

#### VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

##### A. Current Planning Processing List/Advanced Work Program

Commissioners reviewed the work program.

#### IX. NEW BUSINESS – None

#### X. DECLARATION OF FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Solu welcomed Commissioners to attend local business group meetings as a way to inform the business community of Planning Commission meeting results.
- Diodati announced he may need to submit a future request to miss a few Planning Commission meetings due to a conflict with his personal schedule and the new Wednesday meeting schedule of the Planning Commission.

#### XI. ADJOURNMENT

Chairperson Grantham adjourned the meeting at 7:30p.m. to the next regularly scheduled Planning Commission meeting at the Veterans Hall, 209 Surf Street, on Wednesday, March 16th, 2011 at 6:00 p.m.

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Rick Grantham, Chairperson

ATTEST:

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Rob Livick, Secretary