



**Minutes  
Parks, Beaches, and Recreation Commission  
City of Pacifica**

**REGULAR MEETING – 7 PM**

Wednesday, June 28, 2023  
2212 Beach Blvd. Pacifica, CA 94044

**CALL TO ORDER:**

**Chair Abbott:** called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

**I PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

**Commissioner Nicolari:** led the Pledge of Allegiance

**II ROLL CALL:**

**Commissioners Present:** Chair Abbott, Commissioners: Benton Shoemaker, Heywood, Nicolari, and Phillips.

**Commissioner Excused Absent:** Commissioner Rodriguez

**Staff Present:** Director Bob Palacio, Public Works Director Lisa Petersen, Senior Planner Brianne Harkousha Recreation Supervisor Anthony Schriver, Recreation Specialist Rebecca Collier, NCE Landscape Architect Matthew Gaber and Arborist Lexi Tucker.

**III APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**Chair Abbott** called for a motion to approve the minutes. **A motion was made by Commissioner Phillips, seconded by Commissioner Heywood, motion carried 5-0**

**IV ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA:**

**Chair Abbott** called for vote to approve the agenda of the June 28, 2023 meeting.  
**Approval carried 5-0**

**V ORAL COMMUNICATION:**

Ted Bisson requested information on a comment from Commissioner Benton-Shoemaker during the May 24, 2023, meeting about a large fine for a violation of a Tree Ordinance from another local community.

**VI PUBLIC HEARING:**

A. Re-opened Tree Appeal #HT-015-23 -1165 Rosita Road  
Appeal filed by: John Beckmeyer -1163 Palou Drive

**Chair Abbott:** Asked, Commissioner Heywood if he reviewed all the information regarding Tree Appeal #HT-015-23 and May 24, 2023, meeting minutes and prepared to move forward on the topic or to be excused from the vote.

**Commissioner Heywood:** Responded, he reviewed the materials and was prepared to proceed.

**Senior Planner Brianne Harkousha:** Presented staff report to the Parks, Beaches, Recreation (PB&R) Commission on continued hearing to an appeal of Director of Public

Work's approval of Tree Removal Permit (HT-015-023) for the removal of one Monterey cypress tree on private property at 1165 Rosita Road. She introduced NCE Landscape Architect Matthew Gaber and Certified Arborist Lexi Tucker for a presentation on background information on the subject Monterey Cypress tree.

**Certified Arborist Tucker:** She thanked the PB&R Commission and gave background information about the subject tree as related to the characteristics and history of the species tree in the local area. Most common failures of Monterey cypress trees are branch, trunk, and root. In her experience, branch failure is most common, a factor that contributes to failure are high winds. She gave a review of her assessment of the subject Monterey cypress tree at 1165 Rosita. Before her assessment and she viewed similar age Monterey cypress trees in the area and observed several types of failure. She performed a visual examination on the Monterey cypress under appeal and determine the canopy is heavy and asymmetrical, viewed past branch failures and evidence of decay. The trees shape and growth pattern were due to competition with the Redwood Tree that had been removed.

**Senior Planner Harkousha:** At the previous May 2023 PB&R Commission meeting, Commissioners asked Staff for more information on the following:

- Provide an assessment of the root damage of the tree proposed for removal: Tree Condition assessment prepared by Donald W. Cox ISA Certified Master Arborist on May 30, 2023, confirmed structural roots were damaged and removal is recommended to avoid structural failure. The City Consulting Arborist reviewed and agreed with the findings in the report.
- What protection requirements were applicable to the building permit issued for the residences and retaining wall under construction: Ordinance No.88-C. S. took effect on October 12, 2022. Prior Heritage Tree Ordinance was ordinance that was in place during building permits processed before October 12, 2022. Prior Heritage Tree Ordinance was repealed and not subject of the present decision before the PB&R Commission.

Recommendation of Staff, move that the Parks, Beaches, and Recreation Commission finds the project is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act; Denies the appeal and upholds the Director of Public Works' approval of the Tree Removal Permit by adopting the resolution as Attachment A to the staff report including conditions of approval in Exhibit A of the resolution and incorporates all maps and testimony into the record by reference.

**Commissioner Benton-Shoemaker:** Asked, Arborist Tucker to clarify the root damage from previous reports and was not mentioned in her report.

**Arborist Tucker:** Replied, while on site she observed root damage, but it was impossible to determine if the cause of the root damage was from the Redwood tree in front of the Monterey Cypress tree. The Redwood tree had been removed and the buttress roots from the Redwood tree were evident there was damage but could not determine how much of the root damage belonged to the Monterey Cypress tree roots.

**Chair Abbott:** Thanked, Arborist Tucker for clarifying information. She asked staff for varication that both Applicant JanNice Hanlon and Appellant John Beckmeyer received notification of the meeting?

**Senior Planner Harkousha:** Replied, notices were sent out to both parties and adjacent neighbors.

### **Chair Abbott called for public comments on Tree Appeal #HT-015-23**

Chair Abbott made note of photos that were submitted by Ted Bisson on behalf of Applicant Hanlon.

**Ted Bisson:** Thanked the Commissioners and thoroughness of the staff reports he had no further comments.

**Chair Abbott:** Stated, she wanted to ensure that the Applicant Hanlon was aware of the conditions of approval for Tree Removal # HT-015-23 Exhibit A, included planting of two replacement trees and using a licensed Tree Removal specialist. Public Works Director Lisa Peterson could provide more information for applicant if she needed further clarification. She asked Applicant Hanlon about the timing on the planted of the required two replacement trees.

**Chair Abbott:** Gave instructions for Appellant Beckmeyer and Applicant Hanlon would each have ten minutes for comments.

**Applicant Hanlon:** Thanked the PB&R Commission for their time, she clarified the original retaining was built in the 1950's. Redwood and Pine trees had been removed and a new permitted retaining was built. She fully intends to replant two replacement trees, but the house is currently under construction and unsure what an acceptable timeframe would be for the replanting of the two replacement trees.

**Chair Abbott:** Asked, Public Works Director Petersen if one year would be an acceptable amount of time for follow-up to place on the permit? She understands construction delays may happen and timelines change.

**Director of Public Works Petersen:** Replied, yes one year would be acceptable. She added the Tree removal company used would need to be licensed and certified by the State of California and must have a current business license on file and with the City of Pacifica. Applicant Hanlon would need to send the requested license numbers to the Planning department for verification before the removal starts.

**Appellant Beckmeyer:** Apologized to for being tardy to the meeting and thanked the PB&R Commission. He remarked, Monterey Cypress appears to be a healthy full tree and had not heard anything from an arborist about re-balancing the tree for stabilization. At the last meeting there was doubt if Applicant Hanlon had damaged the root system with the installation of the retaining wall and home construction. To his knowledge there was no evidence of root system damage. If the root system was undamaged and the tree is healthy, the better course of action is to rebalance to reduce air drag to keep the tree stable.

**Chair Abbott:** Commented, staff provided new information at the request of the PB&R Commission which included two Arborist report, both stated significant root system damage. Information available for review by the public on the City website.

**Chair Abbott closed the public hearing and brought the item back to PB&R Commission. Chair Abbott called for motion on Tree Appeal #HT-015-23. Motion was made by Commissioner Heywood to deny the Appeal and uphold the approved removal of one Monterey Cypress tree at 1165 Rosita Road, seconded by Commissioner Phillips, motion carried 5-0**

## **VII ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION:**

### **A. Priory Park – Skyridge**

**Director Palacio:** The selection of the four Priority Parks had the input from City staff, PB&R Commission, City Council, and members of the community. The concept plans for the project four parks are at sixty-five percent. Staff asked the consultant firm to add vegetation into the project. Chair Abbott asked to review the plans for Skyridge Park to ensure that PB&R Commission wanted to move forward with plans. There are residents that reside around Skyridge Park and are excited for completion of the park. The cost for each of the four parks is around \$250,000 there is significant work that would be done on each park. He asked Chair Abbott to elaborate more on reason to review Skyridge Park.

**Chair Abbott:** Commented, during last year's community feedback event, Skyridge Park did not have overwhelming support in the community. She asked the other Commissioner if before the next meeting to go out and spend some time at Skyridge Park location and think if it would be the best use of funds or maybe the project could be scaled back. She wanted to ensure the PB&R Commission was comfortable with project before it moves forward.

**Director Palacio:** Asked, Commissioners to review and bring back comments. He would reach out neighbors in the area for support or concerns about the project.

**Supervisor Schriver:** Commented, he was involved in the community outreach process last year. During pop-up events at the four parks, there was good community involvement and utilized social media to get the word out about the park's projects. There were about 25 responses from the survey regarding Skyridge Park.

**Chair Abbott:** Asked, staff to re-send PB&R commissioners the results from the surveys that was received last fall within the next week. She stated, maybe scale back the design and find balance not to overwhelm the neighborhood while saving funds.

**Commissioner Benton-Shoemaker:** Stated, she recalls the survey comments Skyridge Park was mainly used for walking pets and did not seem to be a lot of support. What would it mean if the funds from the Skyridge park were retained for other City Parks?

**Director Palacio:** Stated, contractor had starting to price out each of the park projects and would give staff a better real cost of each park. He wanted to ensure that each project is neighborhood appropriate.

## **VII REPORTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, AND CORRESPONDENCE FROM COMMISSIONERS:**

Commissioners gave brief updates on their liaison assignments and community involvement.

## **IX REPORTS FROM STAFF**

**Director Palacio:** He gave updates on the following:

- **Life Ring Buoy Station:** Located at the pier was utilized to in early June to help save a life. Staff are working on the California Coastal Commission (CCC) permit for beach locations and hope to have more information at a future meeting. Later, staff wants to bring in the major donor of the equipment to give a proper thank you and let her share her story.
- **Surf Camp/School:** Staff are currently working on two requirements for CCC. First, Code of Conduct is under review by both the CCC and City. Second, outward facing calendar system to show when camps will out at Linda Mar beach and adding information to the web page. Staff are working on receiving up to date information on water quality at Linda Mar Beach.
- **Bike Park Committee:** Met with another early design and outreach company for concept designs which are important part of the funding process. Staff applied for a grant for \$1.55 million from California State Parks and Recreation.
- **Budget:** Passed City Council and PB&R was approved for additional funding for a Teen Center Program at the Community Center. Once the new Civic Center is complete and staff have moved out of the Community Center work on the program will begin.
- **July is Park and Recreation month:** Staff will be doing community outreach with some local youth by taking them to a skateparks in Fremont and Santa Clara.
- **Program updates:** Adventure Camp participation at max capacity, field trips (Great America, Academy of Arts and Science and more) are back. Invited Commissioners to the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Special event at Frontierland Park and Rocket Run.
- **Linda Mar Beach Water Quality:** Staff are working with Public Works Director

Peterson to see what government agencies are doing to address the issue.

- **Tree Appeal:** New Process and Policy for all parties and will be reviewed by Staff to address some of the issues and concerns in the process. Staff will share updates with Commission.
- City Staff walked the City Beachline with CCC Executive Director Kate Hucklebridge to show how funds are needed for improvements and protection. Staff also meet with sister city dignitaries from Catalonia on the removal of the statue at the Community Center and funding beautification work at the removal site.
- Thanked Lynn Adams of Pacific Beach Coalition her continuing work, her organization partnered with the Hunter Pence Foundation for a beach clean-up at Linda Mar Beach.

**X ADJOURNMENT:**

**Chair Abbott:** asked for motion to Adjourn. Motion was made by **Commissioner Phillips, seconded by Commissioner Heywood. Motion Carried 5-0**

**Next Regular Meeting:** August 23,2023

Respectfully submitted by,  
Rebecca Collier, Recreation Specialist  
Pacifica Parks, Beaches, and Recreation

X   
Pacifica Parks, Beaches & Commission  
Chair Cindy Abbott

