

Public Comments



*March 5-6, 2021
Goal Setting 2021*

Goal Setting Meetings -- SATURDAY March 6 Written Public Comments

Gail Shoemaker [REDACTED]

Fri 3/5/2021 8:20 AM

To: Coffey, Sarah <coffeys@ci.pacifica.ca.us>; Public Comment <publiccomment@ci.pacifica.ca.us>

1 attachments (27 KB)

Tree Policy Best Practices 4.docx;

[CAUTION: External Email]

Hi Sarah,

Tree City Pacifica would like to submit the document below on Tree Policy Best Practices to written public comments for the Goal Setting Meeting. Please let us know if we have submitted it correctly.

Thanks for your help, Gail

Gail Benton Shoemaker
[REDACTED]

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On Mar 1, 2021, at 5:57 PM, Coffey, Sarah <coffeys@ci.pacifica.ca.us> wrote:

Hi Gail,

Below is the information and links for the Saturday, March 6 Agenda for Goal Setting. Public comment is limited to only the items as specified in the Agenda for that day. The Friday meeting is focused on City Council Governance and Relationship Development. The Saturday meeting is focused on Council Goals and Priorities. There are prescribed Public Comment times as noted in each Agenda.

Join this City Council meeting via Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/94346213579> or via alternative methods listed in the Full Agenda Packet. Please note the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Notice within the Full Agenda Packet for important details regarding meeting format and public participation.

Please see the attached Full Agenda document for the following meeting:

City Council

Study Session

Saturday, March 6, 2021 9:00 AM

Dial-in: 1-669-900-6833 | WebinarID: 943 4621 3579 - Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/94346213579>, Alt 2:, NA

[Download PDF Full Agenda](#) | [View Web Full Agenda](#)

Best Regards,
Sarah

Sarah Coffey

City Clerk

City of Pacifica

(650) 738-7307
coffey@ci.pacifica.ca.us

<image001.png>

-----Original Message-----

From: Gail Shoemaker [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, February 24, 2021 3:24 PM
To: Coffey, Sarah <coffey@ci.pacifica.ca.us>
Subject: Goal Setting Meetings

[CAUTION: External Email]

Hi Sarah,

I hear there are Goal Setting meetings on March 5&6th. What's the format for these? Is there an agenda? Are there specific times when the public gives input?

Of course I'm asking you because you know everything ;)

Thanks so much, Gail

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Tree City Pacifica

Draft of Tree Policy Best Practices (cities cited for each practice) 3/4/21

In light of potential changes to Pacifica's Heritage Tree Ordinances, members of Tree City Pacifica have researched policies in 15 neighboring cities. Here are some of the best practices we have discovered. **The ones we recommend are indicated by an asterisk***. We request that these be adopted by the city.

Private and City Trees

Heritage/Protected Trees

- All [non-invasive] trees with a 12" diameter (DBH) measured 54" above native grade (level of ground prior to alteration)* –Los Gatos (LG)
- California native trees (protected trees) with a 6" diameter –Pacific Grove (PG)

Removal requirements

- Tree Risk Assessment on International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) Basic Tree Risk Assessment Form is high or extreme*, or tree causing significant damage to hardscape – PG
- ISA Basis Tree Assessment Form required* –Alameda (AL), Palo Alto (PA)

Trimming/Pruning Permits

- Trimming more than 25 percent of a tree is considered pruning and needs a permit* (PG)
- Also unbalanced pruning that requires additional pruning to correct errors should be susceptible to penalties. –Menlo Park (MP)

Permit Fee for Tree Removal

- Permit required for private property, \$426 –PA
- Initial permit fee of \$75 followed by a plant-back deposit –San Mateo (SM)
- Initial permit fee of \$100* –Burlingame (B)

Plant Back Deposit (at time of permit)

- \$350, returned if three 15-gallon trees are planted (can purchase trees through City) – SSF (three 15-gallon trees because they adapt better than 24" box trees*)
- \$425 replant deposit* –SM

Replacement requirements (homeowner)

- Photo of trees, receipts for trees, follow up by arborist one year later* –Monterey County
- Replacements include both Upper Canopy (above 40 ft.) and Lower Canopy trees* –PG
- Replacement trees equal the removed canopy cover in 15–20 years* –MP
- Trees not planted within the deadline subject to \$1200 fine* –B

In Lieu Fees (we support plant back deposits rather than In Lieu fees for private property because it requires less code enforcement)

- In lieu fee \$537–Belmont
- In lieu fee equals value of the tree using the Guide for Plant Appraisal by CTLA or ISA –PG

City tree replacement policy

- Any felled city tree must also include stump removal; replacement planted within the year* –SSF
- Stumps removed within 6 mos. and replaced in optimum replant season Nov-Mar. –PA

Notification of tree removal

- Notice on tree and two notices on public property within 300 ft, and on city website –AL
- Notice on tree (and delivered to adjacent and abutting property owners*) –Pacifica
- City website gives information on tree removals with ratings & reasons* –PG, MP, SSF
- Notice three weeks prior to any action taken* –AL

Tree Appeal Process

- ISA Basic Tree Assessment Form required* –Multiple cities (MC)
- Appeal first goes to Arborist, then Commission and subsequently City Council* –MC
- When only High-Risk trees are removed, there are very few appeals –PG

Illegal tree removal/pruning/trimming (this also includes unbalanced pruning)

- Any person or business engaged in removing or pruning trees w/o a permit up to \$5000 for each tree & for each offender* –LG, SM, MP
- Retroactive Tree Removal fee (per tree) \$4,695 –Cupertino (CU)
- Violations regarding Heritage Trees \$10,000 to \$30,000. –San Jose

(Currently violations to the Pacifica Heritage Tree Ordinance are not enforced; municipal code needs to be adjusted so violations can be enforced.)

Tree Company (tree service contractors) requirements

- Must hold valid business license with city. To renew license must meet annually with city arborist to review city standards and sign agreement to abide by them. Must visibly mark all trucks etc. with contractor name, license number, address and phone number*. –PG
- Failure to abide with Urban Forestry Standards (e.g. removing trees without permits) can lead to revocation of contractor's city business license*. –PG

Tree Fund

- Plant back deposits, replacement mitigation fees, development fees go into a dedicated Tree Fund that may only be used for maintenance and replacement of City trees*. –SSF, PG, SM
- Gas tax funds used for trees. –AL

Trees affected by Development

Tree Removal requirements

- A tree survey & tree preservation report must be approved with building permit. –LG
- Plans must be approved before trees can be removed* – Poway
- If a tree removal permit requires a review by planning commission, a fee of \$4,325 is required; a review by arborist is subject to a fee of \$757 –B

Tree Replacement

- New 15-gallon trees must be planted and maintained* –Cupertino
- Trees must reach mature height of 40 feet or more – MP
- Developers or homeowners must select trees from an approved list and receive permission from city arborist on tree type and placement–MC

Mitigation policies and fees for Heritage tree removal, non-Heritage tree removal and logging operations (We support In Lieu fees for development that go into the Tree Fund)

- All trees with a four-inch or greater diameter replaced or in lieu fees* –LG
- Heritage trees must be replaced by three 15-gallon trees. –Burlingame
- Tree Evaluation Schedule formula for trees 6" and more removed in construction* –SM
e.g. landscape unit 23.44 x \$321 = \$7524 into Tree Fund
- In lieu fee equals value of the tree using the Guide for Plant Appraisal by CTLA or ISA –PG
- In lieu fee appraised value of tree or \$1172 –San Jose

Permit, Notification & Appeal Processes

- Through the Planning Department & City Council – MC
- Arborists' expenses added to permit fees* –MP
- Tree protection plans are required & monitored, inclusive of tree protection zone & drip line –B

Violation enforcement fees for developers & tree companies

- Violations regarding Heritage Trees \$10,000 to \$200,000*. –Santa Clara

Tree Mitigation fees for developments w/o trees

- In development or redevelopment, the property must have one landscape tree for every 1000 sq. feet. –Burlingame
- One 6" diameter tree per 400 sq. ft. landscaped area or in lieu fees –PA

Tree Canopy Goals

- Tree planting, and public and private replacements work to meet city canopy goals* –SSF & PG
- South San Francisco current canopy 8.7%, goal=22.6% Tree Canopy goal is lofty and based on potential canopy
- Milwaukie, OR, which has half the population of Pacifica, prioritizes trees in its Climate Action Plan and plans to increase its canopy from 23% to 40% by 2040*.
- Treeplotter Inventory with total tree values and eco-savings* –CU

Additional Tree City Pacifica Recommendations

- New policies should be promulgated through tree companies in addition to all available resources & media.
- Tree Companies must also be in good standing and not been involved in any non-permitted or retroactively permitted tree removals
- A community education program similar to San Francisco's Community Forester Training Program be developed.
- Removal of high-risk trees as determined by ISA certified arborist on an ISA Basic Tree Assessment Form would not be subject to appeal.
- Tree canopy shades hardscape if possible.

March 6, 2021 Goals and Priorities Planning Meeting

Eileen Barsi

Thu 3/4/2021 5:31 PM

To: Public Comment <publiccomment@ci.pacifica.ca.us>

[CAUTION: External Email]

Honorable Mayor Beckmeyer and members of the Pacifica City Council,
At the time an assessment of the unhoused in Pacifica was completed in 2019, a priority to provide a collaborative response to the growing issue of homelessness in the City was identified. As a comprehensive Community Plan is proposed, one that considers social equity for the residents at its foundation, I urge the Council to retain as a priority the issues related to housing, including: housing insecurity, homeless prevention, homelessness, and the vehicularly housed. Such an effort would not only demonstrate our willingness to work together toward resolutions, but also promises to expand the capacity of our City to ensure the safety and security of all its residents, those in brick and mortar homes (whether they own them or not), those living in their vehicles, and those who call a street or creekside respite their "home" in Pacifica.

I would like to propose the following goal and objectives for your consideration.

The goal of an Equitable Housing Initiative in the City of Pacifica is to support individuals and families, who due to various circumstances, are experiencing housing insecurities, homelessness or are vehicularly housed on the streets of Pacifica. The objectives are to partner with families and individuals to stabilize their lives by offering community support through comprehensive social services, and a realistic pathway to more permanent housing.

Respectfully submitted,

Eileen Barsi, Resident
Member of St. Peter Parish
Faith in Action Bay Area

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Comments on City Council Goal Setting March 05-06, 2021

Delia McGrath [REDACTED]

Fri 3/5/2021 8:46 AM

To: Public Comment <publiccomment@ci.pacifica.ca.us>

Cc: Delia McGrath [REDACTED]

[CAUTION: External Email]

Dear City Council members,

My name is Delia McGrath, 43 years' resident/homeowner of Pacifica. I am an active public citizen of our community, working to upgrade efforts to make Pacifica responsive to the needs of our times. I request that your goal setting for 2021-2022 move forward with changes that will be more inclusive of our whole community. As a member of Pacifica Peace People, I ask you to help transform this city into a Compassionate City, with not just lip service — this is a request we have made for at least the last 5 years. It means creating a realistic plan for inclusion of all our citizens into a harmonious city where your kindness and resolve is required: to meet the needs of those who are unhoused, to assist renters who are low income, to require our police to address meaningfully the racial bias which was publicly declared during last year's open forum on this subject, to realistically address the city's water/sewage infrastructure issues before sea level rise causes further damage, and to show real leadership without fear to do the right thing with respect to all of these concerns. Thank you. I hope to speak tomorrow during public comment period. Peace always, Delia McGrath
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3/6/21 council meeting. Public comment by Jennifer Bromme for Movable Tiny Houses for Pacifica

Jennifer Bromme [REDACTED]

Fri 3/5/2021 9:57 AM

To: Public Comment <publiccomment@ci.pacifica.ca.us>

[CAUTION: External Email]

Dear Mayor Beckmeyer, Mayor Pro Term Bier, Council Member Vaterlaus, Council Member O'Neill and Council Member Bigstyk

For the upcoming study session on March 6th, I would like to propose that the City of Pacifica crafts and adopts an ordinance that will allow Movable Tiny Houses (MTH) to be used as ADUs in Pacifica. Currently, most Movable Tiny Houses are classified as RVs and they can not be inhabited or rented out, but they are a great and popular alternative to a permanent ADU structure and require less of a homeowner to acquire!

I think that allowing Movable Tiny Houses in the backyards of Pacifica's home owners would have several advantages for the residents of Pacifica.

1. MTHs will help alleviate the housing crisis and create affordable housing in Pacifica if allowed as ADUs. Care givers, family, and renters alike would benefit from being able to rent an affordable small space in Pacifica and it would help homeowners and their families stay in Pacifica. For example, adult children would be able to stay in Pacifica close to their families in an MTH in the backyard instead of being pushed out. Elderly family members could stay in an MTH and help out. Or it can be rented to offset the cost of staying in Pacifica
2. Movable Tiny Houses look very much like actual houses and are much more affordable to build than a permanent structure. They can be built in Pacifica, or built elsewhere and transported in. This would cut down on-site construction which can be a nuisance to the neighbors.
3. It would make it much more accessible for homeowners to acquire an MTH in terms of negotiating the permit process, if an ordinance would be made specifically for Movable Tiny Houses. Many cities across California have already adopted Movable Tiny House Ordinances to amend the ADU Laws, such as San Jose, San Luis Obispo, Fresno, San Diego, and LA just to name a few.
4. MTHs could be a great and affordable housing alternative to the RV residents that occupy our streets, bringing these residents off the street out of the RVs and into MTHs and giving them a more permanent housing situation.

I have been a resident and home owner in Pacifica since 2012. I am also a single mother of an 8 year old boy and a 9 year old girl, struggling to stay in Pacifica. My kids go to Oceanshore and we are part of an awesome community network that we do not want to leave. Since it is getting more expensive to stay in Pacifica, I would like to use a more affordable MTH as an ADU in my fenced backyard to rent out to supplement my income which will afford me to stay in Pacifica.

Please consider adopting a Movable Tiny House ordinance in Pacifica!

Sincerely,

Jennifer Bromme

--

Jennifer Bromme
Landscape Design
[REDACTED]

<https://jenniferbromme.wixsite.com/website>

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