



# Special Meeting Minutes

## City of Sacramento

### Parks and Recreation Commission

#### COMMISSION MEMBERS

George Azar  
Jonathan Rewers  
Jeff Harris

Cindy Cooke  
Malachi Smith  
Dave Tamayo

Darrel Woo  
Virginia Guadiana  
David Heitstuman

Jay Hansen  
Brandon Beaver

#### CITY STAFF:

*Jim Combs, Director of Parks and Recreation*  
*Lori Harder, Support Services Manager*

**July 14, 2011**

#### Call to Order

A special meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission was called to order by Chair Rewers at 7:12 p.m. All members were present except Commissioner Heitstuman .

#### Public Comments- Matters Not on the Agenda

1. None

#### Public Hearings

2. **Appeal of a Decision of the Director of the Department of Transportation to Remove Two City Street Trees Associated with the Cars on K Project**

**Location:** 801 and 920 K Street, Council District 1

**Recommendation:** To deny the appeal of the decision of the Director to allow removal of two City street trees based on the fact the tree removals are necessary for the safe and successful implementation of the Cars on K Street Project.

**Contact:** Joe Benassini, Urban Forest Manager, Department of Transportation, 808-6258

Commissioners confirmed there were no ex parte communications regarding this agenda item, with the exception that Chair Rewers viewed the trees and discussed with City staff relevant City Code and process for publicly owned street trees.

Mr. Benassini reviewed the item including project site assessment, design, public input process, the trees in question, and environmental reviews. Nader Kamal, Special Projects Engineer in the Department of Transportation, and Denise Malvetti, Senior Project Manager in Economic Development, responded to commissioner questions regarding age and condition of the existing street trees, the potential for replacement trees, minimal space requirements for passenger drop off zones, "Cars on K" project purpose and goals, and legal and administrative processes regarding tree removal for City projects.

Mr. Nathan Jacobsen, appellant, spoke to City street tree removal processes, disagreed it was necessary to remove the trees to provide adequate passenger drop off spaces, and spoke to the importance of retaining the City's downtown urban forest. Mr. Dan Pskowski spoke against removing the trees.

Commissioners questioned staff on the traffic engineering analysis and public input, any alternative solutions, City code and processes regarding trees with protected status and tree removal processes for public vs. privately owned trees.

**Action:** Moved, seconded and carried to close the public hearing. (Guadiana/Harris: Ayes: Hansen, Harris, Cooke, Rewers, Smith, Mercado, Guadiana, Azar, Tamayo, Beaver; Absent: Heitstuman)

**Action:** Moved and seconded, motion failed, to uphold the appeal and not remove the two London plane street trees located at 801 and 920 K Streets associated with the "Cars on K Street" project. (Hansen/Guadiana: Ayes: Hansen, Azar, Tamayo, Guadiana, Beaver; Nays: Harris, Cooke, Rewers, Smith, Mercado; Absent: Heitstuman)

**Action:** Moved, seconded and carried to deny the appeal of Mr. Nathan Jacobsen to remove two London plane street trees located at 801 and 920 K Streets associated with the "Cars on K Street" project, to recommend the City Council require a minimum of two trees be planted in the project area to mitigate the two being lost and that, prior to action by the City Council, City staff review space needs for passenger drop off areas to determine if a redesign can avoid removal of the two street trees. (Rewers/Cooke: Ayes: Hansen, Harris, Cooke, Rewers, Smith, Mercado, Guadiana; Nays: Azar, Tamayo, Beaver; Absent: Heitstuman)

**Action:** Moved, seconded and carried to approve findings and a decision to support the removal of two London plane street trees located at 801 and 920 K Streets associated with the "Cars on K Street" project per Sacramento City Code section 12.56.020, to recommend the City Council require a minimum of two trees be planted in the project area to mitigate the two being lost and that, prior to action by the City Council, City staff review space needs for passenger drop off areas to determine if a redesign can avoid removal of the two street trees. (Rewers/Cooke: Ayes: Hansen, Harris, Cooke, Rewers, Smith, Mercado, Guadiana, Azar, Tamayo, Beaver; Absent: Heitstuman)

### **Questions, Ideas, and Announcements of Commission Members**

None.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 10:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



Lori Harder, Support Services Manager  
Department of Parks and Recreation

Approved by:



Jonathan Rewers, Chair  
Parks and Recreation Commission