

Community and Human Services Commission Meeting Minutes

October 5, 2016

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Jacob Patterson commented on Item # 5, 6, and 7. He said he felt the staff reports were well written and thorough but he objects to the CEQA sections. He feels that staff is improperly segmenting a greater program down into component parts and claiming exemptions on them. Mr. Patterson said staff is ignoring cumulative impacts to the urban forest. He doesn't feel like these are exempt.

Chair Henderson said that Item #6 has been removed and will be placed on a future agenda.

Commissioner Kane moved that the Community and Human Services Commission approve the Consent Calendar as presented minus Item # 6, seconded by Commissioner Feingold, and unanimously carried on the following vote:

AYES:	Commissioners Feingold, Henderson, Kane, Leano, and Mersenich
NOES:	None
ABSENT:	Commissioners Bourne and Munson

◆◆◆END OF CONSENT CALENDAR◆◆◆

8. Tree Committee Appointment

Chair Henderson reviewed the recommendation and said that Commissioner Marsenich has another commitment on the same day as the Tree Committee.

Chair Henderson invited public comment. There were no requests to speak.

Commissioner Feingold moved that the Community and Human Services Commission thank Commissioner Marsenich for her service on the Tree Committee for the past year, and confirm Chair Henderson's recommendation of Commissioner Leano to the Tree Committee liaison assignment in place of Commissioner Marsenich and appoint him as recommended, seconded by Commissioner Kane, and carried on the following vote:

AYES:	Commissioners Feingold, Henderson, Kane, Leano, and Marsenich
NOES:	None
ABSENT:	Commissioners Bourne and Munson

9. Claremont University Consortium Request for Removal of Eight Trees Along Claremont Boulevard

Consultant Roger presented the staff report and a PowerPoint presentation. He said that there are representatives from the City's Planning Division and the Claremont Consortium in the audience to answer any questions pertaining to the project.

Commissioner Marsenich said that this appears to her that there are possible different standards applied to public benefit regarding the urban forest when requests to remove healthy trees are submitted from a homeowner versus from a private entity/or a developer. Commissioner Marsenich asked how the City weighs the public benefit and if staff sees a different standard applied.

Consultant Roger said that he does not see it as a different standard but it is a different process. He said that when it involves a development of a project and that project has a benefit to the City or to the community and if there is a necessity to remove or relocate a tree in order to facility access then it is evaluated based on that.

Commissioner Marsenich asked how does staff see the benefit to the community in this case. She also asked why this item is coming to the Commission to approve instead of going to the Community Services Director to approve.

Consultant Roger said that staff can only approve a tree removal if the tree is deemed a hazard, dead, or dying.

Commissioner Marsenich said that she is confused because of the condo project on Base Line Road that came before the Tree Committee and Commission after the fact.

Director Turner explained that unlike the request to remove the trees on Base Line Road that went to the City Council as a complete project; staff has segmented the components relating to trees and haven taken it properly through the process. Director Turner stated that the purview of the Commission is to address the issue as it relates to the removal of the eight trees.

Commissioner Feingold asked if the Consortium has agreed to the cover the expense of the removal and replacement of the trees.

Consultant Roger said that yes he believes that they agreed to pay the cost.

Belle Newman, Contract Planner for the City, presented a PowerPoint presentation. Ms. Newman said that the City of Upland was the lead agency on this project because most of the site is located in Upland. She stated that the Upland portion was approved in May 2016.

Ms. Newman stated that the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) was reviewed by the Architectural, Planning, and Traffic and Transportation Commissions before Upland approved it, so Claremont had time to submit their comments.

Ms. Newman stated that the Architectural and Planning Commissions have recommended approval of the Conceptual Site Plan. She said that this recommendation along with the Community and Human Services Commission's recommendation will be forwarded to the City Council for their consideration and approval.

Ms. Newman said that there are not specific landscape plans approved yet, but it will be coming back to the Architectural Commission for their approval and the Community Services Director will determine what trees will be planted.

Chair Henderson asked about the flight path of Cable Airport.

Ms. Newman said that this item has been reviewed by the Airport Land Use Commission and they found it to be consistent with their Land Use Plan. She stated that there are conditions and one of them is that whenever there is going to be a large group of people in the area that the airport is to be notified.

Consultant Roger discussed the list of trees that are being proposed to be removed. He stated that there are several components that are taken into consideration when assigning a value to each tree, such as the health, placement, and environmental benefit of the tree. Mr. Roger also stated that there has been inconsistent water to these trees and if approved the new trees will do significantly better with an improved water system.

Chair Henderson invited public comment. There were no requests to speak.

Commissioner Marsenich commented that she is troubled over what is the public benefit by removing these trees.

Commissioner Kane disagreed with Commissioner Marsenich and feels that the replacement trees that would be replanted will be a 48" box as opposed to the 24" box trees that are normally planted is a benefit. The entire project includes planting several trees.

Commissioner Feingold moved the Community and Human Services Commission recommend to the City Council to:

- A. Approve the request to remove and replace eight trees along Claremont Boulevard as part of the Claremont University Consortium's East Campus Project;**
- B. Require that the 8 trees being removed be replaced with 16 trees, double the removal amount, on the East Campus Project site with no less than 48" box trees; and**
- C. Require that the Claremont University Consortium bear all costs for the removal of the 8 trees and the replacement of the 16 trees.**

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Leano and carried on the following vote:

AYES:	Commissioners Feingold, Henderson, Kane, and Leano
NOES:	Commissioner Marsenich
ABSENT:	Commissioners Bourne and Munson

Chair Henderson said he feels that this addition to the campus is a huge public benefit to the City of Claremont.

Commissioner Feingold was not feeling well and left the meeting at 7:52 p.m.

10. Committee on Aging Accomplishments and Goals

Human Supervisor Jason Lass updated the Commission on the Committee on Aging accomplishments.

Supervisor Lass introduced Site Coordinator Jennifer Hele to review the goals from 2015-16 and to review the upcoming goals for 2016-17.

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