

**CLAREMONT TREE COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES**

Wednesday, November 20, 2024 at 6:00 PM
City Hall Council Chamber, 225 W. Second Street, Claremont, California

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Brower called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**ROLL CALL****PRESENT:**

COMMITTEE MEMBER: BINDER, BROWER

ABSENT:

COMMITTEE MEMBER: SIFUENTES

ALSO PRESENT:

Cari Dillman, Community Services Manager
Richard Hecker, Landscape Maintenance Supervisor
Dawn Ross, Senior Administrative Assistant
Jeremy Swan, Community Services Director

CEREMONIAL MATTERS, PRESENTATIONS, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS – None**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Chair Brower invited public comment.

Dawn Ross, Senior Administrative Assistant, announced that no written public comment had been received.

Frederick Roth provided a written list of his credentials and stated that he recently received certification as an Urban Forester from the Society of American Foresters. Dr. Roth feels that the most important thing to do when building an urban forest is to make sure to plant trees with an adequate and healthy root system. Dr. Roth has seen a high percentage of trees planted recently that were disabled and should not have been planted.

There were no additional requests to speak.

Cari Dillman, Community Services Manager, responded to questions from the Committee regarding the process for sourcing trees to be planted, checking trees prior to planting, and working with the contractor to replant trees if necessary.

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Tree Committee Meeting Minutes of July 17, 2024

Chair Brower invited public comment.

Senior Administrative Assistant Ross announced that no written public comment had been received on this item.

There were no requests to speak.

Committee Member Binder moved to approve the Consent Calendar, seconded by Committee Member Brower, and carried on a roll call vote as follows:

AYES: ***Committee Member – Binder, Brower***
NOES: ***Committee Member – None***
ABSENT: ***Committee Member – Sifuentes***

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEM

2. Semi-Annual Reporting of Urban Forest Activities: January–June 2024

Cari Dillman, Community Services Manager, provided a PowerPoint presentation.

Staff responded to questions from the Committee regarding possible reasons for the decrease in removals, whether any of the trees removed for the Towne Avenue project were able to be saved and transplanted, types of trees that were planted on Towne Avenue, and irrigation installed in the Towne Avenue median.

Chair Brower thanked the City for planting a tree in Memorial Park in honor of General Scott Miller.

Chair Brower invited public comment.

Senior Administrative Assistant Ross announced that no written public comment had been received on this item.

Dick Haskell, Claremont resident, spoke to the importance and value of trees to the community, noting the use of a tree in the City logo. Mr. Haskell also expressed appreciation for the report and complimented staff for its quality.

Vinita Pugal, Sustainable Claremont Board Member, asked if there were any opportunities for non-profit organizations to support the City in planting more trees.

There were no additional requests to speak.

Director Swan stated that the City is in regular contact with Sustainable Claremont and works with the group's Green Crew on planting events within the City, most recently at Joat Park. Some of the challenges to increasing plantings include making sure that the right tree is planted in "the right place" and residents refusing trees because of a move toward xeriscaping to reduce water usage. The City is always looking to partner with outside organizations to find planting sites where residents are willing to accept trees and to find funding for planting.

In response to a question from the Commission regarding how to encourage residents to water their trees, Director Swan introduced a campaign the City is developing in partnership with Pomona College to educate residents on the benefits of trees.

Committee Member Binder moved to recommend that the Community and Human Services Commission receive and file the report, seconded by Committee Member Brower, and carried on a roll call vote as follows:

AYES: ***Committee Member – Binder, Brower***
NOES: ***Committee Member – None***
ABSENT: ***Committee Member – Sifuentes***

ADJOURNMENT

Committee Member Brower adjourned the meeting of the Tree Committee at 6:37 PM.



Nancy Brower
Committee Chair



Dawn Bonnell Ross
Recording Secretary