

There were no requests to speak.

1. Community and Human Services Commission Regular Meeting Minutes of December 4, 2024
Approved the Community and Human Services Commission regular meeting minutes of December 4, 2024.
2. Committee Meeting Minutes
Received and filed the various Committee meeting minutes.
3. Tree Plantings and Removals for October 2024
Received and filed the report on tree plantings and removals for October 2024.

Commissioner Silva moved to approve the Consent Calendar, seconded by Commissioner Roselle, and carried on a roll call vote as follows:

AYES: Commissioner – Binder, Brower, Glass, Roselle, Sifuentes, Silva
NOES: Commissioner – None
ABSENT: Commissioner – Scott Toux

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEM

4. Updates to the Tree Policies and Guidelines Manual

This item starts at 00:08:52 in the archived video.

Jeremy Swan, Community Services Director, and Kanami Otani, Dudek Urban Forest Project Manager, provided a PowerPoint presentation.

Director Swan, Supervisor Hecker, and Ms. Otani responded to questions from the Commission regarding the timing of and procedure for notifications for proposed non-emergency removals; whether City arborists and contract tree trimmers are required to carry a copy of the Manual; the most common types of comments received during the public input period; possible reasons for lack of public attendance at the meeting; including a replacement plan when posting removal notifications; specific species considered “nuisances”; the likelihood of approval of removal requests due to nuisance debris; the make-up of the arboriculture industry; feedback from the community regarding transitioning from monoculture planting to expanding species diversity; the cost of root bridging vs. root pruning and replacing adjacent concrete; reconciling ADA-compliance with infrastructure conflict resolution methods; whether the urban forestry program budget will be sufficient to fund required back-up materials for objected removals (e.g. reports, lab work, etc.); possible number of objections; the timeline for bringing an update to the Commission City Council approval of the updated Manual; and public outreach regarding the importance of species diversification.

The Commission commended and thanked the Tree Committee Members and staff for their work on updating the Tree Policies and Guidelines Manual and continued work with the residents on educating them about tree care and the City's efforts to maintain the urban forest.

Chair Sifuentes 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.

Commissioner Roselle moved to approve the Tree Policies and Guidelines Manual as presented and to forward the Manual to the City Council for approval, seconded by Commissioner Binder, and carried on a roll call vote as follows:

AYES: Commissioner – Binder, Brower, Glass, Roselle, Sifuentes, Silva

NOES: Commissioner – None

ABSENT: Commissioner – Scott Toux

REPORTS

Staff

This item starts at 01:09:05 in the archived video.

Jeremy Swan, Community Services Director, reported that work will begin on the Lewis Park Playground project on Tuesday, January 21. Construction is expected to take 4-5 weeks, with a possible reopening in mid-March.

Director Swan also reported on the City's response to the recent windstorm. The Community Services and Police Departments received combined approximately 140 calls for service. Reports included thirty-five downed trees, ten downed street signs, one downed street light pole, and two downed power poles. There was very little damage to structures. The bulk of staff response has been for clean-up of debris and branches. Minor staff response was required overnight the night of the windstorm. Beginning the next morning, staff has been working six days a week on cleanup.

Director Swan responded to questions from the Commission regarding preparation for expected winds, weed abatement efforts to mitigate fire risk, plans for a reopening event for Lewis Park, clean-up of debris from City and private property, and costs of and funding for windstorm cleanup.

The Commission shared their compliments to staff for the windstorm response.