



**CITY OF NORCO  
STREETS, TRAILS AND UTILITIES COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING**

**Monday, October 5, 2020  
City Council Chambers, 2820 Clark Avenue, Norco, CA 92860**

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**THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER WILL BE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC WITH MODIFICATIONS.**

Safe distancing rules are in place and face coverings are required. **Seating is limited.**  
The meeting WILL NOT be live streamed.

**CALL TO ORDER:** 6:00 P.M.

**ROLL CALL:** Jim Pollard, Chair  
Michael Williams, Vice Chair  
Gary Schonne, Commission Member  
Michael Thompson, Commission Member  
Sherry Walker, Commission Member

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**TO BE READ BY THE CHAIR:** *"All discretionary actions before the Streets, Trails and Utilities Commission are advisory in nature and final actions will be confirmed, modified, or deleted by the City Council."*

1. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** *This is the time when persons in the audience wishing to address the Commission regarding matters not on the agenda may speak. Please complete the speaker card in the back of the room and present it to the City Clerk so that you may be recognized.*
2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
  - A. Streets, Trails and Utilities Commission Regular Meeting Minutes of August 3, 2020.  
**Recommended Action: Approval** (Director of Public Works)
3. **DISCUSSION / ACTION ITEMS**
  - A. Tree Planting Follow-up – Oral Discussion (Public Works Director)
  - B. Proposed River Rd Trail Improvement Project (Corydon to Kips Korner) – Oral Discussion (Public Works Director)
4. **COMMISSION/SUBCOMMITTEE/STAFF COMMUNICATIONS**

**ADJOURNMENT**

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*In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, any person with a disability who requires a modification or accommodation in order to participate in this meeting, please contact the City Clerk's office, (951) 270-5623, at least 48 hours prior to the meeting to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility. (28 CFR 35.102-35.104 ADA Title II). Staff reports are on file in the Public Works Department. Any writings or documents provided to a majority of the Streets, Trails and Utilities Commission regarding any item on this agenda will be available for public inspection at the City Clerk's Counter in City Hall located at 2870 Clark Avenue during normal business hours. The meeting is recorded.*



**CITY OF NORCO  
STREETS, TRAILS AND UTILITIES COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
DRAFT MINUTES**

**Monday, August 3, 2020  
City Council Chambers, 2820 Clark Avenue, Norco, CA 92860**

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**CALL TO ORDER:** 6:00 P.M.

**ROLL CALL:** Gary Schonne, Chair  
Jim Pollard, Vice Chair  
Michael Thompson, Commission Member  
Sherry Walker, Commission Member  
Michael Williams, Commission Member

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** Commission Member Thompson

**ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR**

**M/S SCHONNE/WALKER** to elect Commission Member Pollard as Chairperson; the motion was carried by the following roll call vote:

**AYES: SCHONNE, POLLARD, THOMPSON, WALKER, WILLIAMS**  
**NOES: NONE**  
**ABSENT: NONE**  
**ABSTAIN: NONE**

**M/S WALKER/POLLARD** to elect Commission Member Williams as Vice Chairperson; the motion was carried by the following roll call vote:

**AYES: SCHONNE, POLLARD, THOMPSON, WALKER, WILLIAMS**  
**NOES: NONE**  
**ABSENT: NONE**  
**ABSTAIN: NONE**

**1. PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Chair Pollard read the comment submitted by Bonnie Slager regarding the importance of keeping the trail on Kips Korner Road between Santa Anita Road and River Road.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- A. Streets, Trails and Utilities Commission Regular Meeting Minutes of June 1, 2020.  
**Recommended Action: Approval** (*Director of Public Works*)

**M/S THOMPSON/SCHONNE** to approve the Streets, Trails and Utilities Commission Regular Meeting Minutes of June 1, 2020; the motion was carried by the following roll call vote:

**AYES: POLLARD, WILLIAMS, SCHONNE, THOMPSON, WALKER**  
**NOES: NONE**  
**ABSENT: NONE**  
**ABSTAIN: NONE**

3. DISCUSSION / ACTION ITEMS

A. Tree Planting Technical Advisor Council – Oral Discussion (Public Works Director)

Director Blais presented the staff report on file. The local experts assigned to the technical advisory council (TAC) were present.

Patrick Mitchell/Five Keys Schools, Tracey Takeuchi/Cal Poly Pomona, Tim Crothers/West Coast Arborists, Anthony Mader/BrightView Landscape, and George Magana/Nova Landscape Group introduced themselves and gave a brief description of their background.

George Magana/Nova Landscape Group recommended a palette of a dozen trees and to focus on management after planting. He stated maintenance practices will depend on the time of year the tree is planted and the duration of irrigation. He recommended watering 3 times per week for a period of six months. He also stated to expect a certain amount of loss.

Patrick Mitchell/Five Keys Schools agreed more tree diversity would be beneficial. He recommended a palette of 10 to 12 trees and the addition of some native trees, such as native sycamore and oak. He stated the establishment period is quicker and less maintenance would be required in the end. He noted his concern of having only a few species due to possible pathogen or pest infestation. In regards to watering, he stated he would focus on having the contractor manage the watering for a period of time.

Tracey Takeuchi/Cal Poly Pomona stated she does not agree with the previous comments regarding native trees, noting the need for frequent pesticide treatments. She stated she would base the selection on water needs and future climate shift issues. She reviewed the list of trees, listed the pros and cons, and suggested some additions. She recommended irrigating 2 to 3 times per week for a period of two to three years depending on the location. She recommended having a larger palette in case of any infestation issues; and noted the importance of proper root preparation.

Director Blais requested the group provide a list of 10-12 recommended trees with the native trees noted for discussion at a future meeting.

Tim Crothers/West Coast Arborists recommended having a wider palette. He recommended weekly watering for a year then reduce. He stated in addition to watering, several items could be included with the maintenance contract including removal of sucker growth.

Director Blais inquired if the panel would recommend installation of a root barrier. In response, Tracey Takeuchi/Cal Poly Pomona stated research has shown roots eventually overcome the barrier and she does not recommend. Tim Crothers/West Coast Arborists stated he also does not recommend.

Anthony Mader/BrightView Landscape stated he does not recommend the use of root barriers. He agreed with having a larger palette, however, he recommended limiting residents to a few selections. He suggested the use of gator bags; an above ground, refillable, slow release watering bag. He recommended watering for the first six months to a year; and to not plant prior to the windy season.

Director Blais requested input from the other members of the panel regarding the use of gator bags. The other members did not recommend it.

George Magana/Nova Landscape Group stated he does not recommend root barriers or gator bags.

Director Blais stated he would do more research, reach out to the panel again for their recommendations, and draft a consolidated list with a minimum watering schedule. He encouraged the commission to take this opportunity to ask questions of the panel.

Commission Member Walker stated to keep in mind the large animal community when choosing the species and how the allergens would affect animals and equestrians. She thanked the panel for their participation.

Commission Member Thompson stated to keep the horse trails in mind regarding irrigation, tree roots, and tree canopy. He also noted the trees on the non-trail side may get more water from residences.

Vice Chair Williams thanked the panel for coming. He stated he appreciated Tracey Takeuchi/Cal Poly Pomona pointing out the “problem” trees. He stated his concern regarding the costs associated with watering and noted gator bags would be a large expense.

Chair Pollard thanked the panel for coming. He stated this is a great opportunity for the city to replace trees. He inquired if multiple trunks would be an issue within the parkway. He noted to keep the wind issues in mind and suggested planting after the windy season.

Director Blais stated his appreciation to the panel for their participation. He noted work is not expected to start until after the new year. He stated he would appreciate recommendations from Tracey Takeuchi/Cal Poly Pomona in order to help improve the program.

**B. STUC Meeting Starting Time – Oral Discussion (Public Works Director)**

Director Blais presented the discussion regarding the start time of future STUC meetings.

Vice Chair Williams stated his concern regarding making the meeting available to the residents. It is his understanding we are a recommending body and feels it is important to give the opportunity to the residents.

Commission Member Thompson stated he does not have an issue with the current start time. He stated the amount of residents that normally attend the meetings do not warrant changing the time.

Commission Members Schonne and Walker stated they have no issues with the current start time.

Vice Chair Williams noted the public comment submitted prior to the meeting by Sigrid Williams.

Director Blais noted the meeting time may change in the case of a special meeting and may also be revisited at any time.

Chair Pollard confirmed the meeting time is correct on the city website.

Commission Member Walker inquired if the meetings may become monthly. Director Blais stated he would not recommend it at this time although he may schedule special meetings to handle high priority projects.

**Chair Pollard opened the discussion to the public.**

**With no comments, Chair Pollard brought the discussion back to the commission.**

**M/S SCHONNE/WALKER for the STUC meeting start time to remain at 6:00 PM; the motion was carried by the following roll call vote:**

**AYES: POLLARD, SCHONNE, THOMPSON, WALKER**  
**NOES: WILLIAMS**  
**ABSENT: NONE**  
**ABSTAIN: NONE**

4. COMMISSION/SUBCOMMITTEE/STAFF COMMUNICATIONS:

Commission Member Thompson inquired about the trail fencing in front of a particular address on Reservoir Drive between Corona Avenue and Third Street. He stated the fencing was replaced with white vinyl along this portion of Reservoir Drive except for this address. In response, Director Blais stated staff will take a look at it.

Commission Member Walker stated the fencing on Sixth Street looks very nice although she noticed it has already been damaged a couple of times. She also inquired about the street sweeping schedule. Director Blais stated Hamner Avenue and Sixth Street are swept monthly; and residential areas are swept quarterly.

Vice Chair Williams stated he received a call regarding sunken manholes recently filled with cold patch in the 4000 block of Center Avenue between Sixth Street and Seventh Street, and inquired if staff could address.

Vice Chair Williams stated the electronic speed limit signs on Norco Hills Road south of Longhorn Way were not operating and it looked as though the solar panel was down. Director Blais stated all stop signs and interactive speed signs are currently installed and operational. He noted one stop sign will be relocated for functionality and several speed signs will be relocated to different areas. He stated this item will be brought back to the commission and city council to share the compiled data. He noted the information is also being shared with the sheriff.

Vice Chair Williams stated the top portion of the wood guardrails located near the freeway on Fourth Street, Fifth Street, and Detroit Street are deteriorated and need to be replaced. Director Blais stated staff will investigate and determine whether it is Caltrans or city responsibility.

Director Blais stated the encroachment permits have been issued by Caltrans for the widening of Second Street and Sixth Street to install dedicated turn lanes onto the on-ramps to the I-15.

Chair Pollard inquired about fire hydrant exercising. In response, Director Blais stated the fire hydrants will be exercised on the east side of the city this year, last year was the west side.

Chair Pollard inquired about the streetlight issue on Saratoga Circle, noting it is a safety issue. Director Blais stated Southern California Edison is aware of the issue.

Chair Pollard inquired about the proposed exit from Silverlakes to southbound Hamner Avenue. Director Blais stated the project is currently in the design process to determine whether it is physically viable to have another southbound exit. He noted the project would then need to be discussed with and approved by the City of Eastvale.

Chair Pollard inquired if there is a start date for the upcoming trail fencing project. Director Blais stated the bid documents are currently being prepared and the project is expected to be awarded by November.

Commission Member Walker inquired if Silverlakes would be a recipient of any trees through the grant. Director Blais stated it is a possibility, however, it would increase their maintenance costs. He noted he would prefer the trees be placed within the community.

Chair Pollard inquired if a mailer could be sent out to the residents informing them of the tree program; inquired if trees will be placed on River Road between Second Street and Corydon Avenue noting it

is the gateway to the city; and noted the requirements for watering may have hindered the survey. In response, Director Blais stated the survey will most likely be sent out to residents one more time once the program is refined. He stated residents willing to water the trees will take priority and may choose the tree from the approved list. He noted the city will determine the tree type and location should the city be responsible for watering the trees; and most likely will be placed in front of residences.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Chair Pollard adjourned the meeting at 8:21 P.M.