

## COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND THE ENVIRONMENT REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

Wednesday, May 24, 2023  
5:30 p.m.

Operations Service Center  
Remillard Conference Room  
3333 Busch Road, Pleasanton

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**Public participation:** It is requested that members of the public wishing to address the Committee submit a speaker card at the meeting. When public comment is opened on an agenda item, individuals may speak once per agenda item.

### CALL TO ORDER

- Pledge of Allegiance
- Roll Call

### AGENDA AMENDMENTS

**CONSENT CALENDAR** – *Items listed on the consent calendar are considered routine in nature and may be enacted by one motion. If discussion is required, that particular item will be removed from the consent calendar and will be considered separately.*

1. Approve the regular meeting minutes of March 22, 2023.

### MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

2. Public Comment regarding items not listed on the agenda – *Speakers are limited to 3 minutes.*

### PUBLIC HEARINGS AND OTHER MATTERS

3. Overview of the City of Pleasanton Urban Forest
4. Proposed meeting topics for 2023
  - a. July- Single Use Food Ware Model Ordinance
  - b. September- Wheels Public Transportation
  - c. November- Climate Action Plan Update (CAP 2.0)

### ADJOURNMENT

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#### Notice

Under Government Code §54957.5, any writings/documents regarding an open session item on this agenda provided to a majority of the City Council after distribution of the agenda packet will be available for public inspection by emailing City Clerk, at [pleasantoncityclerk@cityofpleasantonca.gov](mailto:pleasantoncityclerk@cityofpleasantonca.gov) or at City Hall.

#### Accessible Public Meetings

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**MINUTES  
CITY OF PLEASANTON  
MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND THE ENVIRONMENT  
March 22, 2023**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Lee called the regular meeting of the Committee on Energy and the Environment to order at the hour of 5:33 p.m from the Remillard Conference Room located at 3333 Busch Road.

**ROLL CALL**

Committee Members Present: Bloom, Brown, Jain, Liu, Vice Chair Klein, and Chair Lee  
Committee Members Absent: Kelly

**AGENDA AMENDMENTS**

**MINUTES**

1. Approve the meeting minutes of the January 25, 2023, meeting.  
Motion passed by the following vote:  
Motion by: Brown Seconded by: Klein  
Ayes: Brown, Bloom, Klein, Jain and Lee  
Noes: None

**MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

2. Public Comment from members of the audience regarding items not listed on the agenda  
NONE

**OTHER MATTERS BEFORE THE COMMITTEE**

3. Climate Action Plan (CAP) 2.0 Update

Megan Campbell, Associate Planner presented an update on the progress and completion of actions items of the Climate Action Plan (CAP) 2.0.

4. Presentation of Draft Council Priorities for FY 2023-24 and Overview of Citywide Strategic Plan

Becky Hopkins, Assistant to the City Manager presented Draft Council Priorities for FY 2023-24 and Overview of Citywide Strategic Plan

**MOTION:** It was m/s by Bloom/Brown to approve Draft Council Priorities for FY 2023-24 and Overview of Citywide Strategic Plan

Motion passed by the following vote:  
Ayes: Brown, Bloom, Klein, Jain, Liu and Lee  
Noes: None

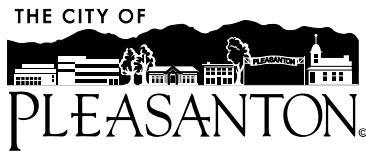
**MATTERS INITIATED BY COMMITTEE MEMBERS.**

None

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:58 p.m.  
Next regular meeting of the Committee is scheduled for May 24, 2023 at 5:30pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
ZeeLaura Page



**Item 3**  
**ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION**  
**AGENDA REPORT**

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May 24, 2023  
Engineering

**TITLE: OVERVIEW OF THE CITY OF PLEASANTON URBAN FOREST**

**SUMMARY**

The City of Pleasanton recognized the importance of the urban forest by adopting a Tree Preservation Ordinance in 1971 and has invested continuously over the last 50 years by inventorying city-maintained trees, establishing the City as a “Tree City USA,” and most recently, approving a contract for the creation of an Urban Forest Master Plan (UFMP). The UFMP will include an update to the City’s tree inventory, an analysis of and recommendations for the management of the urban forest, an analysis of the urban forest in relation to the Climate Action Plan 2.0 goals (CAP 2.0), and an update to the Tree Preservation Ordinance. Preparation of the UFMP will include significant public outreach throughout the process and is expected to take approximately 18 months to complete.

**RECOMMENDATION**

Receive the staff presentation and provide comments.

**FINANCIAL STATEMENT**

There is no direct financial impact resulting from the presentation.

## **BACKGROUND**

In the early 1970s, the City recognized the importance of its urban forest by adopting a tree preservation ordinance. The Tree Preservation Ordinance was adopted by City Council in 1971 and the ordinance was codified as a chapter of Title 17 – Planning and Other Matters – of the Pleasanton Municipal Code, specifically Chapter 17.16 – Tree Preservation.

The Tree Preservation Ordinance (Ordinance) focuses on preserving heritage-sized trees, defined as trees over 35 feet in height or 55 inches in circumference when measured 54 inches above grade, both on public and private property within the city. It also defines the process for heritage tree removal and how new property development needs to address trees.

The Ordinance recognizes that the preservation of trees enhances natural scenic beauty, sustains the long-term potential increase in property values, encourages quality development, maintains ecology, moderates the effect of extreme temperatures, prevents the erosion of topsoil, helps create an identity for the city, enhances the attractiveness of the city to visitors, and increases the oxygen output of the area to combat air pollution.

However, the Ordinance also recognizes that under certain circumstances heritage trees may properly be removed. Those circumstances include where heritage trees are dangerous; are dead or diseased; are so situated on undeveloped land that their preservation would preclude feasible development; are so abundant their removal would destroy the area's natural beauty or ecology or cause erosion; or have a significant impact on the property.

In addition to the City recognizing the importance of trees by adopting the Ordinance, the City has also invested heavily in inventorying and maintaining city trees. The City's first tree inventory was created in the early 2000s. The tree inventory database captures characteristics unique to each tree such as the pruning schedule, a condition rating, the species, and a general value of the tree. The inventory includes street and park trees managed by the City that were geolocated using GIS. For more than 20 years, the tree inventory has been an important tool that staff uses to care for and maintain the City's approximately 26,000 trees.

Furthermore, in 2016, staff applied for and obtained approval for the city of Pleasanton to become designated as a "Tree City USA" by the Arbor Day Foundation. The City has maintained that designation over the last seven years by meeting the below four standards:

1. A tree board or department
2. A community tree ordinance
3. A community forestry program with an annual budget of at least \$2 per capita
4. An Arbor Day observance and proclamation

In 2022, the city invested approximately \$700,000 on tree care, planted approximately 100 trees, pruned approximately 5,000 trees. Arbor Day celebrations have been held in April for the last two years.

On March 21, 2023, City Council invested further in the health of the urban forest by approving a contract to develop an Urban Forest Master Plan for the City. The Urban Forest Master Plan process began earlier this month with a city staff/consultant kick-off meeting on May 16.

## **DISCUSSION**

The Urban Forest Master Plan will guide the management of the City's urban forest over the next 25 years. The plan will lead to an equitable, resilient, and sustainably managed urban forest, will clearly and concisely communicate a framework for the long-term care, preservation and expansion of the community's urban forest and will include:

- An update to the inventory of trees managed by the City; and
- A review of the general health of the urban forest considering both public and private trees; and
- A guide for tree maintenance and tree planting practices for public areas and private development to sustain and enhance the urban forest into the future; and
- An analysis of environmental programs relating to the urban forest, including meeting the goals of the CAP 2.0; and
- A cost/benefit analysis of the urban forest related to CAP 2.0 goals; and
- Recommendations on engagement and education to the community about the importance of a sustained urban forest; and
- A review of the City's Tree Preservation Ordinance for consistency with the UFMP, and if appropriate, recommend changes to the ordinance to assist with the implementation of the UFMP.

The UFMP will utilize the existing documents that helped to establish the city's urban forest, including the Tree Preservation Ordinance, the CAP 2.0, and the tree inventory to create a comprehensive guide for the management of the urban forest. The plan will guide Tree Preservation Ordinance updates, implementation of CAP 2.0 goals, tree inventory updates and maintenance management, and public outreach and education regarding the city's urban forest. It is intended to be comprehensive enough to provide a broad vision for the future of the city's urban forest and detailed enough to address individual community concerns regarding the urban forest, such as potential hazards with trees relating to storms and fires.

The UFMP's analysis of the City's Tree Preservation Ordinance will help to address concerns identified by the community over the last several years such as tree protection standards, potential hazards with trees relating to storms and fires, conflicts between trees and infrastructure, safety concerns, and the health of the city's urban forest. The recommendations will help to address changes that have taken place in the community and urban forest over the last 50 years, clarify the roles and responsibilities of homeowners, the Heritage Tree Board of Appeals and staff, as well as reduce staff time

spent managing the ordinance. The UFMP will take a more holistic look at maintaining and preserving the urban forest with recommendations to update the ordinance consistent with that view.

Additionally, the UFMP will outline a plan to implement the goals of the CAP 2.0. One of the primary recommended actions of CAP 2.0 was to create an Urban Forest Master Plan to help increase carbon sequestration opportunities and improve ecosystem resilience. The UFMP will analyze carbon sequestration, average pollutant capture, avoided runoff, avoided emissions, and structural and functional value. Dollar amounts will be estimated for these benefits, which will be useful for education, long-term planning, and securing tree program funding. New tree planting recommendations will also be provided to meet the goals of the CAP 2.0; this will include optimum planting locations, species and maintenance management.

The tree inventory and canopy cover analysis will serve as the foundation for the UFMP. While the City developed the tree inventory in the early 2000s, over the years it has become outdated. The updated tree inventory will identify and evaluate the public trees and will help define the recommendations of the UFMP for sustaining and growing the city's urban forest. The tree canopy cover analysis will account for public and private trees and address shade cover and carbon sequestration questions. Together, both the tree inventory and the canopy cover analysis are vital to the CAP 2.0 analysis and meeting the goals set forth in the CAP 2.0. The UFMP will provide recommendations and guidance for preserving and growing the urban forest which consists of both private and public trees. The tree preservation ordinance and CAP 2.0 will be the tools by which the UFMP recommendations and guidance are implemented when considering private trees. The tree inventory will be the tool used to schedule and monitor tree care activities consistent with the UFMP recommendations and guidance for public trees.

The updated inventory will be transparent to the public (a map will be available for the public to view the locations and types of trees managed by the City) so the public and developers are aware of the City's urban forest, so that the public can make informed decisions regarding planting trees on their property, and so developers understand the basis of the staff requirements placed on them regarding what type of trees to plant and where within a development.

The creation of the UFMP will be rooted in an extensive public outreach process so that the plan represents the desires and needs of the community regarding the urban forest. The process is expected to take place over an approximately 18-month period with multiple opportunities for the public and the City Council to provide input. Staff will create a website dedicated to the UFMP process, will hold several public meetings and attend existing events such as the farmers market to discuss the plan, will post an online questionnaire for residents, and will advertise the project via social media throughout the process.

Submitted by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matt Gruber". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Matt" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Gruber".

Matt Gruber  
City Landscape Architect