



Public Works Department

## MINUTES

### REGULAR MEETING OF THE TREE COMMITTEE

**Monday February 11, 2013, 7:00 p.m.**  
**El Cerrito City Hall**  
Hillside Conference Room  
10890 San Pablo Avenue

**1. Roll Call – 7:00 p.m.**

**Present:** Committee Members: Boniello, Cheng, Hittle, Lee-Rutherford, Price, Srago.  
Council Liaison Lyman, Staff Liaison Prée, Tree Committee applicant  
Cathy Bleier and applicant Michael Charlton were also present.

**Absent:** Committee Member: Christian

**2. Comments from the Public- none**

**3. Report from Council Liaison**

Councilmember Lyman reported a) The City hosted a public workshop on Strategic Planning Strategies on January 26. The purpose was to create a vision of what the City wants to become and how to get there. Some of the goals identified pertained to facilities upgrades and open spaces including aging trees. b) The February 5 Council meeting included approval of the Tree Inventory contract, and a ECPD report on the safety of the Ohlone Greenway. c) On receipt by the City of a notice from Lindsey Wildlife Museum on bird nesting times and when to prune trees. d) Recommended the Committee work with Prée to help prioritize 2013/14 budget funds and attend a City Council meeting in June to advocate for tree related funding. e.) On the pertinent contents of the City General Plan in which it is stated that the City will continue to give away free street trees. This portion of the plan remains unmodified; when the plan has been made ready in approximately 18 months, the tree committee should review it and make comment on it.

**4. Action Items-**

a) Approval of the minutes from the Tree Committee Meeting on January 14, 2013

**Action:** Moved, seconded, carried (Price, Boniello) to approve the minutes. Vote: Unanimous

b) Recommend to City Council the appointment of Cathy Bleier to the Tree Committee

**Action:** Moved, seconded, carried (Hittle, Cheng) to recommend Ms. Bleier. Vote: Unanimous

#### COMMUNICATION ACCESS INFORMATION

*To request a meeting agenda in large print, Braille, or on cassette, or to request a sign language interpreter for the meeting, call Mary Dodge, Staff Liaison at 215-4310 (voice) at least FIVE (5) WORKING DAYS NOTICE PRIOR TO THE MEETING to ensure availability.*

5. **Report from Staff Liaison-** Prée reported a) Davey Resources Group was selected for the Municipal Tree Inventory and Outreach for the City of El Cerrito CalFire US Forest Service Grant from among three(3) consultants; Davey, ArborPro and West Coast Arborists. The selection committee consisted of the Cities of Berkeley and Albany Chief Arborists, City staff and Ralph Boniello. The contract is for 16,250 City owned trees. b) BART agreed to fund the relocation of seventeen (17) trees designated for removal between Central and Stockton Avenues; the City administered the contract work.
  
6. **Report on Activities for Arbor Day 2013-** Prée & Bleier reported on the event planning work they have done so far with the EC Garden Club a.) Project scope: plant several Coast Live Oak trees in Cerrito Vista Park with students from the 7<sup>th</sup> grade science class at Portola Middle School. b) Bleier created and shared a press release she wrote for the event and spoke of possible future Arbor Day events including hosting multiple events and activities.
  
7. **Report from Tree Selection Criteria Subcommittee (Boniello, Hittle, Price)-** Boniello distributed a Tree Selection Criteria document (attached) and reported on the process of identifying levels of criteria. The subcommittee recommends a) one master tree list b) rating or ranking trees based on suitability. **c) *all individual committee members review the document and comment for “homework” especially General Questions & Discussion Topics, Who are the target users for the tree list (page 5)*** d) Price recommended that **committee members “nail down” the suitability issues for El Cerrito (page 2) and look over site specific determinative issues and remove non-determinative issues.** Boniello requests individual review of “Committee Homework” (last page). Srago suggests the committee set aside an entire meeting for the topic of the revising the City Approved Tree List. The committee agreed to discuss the topic at the next regular meeting in March.
  
8. **Discussion on Formation of an Outreach Committee-** This topic was deferred to a meeting in the future by unanimous vote. Moved, seconded, carried (Boniello, Price)
  
9. **Announcements and Future Agenda Items-**
  - Continue Tree Selection Criteria Discussion
  - Initiate Budget Discussion
  - Arbor Day Activity

**10. Adjournment – 9:15**