

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF THE TREE COMMITTEE

Monday July 8, 2013, 6:30 p.m. El Cerrito City Hall

Hillside Conference Room 10890 San Pablo Avenue

Public Works Department

Roll Call 7:00 p.m.

Present: Committee Members Boniello, Cheng, Charleton, Christian, Hittle,

Lee-Rutherford, Price.

Absent: Srago, Bleier

Staff Liaison Prée also present

- 1. Comments from the Public- no public present
- 2. Report from Council Liaison- absent
- 3. Action Items
 - o Approval of the minutes from May 13 June 17, 2013 (unanimous)
- **4. Report from Staff Liaison-** Prée reported on recent tree limb failures during high winds and the FY 2014 budget effective July 1, 2013 that leaves 2 recently vacated Public Works maintenance worker positions unfunded and unfilled.
- 5. Presentation of computer generated imaging of trees in currently under planted sites

by Committee member Steve Price- Mr. Price showed the committee photo-simulated images that he created to communicate the potential future to communities and urban planners for the purpose of illustrating sustainable, walkable urban streets where trees help play a role in bringing people together. He showed photo images dating from 1994 of streets and landscapes that people were interested in bringing changes to including El Cerrito, Palo Alto, Berkeley, Montgomery Alabama and others. He discussed the value of bringing buildings and trees closer to pedestrian rights of way and the beneficial effects that tree canopies have in the urban environment. He sited studies by Peter Calthorp author of Urbanism in a Time of Climate Change regarding energy savings provided by trees. The entire presentation was well received. The committee discussed possible planting strategies for streets with power lines on one side of the street, the qualities of symmetry and monoculture vs. planting a variety of species.

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.

6. Demonstration of the new Tree Keeper $7^{\,\mathrm{TM}}$ tree maintenance software

by City Arborist Stephen Prée. Prée demonstrated some of the functions of the new software: how to look up information on specific trees by location, species or size; the program offers a benefit page on trees according to the species and size including property value enhancement, energy savings, carbon sequestration, and storm water runoff retention. It features a cost accounting and budgeting feature, a work history and work order function. The software has a public portal available to anyone through the City website or directly with the url: http://www.daveytreekeeper.com/fko/ElCerritoCA/ log in as Guest.

The tape recording ends here.

- 7. Discussion of the formation of a Public Outreach Subcommittee- The committee discussed several outreach activities such as manning information tables at community events like Earth Day; Arbor Day Activities, and Pruning Workshops. The question was raised regarding the value of forming a subcommittee devoted to outreach in general compared with forming outreach activity specific subcommittees. It was agreed that this requires more discussion at the next meeting.
- 8. Discussion of future committee actions and agenda items Next Meeting August 12
 The committee recommended continued discussion on Tree Selection Criteria and Public Outreach.
 Boniello recommended that the committee have Susan Schwartz with The Friends of Five Creeks give a presentation on the Hillside Natural Area; the committee agreed and decided to put this on the agenda for September.
- 9. The meeting was Adjourned at 9:07