



Public Works Department

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF THE TREE COMMITTEE

Monday September 9, 2013, 7:00 p.m.
El Cerrito City Hall
Hillside Conference Room
10890 San Pablo Avenue

1. Roll Call:

Present: Committee Members Bleier, Charlton, Christian, Hittle, Srago and Staff Liaison Prée

Absent: Committee Members Boniello, Cheng, Price, Lee-Rutherford, Council Liaison Lyman

2. Comments from the Public on non agenda items-

No members of the public present

3. Report from Council Liaison

Councilman, Mayor Lyman absent

4. Action Items

a. Approval of the minutes from August 12, 2013

Minutes were not approved as the committee lacked a quorum of members present August 12

5. Report from Staff Liaison

Prée reported on recent City tree failures

6. Report from the City Tree List Subcommittee

The committee heard the draft objective created by the subcommittee:

“This list is the guide for the selection of trees for use on City streets, Public Rights of Way, and in commercial development to promote public health and safety, aesthetics, economic and environmental benefits for the El Cerrito community. The goal is to ensure that trees planted in the City are selected appropriately for long term health and sustainability”

Cathy Bleier motioned to adopt the objective Karen Christian made the second, the Committee approved the motion unanimously.

7. Report from the ad-hoc subcommittee on Outreach and Education

Cathy Bleier presented her notes from the ad-hoc subcommittee meeting that listed potential outreach activities including:

- *Tree City USA*
- *Arbor Day*
- *Encourage Street Tree Planting*

- *Raise awareness regarding pruning to merchants*
- *Research INVEST FROM THE GROUND UP*
- *Improve web site*
- *Public Workshops*
- *Social Media*

Bleier proposed Tree Committee mandate (from Urban Forestry Management Plan) be rewritten into a simple statement to clarify message for outreach and public relations.

8. Discussion of the Invest From the Ground up Community Tree Planting Grant

Prée distributed grant RFP and summarized grant requirements.

Bleier noted need for continued tree care of 2 years for any new tree, Prée recommended 3 years care

Hittle recommended siting trees where existing irrigation is present.

Committee agreed to an ad-hoc meeting before grant deadline (9/27) to discuss application further. (and later met September 18).

9. Discussion of future committee actions and agenda items

- Update on Invest From the Ground Up Community Tree Planting Grant
- Update on outreach activities
- Presentation from Friends of Five Creeks on the Hillside Natural Area
- Presentation on City's Urban Greening Grant

10. Adjournment- 9:10 p.m.