



Public Works Department

**MINUTES**  
**Notes from the**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**OF THE**  
**TREE COMMITTEE**  
**Monday April 14, 2014, 7:00 p.m.**  
**El Cerrito City Hall**  
Hillside Conference Room  
10890 San Pablo Avenue

**As a quorum was not present in May to adopt these notes**

**1. Roll Call – 7:00**

**Present:** Committee Members Bleier, Boniello, Cheng, Charlton, Hittle, Price, Council Liaison Abelson and Staff Liaison Prée also present

**Absent:** Christian, Srago

- 1. Comments from the Public** – Howdy Goudy asked the committee to consider tree species selection for use near the taller buildings allowed under the proposed San Pablo Avenue Specific Plan.

**2. Report from the City Arborist-**

Stephen Prée reported that street tree pruning for fiscal year 2013/14 is completed except for emergency work. The comment period on the San Pablo Avenue Specific Plan will be for 45 days beginning in mid-June and that he will keep the Tree Committee informed of the start of the comment period.

**3. Action Items**

- Ralph Boniello motioned to approve the minutes from the March 10, 2014 meeting with amendments, seconded by Steve Price, approved unanimously.
- Annual Election of Officers – Cathy Bleier nominated Janet Hittle for Chair, seconded by Boniello, elected unanimously. Ralph Boniello nominated Cathy Bleier for Vice Chair, seconded by Sheuchi Cheng, elected unanimously.

**4. Committee Work Plan for 2014/15-**

The committee discussed potential goals and objectives for the coming year and established an ad-hoc subcommittee to order and consolidate the Work Plan: Cathy Bleier, Ralph Boniello, Steve Price.

**5. Report from the INVEST FROM THE GROUND UP business outreach campaign subcommittee**

– **8:20** - The committee presented the completed brochure and decided to distribute it to businesses during the City's Earth Day Celebration on April 26; Cathy Bleier, Janet Hittle and Mike Srago volunteered.

**6. Hillside Natural Area Madera Day May 17-**

The committee discussed activities to support after a presentation from Committee member Boniello and Environmental Quality Committee member Howdy Goudy. Boniello made a motion for the Tree Committee to co-sponsor the Hillside Festival, seconded by Cathy Bleier, approved unanimously.

**7. Report from the Arbor Day Subcommittee-**

Mike Charlton and Karen Christian reported on the March 12 event at Cerrito Vista Park and distributed the same bookmarks that were distributed to those in attendance at the event with the poem Gold, Green by Gary Snyder.

**Gold, Green**

Let it be  
On a day in March  
California;  
When the grass is green  
On the rolling hills  
And the snow  
Is deep in the mountains –

Let it be  
On a day like this  
That we plant a tree  
California  
For the years to come  
For the little ones  
and the lakes  
Will be pure in the mountains –

Let it be gold and green  
California;  
That we touch the ground  
That we heal the land  
From the mountains to the sea.

—Gary Snyder

**8. Announcements – None**

**9. Discussion of future committee actions and agenda items –**

- Work Plan
- IFGU Distribution Report
- Hillside Festival
- June- San Pablo Avenue Specific Plan, 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration table

**10. Adjournment- 9:00**

*Any writings or documents provided to a majority of the Tree Committee regarding any item on this agenda will be made available for public inspection at the El Cerrito Recycling + Environmental Resource Center Administrative Office at 7501 Schmidt Lane, El Cerrito, Monday - Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 pm*