



Public Works Department

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF THE TREE COMMITTEE

Monday March 10, 2014, 7:00 p.m.
El Cerrito City Hall
Hillside Conference Room
10890 San Pablo Avenue

1. Roll Call -

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

Absent: None.

2. **Comments from the Public on non agenda items-** Nick Arzio raised questions regarding the implementation of the proposed San Pablo Avenue Specific Plan: What tree species would be used? How will tree maintenance costs be borne? He suggested a cost benefit analysis be made on the value of planting new trees and the cost of maintaining them.

3. **Report from City Council Liaison-** Mayor Janet Abelson provided an update on City Council activities including:

- Earth Day April 26- The City hosts the annual community work day with lunch served afterward at the Community Center- please sign-up
- Library needs assessment update
- Potential sales tax renewal ballot measure for November- no recommendation by City Council has been made; a polling study indicates residents are satisfied with City Services.

4. **Report from the City Arborist-** Stephen Prée reported on progress made to date on the street tree pruning contract and his report to City Council on March 4. He made the recommendation to temporarily suspend the application to become a Tree City USA based on questions regarding the sufficiency of the City's Tree Care Ordinance to meet the requirements of the designation.

5. **Approval of the Minutes-** Motion to adopt the minutes of the regular meeting from February 10 (Ralph Boniello/Steve Price/Unanimous)

6. **Report from the Community Tree Planting Grant subcommittee-** Ralph Boniello and Mike Charlton reported on the challenge of irrigating the trees, the need to get neighborhood involvement and to develop a watering program.

7. **Report from the Invest From The Ground Up business outreach campaign subcommittee –** Stephen Prée presented a Power Point on the results of the web based survey. The committee discussed the various issues including obstructed signs and leaf litter. Cathy Bleier suggested incorporating El Cerrito tree benefit metrics into the informational brochure.

- 8. Report from the Arbor Day subcommittee** – The Arbor Day subcommittee (Mike Charlton, Karen Christian Janet Hittle) and Stephen Prée described the events planned for the March 12 planting day with the E.C. Garden Club and Portola Middle School 7th grade science class.
- 9. Trees in All Policies workshop update-** Ralph Boniello, Mike Charlton reported on attending the February 25 California Urban Forest Council workshop. Highlights included the work of Casey Trees and the idea of using stormwater and stream restoration grants as funding source for tree planting as with Amigos de la Rios.
- 10. Discussion of the 2014/15 Tree Committee work plan & progress report-** Prée lead a discussion on the requirement for Committees to develop periodic work plans to be presented to Council. Chairman Mike Srago requested that the staff liaison provide the committee with notes from the subcommittees over the last year before the next Tree Committee meeting. The committee discussed future plan ideas and made this topic an agenda item for the April meeting.
 - Arbor Day
 - Tree City USA
 - Updated Approved Tree List
 - Tree Planting
 - Tree Maintenance
 - Outreach ad-hoc subcommittee notes
- 11. Announcements –**
 - Ralph Boniello announced the upcoming May 17 Hillside Festival related to the purchase of the Madera property open space.
- 12. Discussion of future committee actions and agenda items –**
 - **Work Plan Discussion**
 - **Hillside Natural Area Madera Day May 17**
 - **Officer Election**
 - **Brochure Distribution**
 - **Report on Arbor Day**

13. 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