



Public Works Department

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF THE TREE COMMITTEE

Monday August 10, 2015 7:00 p.m.
El Cerrito City Hall
Hillside Conference Room
10890 San Pablo Avenue

1. Roll Call :

Present: Chair Cathy Bleier, Vice Chair Ralph Boniello, Karen Christian, and Yan Linhart.
Staff Liaison Stephen Prée was also present

Absent: Members Michael Charlton Steve Price, Mike Srago.
Council Liaison Jan Bridges was also absent

2. Comments from the Public on non agenda items:

a.) Howdy Goudy informed the committee about the City's new park opportunity at Dorothy Rosenberg Park on King Dr. It requires considerable work before the public can use the property including a tree inventory and assessment and he invited the Tree Committee to get involved. Discussion included the consideration of fire safe grants for demonstration and the possibility of capturing stormwater runoff onto the land for bioswale plantings. Other opportunities were discussed including a plant nursery. Ralph Boniello suggested that the Tree Committee be involved in tree management.

b.) Vice Chair Boniello –suggested locating an Ohlone Greenway site for Arbor Day planting

3. Report from the City Council Liaison:

Councilmember Bridges was not present, therefore no report was given.

4. Action Items -

- Motion to adopt the minutes from June 8, 2015: Boniello; 2nd Christian, passed unanimously.

5. Report from the City Arborist- a.) Prée relayed update information on the City's draft Urban Greening Plan (UGP) from City staff in the Community Development department: A revised plant palette that is responsive to the Tree Committee (TC) comments will be issued and submitted to City Council in the future. There will be another opportunity for TC to review but any further edits will be made in house as the consultants work is complete. Prée read email from Emily Alter. b.) He reported that the Consulting Arborist report regarding the Alder tree failure at Arlington Park on June 6, 2015 was inconclusive as to the cause of the root failure. c.) The 2015/16 approved City budget allocates \$110K for tree contract work- pruning, removal and planting.

Chair Bleier commented that the UGP 2nd draft plant palette was issued prior to the TC first plant palette comment submittal. She asked if the TC comments on the UGP would be reviewed by the CEQA team.

Vice Chair Boniello commented that tree work is a Public Safety issue and should be funded accordingly. Bleier urged that tree planting be given higher priority than in the past year.

6. Update on Revised City Tree List

Vice Chair Boniello provided an overview of recent work on the revised City Tree List final draft. The committee noted that the category of minimum planting distance to infrastructure was removed. There was a discussion of “Native Plant” nomenclature.

The question of the utility of listing trees for their value to birds was raised by Chair Bleier. Vice chair commented that the approval of species is a separate issue that requires immediate action and recommended a final comment period be opened for one week to the TC followed by final TC approval and circulation to the City Environmental Quality Committee and the Parks and Recreation Commission prior to seeking Council approval. The Committee discussed the inclusion on the Approved City Tree List of trees suitable for parks and natural areas and determined that to be a separate project.

7. Calendar of Events and Work Plan Update – deferred due to lack of meeting time remaining

8. Announcements (none) and future agenda items:

- Work Plan and schedule
- Finalize Tree list – if and how to deliver to Council and other committees

9. Adjournment