MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
OF THE
TREE COMMITTEE

Monday November 9, 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, Michael Charlton, Steve Price,
Staff Liaison Stephen Prée was also present.
Absent: Members Karen Christian and Yan Linhart. Council Liaison Jan Bridges was also not
in attendance.

2. Comments from the Public on non agenda items:
El Cerrito resident Mary Torrusio introduced herself as a new Tree Committee applicant and
meeting observer.

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 October 12, 2015: Price; 2nd Charlton ; passed
     unanimously.

5. Report from the City Arborist- Prée reported a.) on the 2015/16 Tree Budget including the
   recent City Council approval of $35,000 for hazardous tree removal and pruning in Arlington,
   Canyon Trail and future Dorothy Rosenberg Memorial Parks. b.) regarding the current Cal
   Fire/ Air Resources Board grants for tree planting. The Committee discussed the possible
   future formation of an ad-hoc subcommittee to monitor and apply for grants.

6. Tree Committee Activities, Calendar and Work Plan Update –
   • Prée distributed the 2014/15 Work Plan and reported that a 2016/17 Work Plan
     should be compiled and ready for delivery to Council sometime before June 30,
     2016.
   • Chair Bleier inquired of Prée regarding the status of the Approved City Tree List;
     Prée said that additional formatting work is required before circulation to the
     EQC, Park and Recreation Commission and City Council: final formatting is
     anticipated in January 2016.
- Revising the City Tree Ordinance- Vice Chair Boniello and members Srabo and Charlton reported on progress to date, scheduled a new ad-hoc subcommittee meeting and will report back to the TC at the December meeting.
- Question regarding ad-hoc vs. subcommittee requirements- Pree will provide response at December meeting.
- Tree Care Workshop- TC member Price reported on scouting locations for an outdoor, hands-on workshop in January or February 2016. Chair Bleier asked if the audience would include others besides the tree committee. TC Member Hrubes said there may be conflict with ½ educated attendees pruning or mutilating City trees. Price defended saying past experience left the attendees humbled as they discovered how complicated tree anatomy and pruning are. Vice Chair Boniello asked what the objective of the workshop would be and what trees would be the subject. Hrubes reiterated that it would be chancy giving others a just a little bit of knowledge. Chair Bleier asked if the workshop should just be small and include only the Tree Committee. Price and Pree agreed to meet and make a recommendation on the detail of a workshop to the TC at the December meeting.

7. Announcements and future agenda items:

- Tree Care Workshop
- Revising the City Tree Ordinance
- Formation of an Education Outreach Committee
- Tree Planting at Poinsett and other City Parks
- Grants

8. Adjournment- 9:05 p.m.