



Public Works Department

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF THE TREE COMMITTEE

Monday December 14, 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, Robert Hrubes, Yan Linhart and Steve Price, Staff Liaison Stephen Prée was also present.

Absent: Members Karen Christian and Michael Charlton. Council Liaison Jan Bridges was also not in attendance.

2. Comments from the Public on non agenda items:

Ralph Boniello commented that tree-planting opportunities exist in the Cypress Avenue and Potrero Avenue area of El Cerrito. Yan Linhart commented that tree care partnership opportunities exist with the West Contra Costa Unified School District in City of Richmond schools.

3. Report from the City Council Liaison:

Councilmember Bridges was not present; therefore, no report was provided.

4. Action Items -

- Motion to adopt the minutes from November 9, 2015: Hrubes; second Linhart; passed unanimously.
- Motions to recommend to City Council the reappointment of the following committee members:
 - a.) Ralph Boniello: Srago; second Linhart; passed unanimously.
 - b.) Steve Price: Linhart; second Boniello; passed unanimously.
 - c.) Mike Srago: Boniello; second Price; passed unanimously.
- Motion to reimburse TC member Srago for his registration costs to attend the Western Chapter International Society of Arboriculture seminar: Tree Pests and Disease: Under the Microscope. In Milpitas December 10, 2015.

- ### 5. Report from the City Arborist-
- Prée reported: a.) a large portion of his recent work had been focused on the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Municipal Regional Permit (MRP 2.0) reissuance hearings on November 18, 2015 b.) the Arlington Park hazard tree removal and pruning contract was nearly complete. c.) on his progress to release a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a City Tree Pruning, Removal and Maintenance Services Contract. d.) on the availability of National Fish and Wildlife Federation Five Star Grant opportunities(<http://www.nfwf.org/fivestar/Pages/home.aspx>). e.) that an ad-hoc

subcommittee is comprised of less than a quorum , is formed for short term projects and reports back to the greater Committee for action item recommendations f.) the Tree Committee's new Council Liaison is Janet Abelson.

6. Tree Committee Activities, Calendar and Work Plan Update

- A. Tree care workshop- Steve Price reported that he and Prée were proposing a pruning workshop location on the Ohlone Greenway at Stockton Ave. with a brief orientation to take place at the library; Consulting Arborist Steve Batchelder would provide an in-field pruning principals demonstration; questions remained regarding target audience and schedule. Price said that the primary audience for the event would be the Tree Committee but it would be open to the public as all Tree Committee meetings are.
- Discussion: Hrubes asked what was the rationale for targeting the Tree Committee (TC) and not the public; Linhart suggested that the workshop would be a "practice run"; Price said that the purpose is for the education of the TC. Bleier commented that the TC mission is support of urban forestry & education and the workshop would help to inform the committee itself in preparation for educating the public. Boniello said he would also like to know more about pruning large trees and the City's tree pruning program. The Committee asked that Price and Prée meet again and make their recommendation about the Tree Care Workshop to the TC at the next meeting.
- B. Revisions to the City Tree ordinance- Vice Chair Boniello presented a Power Point outlining the key topics that would need to be addressed in revision of the ordinance as identified by the ad-hoc subcommittee (Boniello, Charlton, Srago) (See Power Point handout).
- Discussion: Price asked where we should start; Bleier suggested the start would be policy and asked what the Urban Forestry Management Plan (UFMP) stipulated, i.e. percent shade cover; Hrubes said that the start is to address the purpose of the revision, i.e. Ordinance that qualifies the City to be a Tree City USA; Boneillo said the objective is an ordinance that promotes care for the urban forest and to expand existing tree related language used in other adopted City Plans. Hrubes: build ordinance intent and purpose around promotion of a healthy urban forest. Price and Bleier: provide definition of healthy (or thriving) urban forest. Linhart: identify the ordinance requirements for the Tree City USA designation.
 - Boneillo: ad-hoc committee will present the TC with the Tree City USA requirements and the tree related requirements listed in the existing City adopted plans.

7. Announcements and future agenda items:

- Vice Chair Boniello announced that he would be leading Trail Trekker sponsored Tree Walks open to the public on January 9, 2016 in the Hillside Natural Area and on February 27 along the Ohlone Greenway.

Future Agenda Items:

- Tree Care Workshop
- Revising the City Tree Ordinance
- Grants
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8. Adjournment- 9:10 p.m.

Tree Ordinances - Overview

- ### Tree Ordinance
- 3 types (ISA):
 1. Street Tree Ordinances – Covers plantings and removal, tree cover requirements; includes private trees that constitute a public hazard.
 2. Tree Protection Ordinance – Protection for native trees and/or trees with historical significance. May include both public and private trees.
 3. View Ordinance

- ### Tree Ordinance
- **Goals** should be clearly stated.
 - **Responsibility** should be designated, and authority granted.
 - **Basic performance standards** should be set.
 - **Flexibility** should be designed in.
 - **Enforcement** models should be specified.

- ### Tree Ordinance
- Basic ordinance provisions:**
- Purpose and intent
 - Definitions
 - Policies regarding trees
 - Prohibitions; unlawful interference
 - Appeals process
 - Penalty of violation
 - Enforcement
 - Performance evaluation of ordinance
 - Designate administrative responsibilities
 - Reference relevant documents (i.e Tree List, Planting & Maint. Standards, Tree Removal Request, Planting Request)

- ### Tree Ordinance
- #### Tree Protection Ordinance
- Protection of trees during construction
 - Trees of significance/protected classes
 - All trees over x" DBH
 - Specific species over x" DBH
 - Special groves as well as individual trees
 - Potential homeowner benefits
 - Permitted process for tree removals
 - Mitigation requirements for removal of protected trees

- ### Tree Ordinance
- #### Enforcement
- Defines penalties
 - Process for appealing a decision
 - Describes who is in charge
 - Mitigations/replacement plantings
 - Withholding of permits/stay of work orders
 - Moratorium on development of the property
 - Civil action:
 - City costs and replacement costs up to the value of the tree removed
 - \$5,000 per tree + costs of replacement

Tree Ordinance

Discuss &
Direct the Ad-hoc Committee