



Public Works Department

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF THE TREE COMMITTEE

Monday September 12, 2016 7:00 p.m.
El Cerrito City Hall
Hillside Conference Room
10890 San Pablo Avenue

1. Roll Call :

Present: Chair Ralph Boniello, Members Cathy Bleier, Robert Hrubes, Yan Linhart, Mary Torrusio and Staff Liaison Stephen Prée.

Absent: Vice Chair Steve Price, Members Michael Charlton, Karen Christian, Mike Srago and Council Liaison Janet Abelson

2. Comments from the Public on non-agenda items: There were none.

3. Report from the City Council Liaison: Ms. Abelson was not present.

4. Action Items:

Motion to adopt the minutes from the August 8, 2016 meeting: Hrubes, second: Linhart, adopted unanimously.

5. Report from the City Arborist: Prée updated the Committee on a.) Proposed willow pruning in Baxter Creek Gateway Park b.) Progress on the Diablo Fire Safe grant funded fire fuel reduction work at the Dorothy Rosenberg Memorial property. c.) Progress on the City's Routine Maintenance Agreement with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife that permits flood prevention work in the creeks in El Cerrito.

6. Update from the ad-hoc subcommittee on revisions to the City Tree Ordinance

Chair Boniello reported on the outcome of the most recent meeting of the subcommittee where it was recommended that the Tree Committee vote on advocating to become a Tree City USA and vote on the inclusion of heritage trees and tree removal mitigation on private property in the revision to the City tree ordinance.

The Committee discussed how the inclusion of trees other than those on City property may unfavorably lengthen the revision process timeline and prolong the City's achievement of Tree City USA. Ms. Bleier asked if tree removal mitigation during property development may already be addressed by the planning department; Prée: specific mitigation guidelines are undetermined, and a Tree Ordinance may be the appropriate instrument to define this. Mr. Hrubes recommended that the ordinance revision process be compartmentalized with public trees separate from private trees in order to obtain the Tree City USA designation in a limited timeframe; the designation is most important, with or without the inclusion of trees on private property. The discussion continued with the committee acknowledging that the urban forest is not defined with property

lines and that the scope of the ordinance should recognize that private trees play a significant role in the urban forest. Ms. Bleier said that explicit instruction is needed from the City on the role of the Tree Committee in the revision to the ordinance. Prée said that this would be determined after his review with other City staff of the Tree Committee's ordinance revision outline. Chair Boniello said he would amend and recirculate the ad-hoc subcommittee's outline to the Tree Committee.

Motion (Hrubes): It is the recommendation of the Tree Committee that actions be taken, including revisions to the City Tree Ordinance as needed, in order to attain Tree City USA designation at the earliest practicable time. Second: Linhart; passed unanimously.

7. Announcements and future agenda items: no announcements were made.

Future Agenda Items:

- 2016-18 Work Plan to Council Calendar
- Revisions to the Tree Ordinance
- Outreach
- Post Tree List

8. Adjournment- 9:10