



Public Works Department

# MINUTES

## REGULAR MEETING OF THE TREE COMMITTEE

**Monday November 14, 2016 7:00 p.m.**  
**El Cerrito City Hall**  
Hillside Conference Room  
10890 San Pablo Avenue

### 1. Roll Call :

**Present:** Chair Ralph Boniello, Vice Chair Steve Price; Members Cathy Bleier, Robert Hrubes, Yan Linhart, Mike Srago, Mary Torrusio.  
Also present: Council Liaison Janet Abelson and Staff Liaison Stephen Prée.  
**Absent:** Members Michael Charlton, Karen Christian.

**2. Committee Member Announcements:** Mike Srago made announcements regarding the California Forest Pest Action Council annual meeting in Davis, CA on November 15 & 16, 2016; The California Society of American Foresters Winter Meeting on January 19-20, 2017 in Los Angeles.

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

**4. Report from the City Council Liaison:** Ms. Abelson reported on the local election results and invited the Tree Committee to participate in the El Cerrito Centennial Celebration of year-long activities. A Committee discussion followed, in which such Centennial activities as tree planting, participation in a parade and other ideas were proposed.

### 5. Action Items:

- A. Motion to adopt the minutes from the September 12, 2016 meeting: Hrubes; 2<sup>nd</sup> Linhart; adopted unanimously
- B. Motion to recommend to City Council the reappointment of Cathy Bleier to the Tree Committee: Price; 2<sup>nd</sup> Srago; recommended unanimously.
- C. The scheduled consideration of a motion to recommend to City Council the reappointment of Michael Charlton to the Tree Committee was withdrawn by Mr. Charlton.
- D. The scheduled consideration of a motion to recommend to City Council the reappointment of Karen Christian to the Tree Committee was deferred by the Committee.

### 6. Report from the City Arborist:

Prée updated the Committee on a.) Recent tree emergencies: two Chinese Elm limb failures, one Leland Cypress. b.) His completion of a Request for Proposals for the City' 2016-2019 Tree Services contract in the amount of 115,300; the receipt of proposals from A-Plus Tree, The Professional Tree Care Co. and West Coast Arborists, and the recommendation to Council to award the contract to West Coast Arborists. c.) The results of the San Francisco election: the

passage of Proposition B- a \$19 million set-aside for City tree and tree damaged sidewalk maintenance. d.) Tree Committee related City Council calendar dates- Committee reappointments on December 20 and Tree Committee Work Plan on January 17.

## **7. Tree Committee Activities, Calendar and Work Plan Update:**

- A. Revisions to the City Tree Ordinance: Prée distributed the Ordinance Revision ad-hoc subcommittee's outline. Robert Hrubes requested that Prée meet with other City Staff regarding the ordinance revisions process before the December 12 Tree Committee meeting and report back to the Committee with an update. Prée said that he would also report back to the Committee at the December meeting regarding a determination on the current City Tree Ordinance qualifying for Tree City USA eligibility after inquiring with CalFire.
- B. CalFire Urban and Community Forestry Grant 2016/17: Prée distributed the Urban and Community Forestry Program California Climate Investments Grants projects outline. The Committee discussed applying for the Urban Forest Management Activities Grant to help revise the City tree ordinance and other possible grant projects including purchasing parcels and removed-tree replacements. Chair Boniello said he would attend a Grant Workshop in Oakland on November 16 and report back to the committee.

## **8. Announcements and future agenda items:** no announcements were made.

### Future Agenda Items:

- Centennial Activities
- Tree City USA update
- Ordinance update
- El Cerrito Arbor Week planning
- Outreach Materials
- Approved City Tree List posting

## **9. Adjournment- 9:05**