



Public Works Department

# MINUTES

## REGULAR MEETING OF THE URBAN FOREST COMMITTEE

**Monday August 13, 2018 7:00 p.m.**

**El Cerrito City Hall**

Hillside Conference Room

10890 San Pablo Avenue

### 1. Roll Call :

**Present:** Chair Steve Price, Vice Chair Robert Hrubes, Members, Cathy Bleier, Yan Linhart Mike Srago. Also present; Council Liaison Rochelle Pardue-Okimoto; Staff Liaison, Stephen Prée. Members of the public: Mark Mendel.

**Absent:** Mary Torrusio

**2. Committee Member Announcements and changes to the agenda:** Robert Hrubes requested a change to the agenda to accommodate his early departure from the meeting due to an early morning business flight; the Committee agreed to move the approval of the minutes and the Report from the City Arborist to the end of the meeting.

**3. Comments from the Public on non-agenda items:** there was no public comment.

**4. Report from the City Council Liaison:** Ms. Pardue-Okimoto reported on Council approval of the following:

- Passage of the 2018/19 City budget.
- Sale of the Cerrito Theater by the City to Rialto Cinemas, the current tenant, with conditions to retain the building as a theater.
- Submittal to the El Cerrito electorate a measure to approve a City Charter and the proposed Real Property Transfer Tax to develop a locally generated and controlled funding source to be used to maintain and/or increase the current level of service and facilities provided by the City, which would become effective only if adopted by 50 percent plus one vote of the El Cerrito electorate. If voters approve the measure, the City would be converted from a General Law City to a Charter City, and the Real Property Transfer Tax would be approved.

In regards to new revenue from the potential Real Property Transfer Tax, Councilwoman Pardue- Okimoto said the first priority would be to build the City reserves for unforeseen expenses such as natural disaster. She asked the UFC if there were any items that the Committee wanted her to announce to City Council. Cathy Bleier said that the UFC wants the City Tree List approved and posted on the City website; she and Chair Price commented that the UFC is grateful to be working on revisions to the City Tree Ordinance. Robert Hrubes inquired if, with the 2018/19 budget, there had been any change in funding to the Tree Program. In response, Prée said that the tree budget is essentially the same as FY 2017/18.

**5. Update on Revisions to the City Tree Ordinance:** Maria Sanders, the City public works department operations and environmental services division manager, and Stephen Prée provided a summary of the ordinance revision process and led a discussion of the various citations.

- a.) This working draft requires additional refinement, research and legal review.
- b.) Projected time frame: August to October: City staff and legal review, redrafts. October: draft to UFC for review. November- December: enhanced public process. January: City Council adoption.

A review and discussion of the current draft followed. Agendize next draft review for the October UFC meeting.

- 6. Action Items-** Motion to adopt the minutes from the June 11, 2018 meeting: Mike Srago; 2<sup>nd</sup>, Cathy Bleier; unanimous.
- 7. Update from the City Arborist-** deferred due to time constraints from discussion of agenda item 5.
- 8. Tree Committee Activities, Calendar and Work Plan Update-** deferred due to time constraints from discussion of agenda item 5.
- 9. Old/New Business – none**
- 10. Future agenda items**
- Tree List Update
  - Education and Outreach
  - Tree Pruning Principals Review
  - Discussion of Friends of El Cerrito Trees organization

**Adjournment- 9:07**