



MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF THE TREE COMMITTEE

Monday January 14, 2013, 7:00 p.m.
El Cerrito City Hall
Hillside Conference Room
10890 San Pablo Avenue

1. Roll Call – 7:00 p.m.

Present: Committee Members: Christian, Boniello, Hittle, Lee-Rutherford, Price, Srago.
Council Liaison Greg Lyman, Staff Liaison Stephen Prée and Tree Committee
Applicant Cathy Bleier were also present.

Absent: Committee Member: Cheng

2. Comments from the Public- none

3. Report from Council Liaison

Councilmember Lyman reported on the status of new appointments to boards, commissions and committees; the L.E.E.D Platinum award for the City Recycling Center and the City's settlement with the state of California.

4. Approval of Minutes-

Approve the minutes of December 10, 2012

Action: Moved, seconded, carried (Price, Christian) to approve the minutes. Vote: Unanimous

5. Report from Staff Liaison- Prée reported a) that the City Planning Department does not review tree planting plans on private property except for commercial development. Planting plans for commercial development are reviewed by the City Arborist and the City's Design Review Board. b) Prée has received public inquiries regarding City planned Arbor Day activities. c) The City is contracting tree pruning on Pine trees on City owned property this week. d) Prée asked for a volunteer from the committee to join the panel to interview vendors for final selection for the contract for the Municipal Tree Inventory and Public Outreach for the City of El Cerrito Grant from CalFire and the US Forest Service on January 24.

COMMUNICATION ACCESS INFORMATION

To request a meeting agenda in large print, Braille, or on cassette, or to request a sign language interpreter for the meeting, call Mary Dodge, Staff Liaison at 215-4310 (voice) at least FIVE (5) WORKING DAYS NOTICE PRIOR TO THE MEETING to ensure availability.

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6. Subcommittee – Formation and Function

A. Name Chair of Approved Tree List Criteria Subcommittee

Srago asked for a volunteer to chair a subcommittee to identify tree selection criteria. Lyman said a vote is needed and the subcommittee cannot exceed 3 members or a majority of the tree committee. Srago asked for volunteers for the Tree List Criteria Subcommittee. Lyman recommended moving to Agenda Item 7. Srago moved the committee discussion on to agenda item 7.

B. Name Chair of Arbor Day Subcommittee

Srago asked about the current City Arbor Day plans. Prée reported that the City plans to collaborate with a resident Bonnie MacKenzie and a local school and asked if the Tree Committee will form an Arbor Day subcommittee. General discussion followed in which it was agreed that the tree committee will participate but not form a subcommittee. Bleier agreed to co-organize with Bonny Mackenzie and Prée; Bleier and Prée will report back at the next Tree Committee meeting.

7. Tree Selection Criteria

Srago and Boniello advised that a subcommittee work to establish the criteria for the selection of trees for the City Master Tree List.

Bleier identified four tree selection criteria from the City Urban Forestry Management Plan

- meet master design plan
- facilitate maintenance
- minimize conflicts with views and wires,
- diversity & promoting a healthy forest.

Hittle suggested

- identifying species that are disease and pest resistant.

Boniello recommended General Criteria of

- drought tolerance,
- pollution tolerance,
- available growing space,
- wind tolerance,
- pest tolerance, etc.

and then Site Specific Criteria such as

- presence of utility lines,
- view concerns,
- presence of turf, etc.

Committee should approach criteria focusing on general criteria first. Boniello said there may be more than one list street trees, park trees.

General discussion of existing tree list(s). Srago: The committee must identify criteria that will allow a tree to be listed. Further general discussion of existing tree lists and placemaking with trees followed.

Boniello : not all plants that are listed are actual trees. Hittle: stay with criteria to select trees.

General discussion of drought tolerance, fruit tree usage, criteria for parks and streets.

Srago: we need to start at highest level criteria so that each tree will thrive- such as smog tolerance. Price: start a list. Group suggestions: Tolerance to

- Pollution
- Climate
- Soil
- Drought
- Wind
- Strength of Wood
- Pest and Disease
- Trees that are non- invasive
- have Non-intrusive, deep rooting roots

Boniello suggested taking these criteria and develop a rating system. Srago: good idea, maybe a next step. Lyman: The chair has done an excellent job. Now give the subcommittee a charge or assignment. Srago: send this list out for review and discuss at next meeting.

Boniello suggested that the subcommittee organize the existing criteria (page 33 of UFMP) so that it is more efficiently usefull. Hittle: the subcommittee would prioritize the list. Lyman: what is the process by which we measure the criteria? Limit the scope of the subcommittee.

Price: Are these 9 points (bulleted above) sufficiently developed to hand over to the subcommittee? Bleier: Do we have a complete set of concerns for either the whole committee or the subcommittee to work with?

City of El Cerrito
Special Financial Advisory Board Meeting Agenda

General discussion of levels of refinement of the list.

- Levels are
1. Criteria for suitable trees in El Cerrito
 2. Criteria for trees in specific places
 3. Ranking of criteria
 4. Species selection

Srago asked for volunteers for subcommittee. Boniello, Hittle, Price.

Subcommittee will report on Level 1. Criteria for Suitable trees in El Cerrito.

8. Announcements and Future Agenda Items

- a) Report from Tree Selection Criteria Subcommittee
- b) Discussion on formation of an Outreach Committee
- c) Recommend that Cathy Bleier be appointed to the Tree Committee by City Council
- d) Report on Activities for Arbor Day

Lyman recommends the Tree Committee identify the scope of the committee and what the committee should be or could be doing at some point in the future. Bleier: Like a strategic plan or set of goals.

A general discussion of outreach and education followed.

Announcement: French Broom pull event at Hillside Natural Area January 16, 2013

9. Meeting Adjourned at 9:10 p.m.