



Public Works Department

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF THE TREE COMMITTEE

Monday December 9, 2013 - 7:00 p.m.

El Cerrito City Hall
Hillside Conference Room
10890 San Pablo Avenue

1. Roll Call

Present: Committee Members Bleier, Charlton, Cheng, Christian, Hittle, Price, Srago. Council liaison Lyman present, staff liaison Prée also present

Absent: Committee Member Boniello,

2. Comments from the Public on non agenda items- None.

3. Report from Council Liaison- Councilman Lyman reported on

- A) The October 15 City Council meeting and some of the changes to the Rules governing Boards, Committees, and Commissions: 1.) a quorum can be as few as 3 if it is a committee of 5 people, otherwise the majority of the committee constitutes a quorum. 2) The Council liaison may attend as infrequently as quarterly and after giving his or her report may leave the meeting or sit at the back of the room. 3) April elections for officers
- B) Transfer of Mayorship to Janet Abelson effective December 1, 2013.
- C) Progress with the Complete Streets and San Pablo Avenue Specific Plans. The Councilman recommended that the Tree Committee subscribe to the Urban Greening and Complete Streets Plans email list. A discussion of how these plans would affect the existing trees on San Pablo Avenue followed. Committee member Janet Hittle expressed dissatisfaction with the plan if it recommends destruction of the tax payer funded improvements to the medians and landscape.
- D) Nobel laureate Randy Sheckman Day December 10, 2013

4. Action Items-

- o **Approval of the minutes from November 11, 2013** Motion: Christian, Second Price, approved unanimously.
- o **Election of Chairperson was deferred to the January meeting.**

5. Report from the City Arborist-

Staff Liaison Prée reported on

- A) City-wide tree damage from the November 21 storm.
- B) His work on an Advisory Committee to the City of Richmond for an approved City tree list and new tree ordinance.
- C) The development of a Privately funded City Tree Removal Protocol.
- D) Shannon Lee-Rutherford's resignation from the Tree Committee
- E) Subcommittees should be comprised of less than a quorum of Tree Committee members

6. Report from the Community Tree Planting Grant Implementation.

Mike Charlton and Stephen Prée reported on progress to date with the tree planting grant.

Mike Srago requested an outline of the schedule and activities be circulated to the committee.

7. Report from the INVEST FROM THE GROUND UP outreach campaign subcommittee.

Karen Christian reported that the Chamber of Commerce current president will soon be the Rotary Club President, the clubs are interested in planting trees and may approve use of their logo.

Cathy Bleier discussed her meeting with Stockton Street merchants.

Janet Hittle reported that Marvin Gardens Realty is interested in participating.

8. Announcements –

- Mike Srago reminded the committee about the California Tree Failure Report meeting on January 9 at Filoli. Hittle and Srago will attend

9. Discussion of future committee actions and agenda items - 8:55

- Steve Price recommended the committee resume its work on the Street tree list
Prée responded that the two INVEST FROM THE GROUND UP events should be our focus.
Now said, a deferral of the topic to the February meeting is advised.

10. Adjournment- 9:10