



Public Works Department

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF THE TREE COMMITTEE

Monday October 13, 2014 7:00 p.m.
El Cerrito City Hall
Hillside Conference Room
10890 San Pablo Avenue

1. Roll Call :

Present: Chair Hittle, Vice Chair Bleier, Members Boniello, Cheng, Price, Srago
Mayor Abelson, Staff Liaison Prée were also present

Absent: Charlton, Christian

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

3. Report from the City Council Liaison – Mayor Abelson reported that the San Pablo Avenue Specific Plan was approved by Council at the September 22 regular City Council meeting. Cathy Bleier asked if a summary of changes was available. (Prée emailed the City website link to the plan on November 6: <http://www.el-cerrito.org/index.aspx?nid=396>)

4. Action Items- The committee adopted the minutes from the September 8, 2014 committee meeting. Motion Boniello, 2nd Cheng, unanimous.

5. Report from the City Arborist- Prée reported on resident requests to remove and replace diseased Bradford Callery Pear trees. Committee raised questions regarding treatment costs and budget, disease thresholds and resident funded pruning.

6. Educating residents regarding pruning of City trees during the 2014/15 pruning cycle – The Committee discussed the content of the informational door hanger and debated the value of citing City ordinances that may not be substantial enough to protect City trees

7. Approved City Tree List – The ad-hoc subcommittee (Boniello, Cheng, Hittle, and Price) reported on their progress with revision to the approved City tree list and agreed to set standing meetings to continue the work refining the list.

8. Revisions to the City Tree Ordinance – The ad-hoc subcommittee (Boniello, Charlton, and Srago) reported on their work thus far reviewing the International Society of Arboriculture Tree Ordinance guide and the cities of Davis, Menlo Park, Oakland ordinances. Ordinance should have goals and visions established first and reflect existing City plans and policies.

9. Discussion of the Tree Committee Work Plan, future committee actions and agenda items – Cathy Bleier reviewed the revised Work Plan format that was received from the City Clerk and discussed updated content. Bleier will distribute to Tree Committee for comment prior to final submittal.

10. Tree Health Care – Chair Janet Hittle recommended that this agenda item be postponed to next month’s Tree Committee meeting due to this meeting having exceeded the scheduled hours. The Committee requested this item be moved to an earlier time on the agenda for future meetings.

11. Announcements –

- Cathy Bleier distributed the Golden Gate Audubon Society/ Britton Fund pamphlet “Healthy Trees, Healthy Birds”, written by Roy Leggit, Consulting Arborist
http://www.goldengateaudubon.org/wp-content/uploads/Healthy_Trees_brochure.pdf
- El Cerrito Urban Greening Plan joint-study session with Recreation and Park Commission and Environmental Quality Committee October 22

12. Discussion of future committee actions and agenda items

- Tree Health Care- Prée
- Tree Ordinance ad-hoc subcommittee update
- Approved City Tree List ad-hoc subcommittee update
- Action Plan update
- Create sub- committee for website work

13. Adjournment- 9:07