



Public Works Department

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF THE TREE COMMITTEE

Monday November 10, 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, Price, Srago
Mayor Abelson, Staff Liaison Prée were also present

Absent: Charlton, Cheng, Christian

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

3. Report from the City Council Liaison – Mayor Abelson reported the results of the City election and the passage of the Measure R sales tax extension, the election of Gabe Quinto and her reelection to City Council.

4. Action Items- The committee adopted the minutes from the October 13, 2014 committee meeting. Motion Bleier, second Price, *unanimous*.

5. Report from the City Arborist- Prée reported on prevalent infrastructure (paving) damage caused by the tree species *Liquidambar styraciflua* (American Sweetgum) and the frequent incidents of limb failure with the species. He also reported on resident inquiries about new City street tree planting. The committee asked questions regarding existing budget to address problem species as well as questions regarding a target number and budget for new tree planting. Prée also alerted the committee about the current City recruitment for boards, commission and committee members. Mayor Abelson informed the committee that unlike boards and commissions, committees are able to make policy recommendations to City Council.

6. Update on the Urban and Community Forestry Program Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund Grants- Vice Chair Bleier and Prée summarized the requirements for this grant including how El Cerrito does not qualify for this grant because the grant targets the most economically disadvantaged communities in the state. Bleier recommended that the tree committee collaborate on future applications with other City committees and possibly the City of Richmond.

7. Educating residents regarding pruning of City trees during the 2014/15 pruning cycle – The committee reviewed the door hanger that the ad-hoc subcommittee contributed content to that will be used by the West Coast Arborists to notify and inform residents of upcoming tree work, City tree ordinances, and the value of trees.

8. Approved City Tree List – A new meeting schedule was discussed for this ad-hoc subcommittee.

9. Review the presentation to council on the 2014/15 Tree Committee Work Plan –

Vice Chair Bleier reviewed the revised Work Plan presentation she presented to City Council on November 18.

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.

11. Announcements –

- Cathy Bleier summarized the City's special joint Park and Recreation Commission and Environmental Quality Committee study session of the El Cerrito Urban Greening that she attended on October 22, 2014 and much discussion followed regarding the relationship of and roll of the tree committee with informing the Urban Greening Plan. Boniello asked if the Plan should or could recommend a revised Tree Ordinance

12. Discussion of future committee actions and agenda items

- Summary of Presentation to Council
- Tree Health Care
- Tree Ordinance ad-hoc subcommittee update
- Arbor Day
- Create subcommittee for website work
- Guest presentation from Richmond Trees January 12

13. Adjournment- 9:07