



Public Works Department

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF THE TREE COMMITTEE

Monday December 8, 2014 7:00 p.m.

El Cerrito City Hall
Hillside Conference Room
10890 San Pablo Avenue

1. Roll Call :

Present: Chair Janet Hittle, Vice Chair Cathy Bleier, Members Ralph Boniello, Michael Charlton, Karen Christian, Steve Price, Mike Srago.

Mayor Janet Abelson, Staff Liaison Stephen Prée were also present

Absent: Sheauchu Cheng

2. Comments from the Public on non agenda items:

- **Sarah Rohrs** addressed the committee regarding her concern and objection to the removal of the Sweetgum trees on Manilla Avenue as part of the 2014 Pavement Rehabilitation Program and raised a question about the Tree Committee's prior knowledge of the project. Tree Committee members asked the City Arborist questions regarding the scope of the project and condition of the trees and pavement and a discussion ensued.
- **Steve Price** described his presentation to the Economic Development Committee where he showed his photo transformation work and discussed the role of trees in commercial development. He said that the Tree Committee and the Economic Development Committee could work together in future in planning for the proper selection of trees in commercial districts.

3. Report from the City Council Liaison:

Mayor Janet Abelson reported on the new Marin Clean Energy program study and the process to bring clean energy to the City of El Cerrito.

4. Report from the City Arborist:

Stephen Prée presented information and answered questions regarding infrastructure problems (shallow, roots uplifting pavement) and limb failure associated with the Sweetgum species and the specific trees on Manilla Ave. that will be affected by the 2014 Paving Rehabilitation Program.

A motion was made by **Vice Chair Bleier** for the committee to write a letter to the City requesting that the Tree Committee be informed of any City plans or actions that affect the health of City trees in a timely manner. The motion was Seconded by **Mike Srago** and passed unanimously.

5. Action Items:

The committee adopted the minutes from the November 10, 2014 committee meeting. Motion to approve: Boniello, second Price: *unanimous with two abstentions* Charlton and Christiandue *to absence at the November meeting.*

6. Summary of the November 18 presentation to City Council on the 2014/15 Tree Committee Work Plan: Cathy Bleier summarized her report to City Council and the counsel's response.

7. El Cerrito Arbor Week March 7-14, 2015

Committee members discussed possible events including hosting the Arbor Week Tree Circus sponsored by the Western Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture on Wednesday March 4, 2015. Committee members Bleier, Charlton and Srago agreed to serve on an ad-hoc steering committee to plan the events and will report back to the Tree Committee in the future.

8. Tree Health Care:

This item was deferred to next month due to meeting time constraints.

9. Discussion of future committee actions and agenda items

- Guest presentation from Richmond Trees
- Review letter regarding timely City notification to TC regarding work effecting trees
- Tree Heath Care
- Arbor Week
- Approved City Tree List ad-hoc subcommittee update
- City Tree Ordinance ad-hoc subcommittee update
- Create subcommittee for website work

10. Adjournment- 9:05