



Public Works Department

# MINUTES

## REGULAR MEETING OF THE TREE COMMITTEE

**Monday September 14, 2015 7:00 p.m.**  
**El Cerrito City Hall**  
Hillside Conference Room  
10890 San Pablo Avenue

### 1. Roll Call :

**Present:** Chair Cathy Bleier, Vice Chair Ralph Boniello, Karen Christian, Steve Price, Mike Srago and Yan Linhart. Staff Liaison Stephen Prée was also present.

**Absent:** Member Michael Charlton. Council Liaison Jan Bridges was also absent.

### 2. Comments from the Public on non agenda items:

- a) Robin Mitchell reported about her efforts with other volunteers to help guide the development the City's newly acquired property on King Dr. referred to as Dorothy Rosenberg Park. They plan to arrange a tree inventory, try to engage a landscape architecture class in design assistance and are applying for a Friends of Dorothy Rosenberg Park designation from the City.

### 3. Report from the City Council Liaison:

Councilmember Bridges was not present, therefore no report was given.

- ### 4. Report from the City Arborist-
- a.) Prée reported on a Girl Scout Tree planting scheduled for September 27 in Poinsett Park.
  - b.) several Chinese Elm and Sweetgum tree limb failures in the City
  - c.) the City is working to secure a contract for the Arlington Park tree hazard removal work. A discussion followed regarding notification requirements for City tree removal.
  - d.) unauthorized City tree pruning on Rockway Ave. that may qualify as tree maiming or mutilation. Boniello commented that the ideal City Tree Ordinance would impose fines on such actions with monies collected returning to the City to fund street tree planting.
  - e.) Prée informed and reminded the Committee that the 4 year term of 3 members, Boniello, Price and Srago, will expire in January 2016 and he encouraged them to apply for a second term appointment. Bleier volunteered to draft a Tree Committee vacancy announcement.

### 5. Action Items -

- Motion to adopt the minutes from August 10, 2015: Christian; 2<sup>nd</sup> Boniello; passed unanimously with Srago abstaining due to absence.
- Motion to approve Tree Committee funds for fees to register interested tree committee members to attend the California Urban Forest Council Awards Luncheon in Sacramento on September 17, 2015: Linhart, 2<sup>nd</sup> Christian, passed unanimously.

## **6. Revised City Tree List**

Chair Bleier raised the question of whether to include the category of fire resistance and pollinators in the tree list. Prée reported that the process for approval of the list remains unestablished. Vice Chair Boniello recommended that the list be taken to the Environmental Quality Committee and Park & Recreation Commission as an informational item. Price asked what the process for revision will be over the years. Boniello noted that adding species is separate from adding information about species. The following issues regarding City approval were noted:

- Cycle of reapproval
- Revisions threshold
- Review fire language

Boniello asked for all edits and comments by the October 12 meeting. The committee suggested that the City Attorney may need to voice opinion on the characteristics of:

- Branch Strength
- Fire suitability
- Draft language
- Site references

The Committee directed Prée to distribute the revised Introduction and the Pollinator List to all committee members for comment.

## **7. Calendar of Events and Work Plan Update**

Prée noted that because ad-hoc committee members are some of the same people on both the Tree List and Tree Ordinance committees that progress on revising the tree ordinance has been affected. Prée will work to schedule new meetings of the Ordinance ad-hoc committee. Steve Price will investigate a pruning workshop location and report back.

## **8. Announcements (none) and future agenda items:**

- Finalize Revised City Tree List

## **9. Adjournment**