



Public Works Department

# MINUTES

## REGULAR MEETING OF THE TREE COMMITTEE

**Monday May 9, 2016 7:00 p.m.**  
**El Cerrito City Hall**  
Hillside Conference Room  
10890 San Pablo Avenue

**1. Roll Call :**

**Present:** Chair Ralph Boniello, Vice Chair Steve Price, Members Robert Hrubes, Yan Linhart, Mary Torrusio, Staff Liaison Stephen Prée.

**Absent:** Member Cathy Bleier, Michael Charlton, Karen Christian and City Council Liaison Janet Abelson.

**2. Comments from the Public on non-agenda items:** there were none.

**3. Report from the City Council Liaison:** Janet Abelson was not present so no report was given.

**4. Action Items:**

Motion to adopt the minutes from the April 11, 2016 meeting, Srago; second: Linhart; approved unanimously with Robert Hrubes abstaining because of absence.

**5. Report from the City Arborist:** Prée updated the Committee on a.) The status of resident Charles Burress's request to privately fund the removal of a bothersome City tree, noting that conditional approval would be granted after mitigation measures were agreed upon by the resident and the City. b.) The meeting he and Chair Boniello had with two individuals representing a tennis group who expressed concerns about the location of some of the newly planted Arbor Week Grant trees. They cited potential issues with the leaf litter from the Incense Cedars and their proximity to the tennis courts. Prée and Boniello described the growth habit of the trees, the clearing considerations that were made when the tree sites were selected and the notification process the City initiated with residents, police and the Parks and Recreation Commission. c.) The routine pruning and removal budget for fiscal year 2015/16 is exhausted and will not resume until after July 1, with the exception of hazard and emergency work.

**6. Tree Committee Activities, Calendar and Work Plan Update:**

**A. 2016/17 Tree Committee Work Plan:** Chair Boniello led a committee discussion reviewing the prior year's Work Plan. Activities discussed included a.) Distribution of the IFGU brochure to businesses b.) Potential grants funding opportunities c.) Information tabling and table materials d.) Tree Committee web presence with links to the City Tree

List, Pollinators and Tree Planting FAQs. Further discussion will be scheduled for the June meeting.

- B. Tree ordinance Update: Chair Boniello presented a matrix of the Tree Committee survey of other municipal tree ordinances. The committee discussed the salient points and the outstanding cities ordinances. Hrubes reiterated his opinion that the purpose of the El Cerrito tree ordinance revision is to qualify for Tree City USA designation. Prée suggested that the revision is also an opportunity to address deficiencies in the existing City tree ordinance such as inadequate guidance for City tree planting, pruning, removal, maintenance and protection. Price recommended that the subcommittee pull desired content from the surveyed cities ordinances for use in revising El Cerrito's. The ad-subcommittee will meet and report back to the TC at a future date tbd.
- C. Committee participation in upcoming City events: a.) Hillside Festival May 15, Chair Boniello reported that he will lead a tree walk and recommended that the TC participate in the festival next year. A brief discussion followed regarding the prioritization of tree committee activities with the competing demands in natural areas, street trees and parks. b.) World One July 4<sup>th</sup> Festival: a brief discussion of the hosting an information table and the pursuit of a tablet device for displaying the 2013 City Tree Inventory; further discussion was deferred to the June meeting agenda.

**7. Announcements and future agenda items:** no announcements were made.

Future Agenda Items:

- 2016-18 Work Plan
- Committee participation in upcoming City events

**8. Adjournment- 9:05**