



Public Works Department

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF THE TREE COMMITTEE

Monday December 12, 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 Cathy Bleier, Yan Linhart, Mike Srago,.
Also present: Council Liaison Janet Abelson and Staff Liaison Stephen Prée.
Absent: Members Michael Charlton, Karen Christian, Mary Torrusio, Robert Hrubes.

2. Committee Member Announcements: none

3. Comments from the Public on non-agenda items: There were none.

4. Report from the City Council Liaison: Ms. Abelson was not present.

5. Action Items:

- A. Motion to adopt the minutes from the November 14, 2016 meeting: Bleier; 2nd Srago; adopted unanimously.
- B. The agenda item to recommend to City Council the reappointment of Karen Christian to the Tree Committee was removed by Ms. Christian.

6. Report from the City Arborist:

Prée updated the Committee on a.) Recent tree emergencies: two Liquidambar trees with limb failure. b.) The removal of a large dead Monterey Pine killed by Pine Bark Beetle at Knott Ave. and Key Route. c.) San Pablo Ave. sidewalk issues from Liquidambar trees. c.) City sidewalk removal and replacement due to pavement displacement by City tree roots, required the removal of 6 mature trees, but tree retention will be maintained at 5 sites where those trees will tolerate root pruning.

7. Tree Committee Activities, Calendar and Work Plan Update:

- A. Tree City USA designation update: Prée read the email reply from Cal Fire regarding his inquiry regarding whether or not the existing El Cerrito Tree Ordinance meets the criteria for Tree City USA qualification. Cal Fire responded that the existing City tree ordinance lacks “sufficient enforcement measures and cost recovery/mitigation” and does not meet the standard for Tree City USA application. The Committee raised questions regarding an ordinance requirement for privately owned trees.

- B. CalFire Urban and Community Forestry Grant 2016/17: Prée reported that the City is applying to fund a City Tree Ordinance revision and other Urban Forest Management Activities. The grant requirement for measurable Greenhouse Gas Emission reductions and the activities proximity to Disadvantaged Communities was noted by the Committee.
- C. Approved City Tree List Posting Update- Prée reported that the tree list format has not been finalized for web posting yet.
- D. Centennial Activities: The Committee discussed several possible activities including Tree Planting, 100 Oaks planting, and a Time Capsule. Mike Srago volunteered to check with the City about potential planting sites on City property. City staff member Suzanne Iarla stopped in on the meeting and provided information on the creation of a Centennial Activities Calendar in the first weeks of January; submittals should be made soon.
- E. El Cerrito Arbor Week planning- the Committee discussed continuing the Cerrito Vista Park planting activity day with Prospect Sierra school.

8. Old/New Business – none

9. Announcements and future agenda items: no announcements were made.

Future Agenda Items:

- Presentation of Tree Committee Workplan to City Council
- Centennial Activities
- Outreach Committee
- El Cerrito Arbor Week planning

10. Adjournment- 9:17