

MINUTES

TREE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING



Wednesday, October 21, 2009

3:30 P.M.

Petaluma Community Center

320 North McDowell Blvd., Petaluma, CA 94954

(707) 778-4380 / Fax (707) 778-4473

1. ROLL CALL:

Committee: Carothers, Norman, Wilson

*Chairperson

Staff: Lanusse

Absent: *Scacalosi, DeNicola

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Approval of the September 16, 2009, minutes.

A motion was made by Committee Member Norman and seconded by Committee Carothers. The minutes were approved.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT: John Repp and Kaitlin Gooding, two students in Environmental Studies from Santa Rosa Junior College, came to observe the meeting.

4. CORRESPONDENCE: None

5. OLD BUSINESS:

A. Update on the Cities Approved Street Tree List Being Completed

Staff Lanusse stated due to department cuts all available staff have been in the field. They are waiting for some possible down time to continue working on the Street Tree List. The update will most likely be presented in January.

B. Miscellaneous Tree Grant Applications and Deadlines

Committee Member Wilson presented an updated schedule. There was a good write-up in the Argus Courier regarding the planting for the area around 6th and E Street which acquired a Cal Releaf Grant. The planting occurred on Saturday October 10, 2009, there was a great turn-out.

C. Status on the Tree Grant for 150 Trees

Committee Member Norman gave an update and we have added one resident to the "do not trim" list. There are also two other trees that are either dead or declining. Committee Member Norman will send an email reminder to continue watering the trees. We also need to confirm the deadline, due to the fact the grant was on hold during the California Budget crisis. The Parks Division will plan to replace some trees in the winter, and plant the rest of the grant trees.

D. Update on Tree Preservation Ordinance and Tree Technical Manual

Discussion how possible changes can be implemented into the General Plan. Committee Member Norman reports that the language in the documents are being updated and modified, per city management, to relate to current city

organization: 1) Planning Department or CDD - change to Public Works Department, 2) Planning, CDD Director - change to Public Works Director, 3) City Arborist - change to Parks Manager. Continued changes are pending a subcommittee review and final proposal.

- E. TAC goals and review of accomplishments, drafted by Chairperson Scaccalosi, which is an annual update presented to City Council. Need to schedule a date and time for presentation. Chairperson Scaccalosi was absent, will continue to next meeting.
 - F. Update on the inventory, process and responsibilities associated with maintaining, monitoring and adding trees to the Heritage Tree List. Staff DeNicola was absent, will continue to next meeting.
 - G. Update regarding the design of the Sunnyslope housing development and how it relates to the mature trees that may be removed or moved on the site. Staff DeNicola was absent, will continue to next meeting.
 - H. Update on Bartlett Tree Service's adoption of Oak Hill Park's Oak Trees, i.e., what trees have been worked on, evaluation of trees at the site, and feedback from Bartlett and community. Committee Member Carothers reports that they are still working on the dog park side, which is the Northeast side of the park. There are two trees in decline. One has a defect, and the other is dying. Discussion of Owl boxes will resume when Staff DeNicola returns.
6. NEW BUSINESS:
- A. Heritage Homes wants to incorporate Trees Tour with Homes Tour
Chairperson Scaccalosi was absent, will continue to next meeting.
 - B. Liaison Status Report
Staff DeNicola absent, but Staff Lanusse reports that he thinks that there is no Park Commissioner assigned to the Tree Committee. He will get a definitive answer for next meeting.
 - C. New Chair Election. Delayed, members would like to explore the possibility of expanding the committee from 4 to 6, since there is no liaison from Parks and Planning.
7. APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Approval of the November 18, 2009 Agenda. Per Committee Member Norman add the following items to Old Business as Items E & F for next meeting: E. Center Park Redwood tree status should be considered, since it is in the state of rapid decline and also, F. Tree topping education for citizens and homeowners so that they do not make trimming errors.
A motion was made by Committee Member Norman, and seconded by Committee Member Carothers. The agenda was approved.
8. COMMITTEE REPORTS:
- A. Committee Member Reports - Committee Member Norman brought in artwork regarding "Love your Trees" and "Trim them, don't top them." She brought in a poster that will go up in the Community Center, and is trying to get an article in the paper. It was a well funded program in Vallejo, with quality artists. There is also a discussion that if a TAC member, or staff is absent, they should try to email their portion/report so we can keep moving forward.
 - B. Liaison Reports - None

C. Staff Reports- None

9. ADJOURN at 4:16pm