

Tree Committee Members:

Susann Ortega - Chair
Kellie Carlin – Vice Chair
Susan Allen
Edie Kausch
Carol Troy

MINUTES
ST. HELENA TREE COMMITTEE
ST. HELENA CITY HALL, CONFERENCE ROOM
1480 MAIN STREET, ST. HELENA
Thursday, May 9, 2013
3:30 pm

1. ROLL CALL

Present: Susann Ortega, Kellie Carlin, Edie Kausch, Carol Troy, Susan Allen;

Absent: None

Staff: Senior Management Analyst Kathy Robinson.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. April 11, 2013; Approved with revisions;

Motion to approve with revision by Committee Member Carlin, seconded by Committee Member Kausch to approve. Approve 5-0.

B. April 24, 2013; Approved with revisions;

Motion to approve with revision by Committee Member Kausch, seconded by Committee Member Carlin to approve. Approve 5-0.

3. PUBLIC FORUM: None

4. REPORTS BY STAFF AND COMMITTEE:

Committee Member Kausch commented that she was impressed by Paul Rasmuth presentation, and that he bringing his project to City Council towards end of month (May), asking for tree committee support. Chair Ortega and Committee Member Allen indicated they would be there.

Chair Ortega reported that she attended the St, Helena Economic Summit and obtained information from the company representing St. Helena. She mentioned that there was a survey done at the wineries and hotels gathering feedback from visitors about St. Helena. The respondents said they like St. Helena as it is, that they don't like the traffic, and that they visit St. Helena for the wine and the beauty of the Valley. Food, wine and art, as well as health and well-being, and a healthy lifestyle were all reasons for visiting St. Helena. Chair said that the Downtown Renaissance, Chamber (Pam Simpson) wants to dress up the town. Promote wine train, film and art auction.

Chair Ortega also mention that she was completing the summary report for the tree committee present to the City Council soon. .

5. PERMITS TO BE DISCUSSED:

A. 1429 Main Street (French Blue); Replace existing Raywood Ash with Chinese Pistache; Failed tree and empty tree well were approved to be planted by city staff. The third tree is before the committee for approval to be removed and replaced.

Motion to deny with comment by Committee Member Carlin, seconded by Committee Member Kausch to deny. Approve 5-0.

B. 1655 Sylvaner Avenue: remove Redwood tree.

Motion to approve with comments by Committee Member Kausch, seconded by Committee Member Troy to approve. Approve 4-0, Committee Member Allen left meeting early.

6. SCHEDULED MATTERS:

A. City Main Street Tree Plan

Committee did not discuss as City Arborist Jim Haller was not present. To be rescheduled and placed on agenda for the next meeting.

Replacement guidelines, specifically sidewalks were discussed. Chair Ortega did research on sidewalks in cities that have lots of pedestrians, use rubber sidewalk. Flexible support underneath and allow tree roots to grow and pedestrians can walk safely. Kausch mentioned that Renaissance did want Tree Committee input with regard to sidewalks.

Committee agreed that Committee Members Troy and Carlin will contact Downtown Renaissance to view 3D visual presentation and that they needed the City Arborist report to continue discussions. Staff member Robinson to follow up on report from City Arborist.

B. Update on Magnolia Oaks

Chair Ortega updated committee, still waiting on status of cobblestone from Joe Schneider.

C. Discussion of proposed revision to amend Chapter 12.24 Trees and other Vegetation”

Discussed continuation of a subcommittee concluded that it would be best to put it off for now.

Chair Ortega passed out a sample tree ordinance. , County of Ventura that they liked.

Committee discussed that they have much research to do and start fresh, go with something simple. Committee discussed that they needed marketing material that indicates that cutting down a tree is a violation/unlawful of municipal code, would like to add something like this. Suggested that all public (right of way), private tree with in St. Helena, all heritage trees, anything over (certain size), and trees in development areas. Also mentioned including in the message the importance of trees in a healthy lifestyle.

D. Discussion of City fees

Item was not discussed with Public Works Director and City Arborists not in attendance.

7. TENTATIVE AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT REGULAR MEETING:

A. Definitely need to discuss City fees.

8. ADJOURNMENT:

A motion carried to adjourn meeting of the Tree Committee in the main conference room of City Hall located at 1480 Main Street, St. Helena, CA, at 5:14 pm.