

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, June 6, 2013 – Special Meeting
3:30 pm

1. ROLL CALL

Present: Susann Ortega, Kellie Carlin, Edie Kausch, Carol Troy

Absent: Susan Allen

Council: Mayor Nevero

Staff: Public Works Director John Ferons, City Arborist Jim Haller, Library Director Jennifer Baker

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. May 9, 2013; Approved with revisions;
Approve 5-0.

3. PUBLIC FORUM: Comment by public member David Garden with question about tree committee jurisdiction from with Ferons affirming that committee has jurisdiction within the City with the exception to any State right-of-ways. Also questioned about Elms, Ferons commented that Caltrans has jurisdiction but City has a vested interest. Garden also mentioned disheveled state of Redwoods at Wappo.

4. REPORTS BY STAFF AND COMMITTEE: City Arborist Haller mentioned that the 5th graders stewardship who graduated planted a new Armstrong maple tree every year and they planted a new tree on Wednesday (June 8th) at Crane Park between bocce and skateboard park. Also reported a branch failure at Lyman Park.

Committee Member Troy updated committee on her and Vice-Chair Carlin meeting with Rodney Friedrich (Downtown Renaissance). They were provided a map of all trees on two blocks of Main Street (distributed to members). Friedrich requested that the committee come up with a choice of two strong trees that would be consistent for replacement trees.

5. PERMITS TO BE DISCUSSED:

A. 1492 Library Lane; Relocate Washington Hawthorne from Library Courtyard to east side of Library;

Committee had discussion about ivy; removing a 6 foot barrier, relocate to lawn to the left of the bus stop, or lawn by the fountain.

Motion to relocate was denied 1-3. Alternate motion to remove the tree and replace with three mitigating trees to be located by tree committee by end of the year, approve 4-0.

6. SCHEDULED MATTERS:

- A. 1429 Main Street (French Blue); Appeal received regarding Tree Committee decision to deny permit request to replace existing Raywood Ash with Chinese Pistache; Discuss comments and recommendations to City Council for appeal or rescind decision to deny permit.**

Public Works Director Ferons presented staff report about appeal process. Committee discussion about validity of appeal and timeline. Mayor Nevero presented her story about Wydown Event, learning about the decision, subsequent site visit and filing a hand written appeal. During open public hearing: Friedrich suggested a 2 for 1 mitigation. Discussions ensued with questions to age of tree, type of tree, root conflict, growth rate etc.

Motion to rescind previous decision and motion to approve permit with motion to require two additional trees (15 gallon) to be supplied for gas station area by Committee Member Troy, seconded by Vice-Chair Carlin, approve 3-1.

- B. City Main Street Tree Plan; Discussion of tree inventory (City Arborist Tree Survey), replacement guidelines, specifications and replacement schedule (planned and un-planned); Request by Tree Committee in conjunction with Downtown Renaissance;**

Moved to “Tentative Agenda Items for Next Meeting” for discussion.

- C. Other City Trees; Maintenance, replacement, pruning, heritage trees etc.; Request by Tree Committee;**

Moved to “Tentative Agenda Items for Next Meeting” for discussion.

- D. Tree Committee Reporting to City Council; Activity Reports; Per City Council Request;**

Moved to “Tentative Agenda Items for Next Meeting” for discussion.

- E. Discussion of City Permit process for tree-associated work, encroachment permit fees and permit timing; Request by Tree Committee;**

Moved to “Tentative Agenda Items for Next Meeting” for discussion.

7. TENTATIVE AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING:

- A. Scheduled matters items B, C, D, and E from June 6, 2013 agenda.**

7. ADJOURNMENT:

A motion carried to adjourn special meeting of the Tree Committee in the main conference room of City Hall located at 1480 Main Street, St. Helena, CA at 5:28 pm.