

Tree Committee Members:

Susann Ortega-Chair
Kellie Carlin- Vice Chair
Edie Kausch
Kacey Stotesbery
Carol Troy
Susan Allen-Alternate

MINUTES
ST. HELENA TREE COMMITTEE
ST. HELENA CITY HALL, CONFERENCE ROOM
1480 MAIN STREET, ST. HELENA
Thursday, July 11, 2013
3:30 pm

1. ROLL CALL

Present: Susann Ortega, Kellie Carlin, Edie Kausch, Susan Allen, Kacey Stotesbery, and Carol Troy (late arrival)

Absent: none.

Staff: Public Works Director John Ferons, City Arborist Jim Haller, Senior Management Analyst Kathy Robinson

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. June 6, 2013; Approved with revisions.

Motion to approve with revision by Committee Member Carlin, seconded by Committee Member Kausch to approve. Approve 4-0 (Committee Member Troy not present at time of voting).

3. PUBLIC FORUM: no public comment.

4. REPORTS BY STAFF AND COMMITTEE:

Ferons: Our Town St. Helena is group of citizens with financial interest for Romero property asked to poll committee to have meeting in two weeks. Committee agreed to at end of the meeting.

City Arborist Haller reported that there was another car versus tree in Elm Tunnel, hit four trees, only one damaged. Haller bandaged the damaged tree. Committee question what the penalties are, no criminal charges. Chair Ortega asked about the dutch-elm diseased trees and Caltrans responsibility.

Chair Ortega had question about Raywood Ash that fell down in front of French Blue. Jim clarified that two large branches were cut off from the trees down that fell down. Five trees were removed by approved permit on Vintage Avenue and Kathy Forni asked to be put on the agenda to ask committee for their recommendation for mitigated replacement.

5. PERMITS TO BE DISCUSSED:

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

Ortega summed up last meeting's discussion. Public Works Director Ferons updated Committee Member Stotesbery about the tree. Haller found a location in Lyman Park

for the re-plant. Committee discussed other locations for providing shade, location of bike rack and convenience to the front door.

Motion for Carlin to allow the removal of the tree for replanting to Lyman with three mitigated trees to be planting in the future at the library location. Seconded by Committee Member Troy. Approve 5-0.

- B.** 1172 Meadow Creek Circle; Prune Valley Oak located in front yard; Valley Oaks protected by Meadowcreek Subdivision requirements.

Public Works Director Ferons gave a brief summary of request. Property is actually 1176 Meadowcreek Circle. Pacific Tree Care was retained to do complete the work. Haller said they would do minor pruning, standard maintenance, lighten load, will not take more than 25%. Committee wanted a flyer sent out to remind the community that trees are protected and require a permit to be cut down.

Committee Member Carlin motion to approve pruning and that the City would send a letter to the homeowners, and that a year from now Magnolia Oaks will also receive a letter. Committee Member Kausch seconded. Approve 5-0.

- C.** 1764 Scott Street; Tree Permit; Removal approved by staff to mitigate hazard: Committee to consider replacement tree recommendations.

Public Works Director Ferons gave brief summary of request. Committee discussed hazard. Applicant introduced and stated that they would prefer a non-water consuming front yard, but would plant a water efficient Chinese Pistache if the committee preferred. Committee Member Alternate Allen revisited the philosophy of the committee and the maintain the standards that they were charged to do i.e. if a tree in taken out, it should be replaced to maintain Tree City USA. Committee/applicant discussed reasons for replacing a tree for a tree. Reviewed Master list.

Committee Member Stotesbery motion to allow two trees to be removed with replacement of owner's choice to choose from Master Tree list. Committee Member Troy seconded. Approved 5-0.

6. SCHEDULED MATTERS:

- A.** New member orientation; include Roberts Rules, Tree Committee By-Laws, and A Handbook for Tree Board Members (Arbor Day Foundation); Per Tree Committee Chairperson.

Chair Ortega pointed out Roberts Rules for motions protocol, reviewed Bylaws and mission statement. Chair Ortega called for questions on Handbook for Tree Board Members. PWD reminding committee members that they are bound by Brown Act, including email communication.

- B.** Discuss goals, responsibilities and philosophy of Tree Committee; Per Tree Committee Chairperson;

Alternate Allen would like to see the committee have an in depth discussion about not allowing others to strong arm the committees' discussion making policy. Streamlining decision making process that would allow the committee to make better use of their time. Committee Member Kausch suggested that the types of trees that were made many years ago that keeps coming back to committee.

Arborist Haller's discussion about Raywood Ash resulted in the committee to work on a plan that systematically takes down problem tree, but not all at once to be less disruptive, as discussed in the next agenda item.

- C. St. Helena Main Street Tree Plan, review tree inventory, discuss comprehensive tree plan; Per Tree Committee Chairperson.

Committee discussed plan, replacement tree list. Need information from Haller to make a plan. Classify the inventory list with a evaluation category. Incorporate a sidewalk recommendation that will help the trees. Chair Ortega willing to do sidewalk research to pass to committee and Downtown Renaissance. Public comment about how San Jose did all the wrong things, likes that St. Helena is regulated makes it nice.

- D. Review Tree Committee summary reports for City Council; Per Tree Committee Chairperson.

Ferons informed committee about confusion about Tree Committee being on City Council agenda at June 25th meeting. City Council wants quarterly report. Wappo Park discussion about maintenance of the "L" trees. Committee discussion of location of trees and open land, next phase of Wappo park and will need to address maintenance of the "L" shaped planted trees.

- E. Maintenance of Redwood trees at Wappo Park and other city trees; Per Tree Committee Chairperson

No discussion, however Dave Garden mention to Arborist Haller that he wanted them pruned.

7. TENTATIVE AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING:

- A. For August 8th, review tree plan, philosophy. Add Romero property, Kathy Forni.

8. 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 5:17 pm.