

**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, August 8, 2013**  
**3:30 pm**

**1. ROLL CALL**

Meeting called at 3:33 pm.

Present: Susann Ortega, Edie Kausch and Kacey Stotesbery.

Absent: Carol Troy, Kellie Carlin and Susan Allen.

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

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

July 11, 2013; Approved with revisions.

*Motion to approve with revision by Committee Member Kausch, seconded by Committee Member Stotesbery to approve. Approved 3-0.*

- 3. PUBLIC FORUM:** An opportunity for the public to directly address the Committee on items of interest to the public that are not listed on the agenda. Any person addressing the Committee should provide his or her name and address, and limit comments to five minutes. **Because of restrictions imposed by the Brown Act, the Committee may not engage in substantive discussion, nor take action on matters not described on the agenda.**

No public comment.

- 4. REPORTS BY STAFF AND COMMITTEE:** Reports by staff and/or committee on items of general interest. *Brief questions for clarification may be posed and answered, and Committee may request that items be placed on a future agenda. Except under certain circumstances, the Brown Act prohibits any other discussion or action by the Tree Committee.*

Arborist Haller mentioned that the Sheppard inoculation in the Tunnel of Trees was scheduled for next week. He mentioned that he attended an ISA meeting on August 2nd and brought back two ideas for the committee to consider. Haller said he would provide the committee a list of tree companies that are licensed and insured (in Sacramento) which is provided to people who are planning on trimming trees or doing tree work. The list is not a City endorsement for the contractors, rather a list that City verified were licensed and insured to trim trees in the city. Also from ISA there are fines that Sacramento is imposing. If anyone cuts down a branch that is more than 2" in diameter without a permit, they are charged \$100 per inch; and anyone who is doing work that is over a \$500 threshold, they must use a licensed contractor. Haller mentioned that these are ideas that the committee could consider putting on agenda for discussion to include in the tree ordinance.

Public Works Director Ferons commented that City Hall was open for public tours of the facilities.

Chair Ortega asked about the West America Bank tree that was knocked down. Haller briefed the committee as to status of what tree would be planted with the same type of tree that came down, but planting would happen in the fall.

**5. PERMITS TO BE DISCUSSED:**

- A. 1151 Vintage Ave; Permit application to remove five Alanthus trees approved in February; Discussion/recommendation for replacement trees;

Public Works Ferons briefed committee that the permit was approved months ago, and that Kathy Forni would like to replant but wanted committee input. Chair Ortega mentioned that Committee Member Carlin emailed her and suggested large trees. Haller stated that there are power lines that would interfere. Haller would like see a tree with a large umbrella for seasonal shade and heat. Committee Member Kausch mentioned fruitless mulberry. Haller stated that it was a lot of work, rangy and grows to the ground. Ortega mentioned a Trident and Committee Member Stotesbery suggested that Haller come up with a list of recommended trees.

*No committee decision was made.*

- B. 1225 Oak Street; Catholic Church/School Facility; Permit application to prune Sycamore Trees along the Right of Way;

Chair Ortega asked Haller if he knew who the arborist was for this permit application, Haller mentioned that he did not know but they would inform him who it would be. Haller stated that plan was to reduce canopy and this would be better for the trees. Haller mentioned that it would be a bonus for committee to approve but suggested that the applicant have a certified arborist do the work. Due to the prominent location of the trees, staff thought it prudent to bring it to committee for approval.

*Motion to approve with conditions that Arborist Haller meet with certified arborist prior by Committee Member Kausch, seconded by Committee Member Stotesbery to approve. Approve 3-0.*

**6. SCHEDULED MATTERS:**

- A. Our Town St. Helena; Proposed project site plan presentation; Requested by Our Town St. Helena representatives. (24:53)

Chair Ortega suggested that Our Town representative (applicant) provide a brief summary since there is was no full committee. Ferons stated that a formal application has not been made, but applicant sought a preliminary meeting. Applicant briefed committee about number, type and health of the 333 trees onsite, history of property, and intentions of replacement for mitigated trees. Applicant mentioned that there are no Heritage trees, as none of 228 oaks are large enough to qualify. Architect mapped them by poor form, poor health, and good health. Applicant stated that based on site plan, nine good trees would need to be removed with 66% of the trees to remain. Applicant was seeking committee suggestions for adding of approximately 60-80 new trees depending on how many moderates remain, but will have firmer numbers in next presentation. Applicant also mentioned that they would like to add an orchard park of fruit and nuts, as well as a vineyard on the property through which the revenues generated would be enough to maintain the orchard park. After presentation, committee had comments.

Stotesbery suggested a deed restriction, tree protection placed on the property. Ortega suggested that if applicant was considering removing good/fair trees that they focus attention on the more questionable trees an alter design plans possibly. Committee also mentioned that that it would be a one for one replacement for any good/fair trees. Kausch suggested talking about what would be appropriate right now for the replacement. Haller stated that there are a lot of trees with structural problems, any multi stemmed, divided tree trunks should be removed. Committee Member Kausch stated that Committee should pull together a recommendation of trees. Committee members Ortega, Kausch and City Arborist scheduled on-site viewing of property for Wednesday, August 14, 2:30 pm.

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

Ortega reviewed activity report with committee members. Committee discussed what would be included in the report, how it would be presented and how often to be sufficient for City Council's request for the activity report. Committee members discussed a full blown reports with PowerPoint to short concise reports. Haller mentioned that quarterly reports should be brief and one big presentation annually. Committee will work on a PowerPoint presentation report slated to present at beginning of 2014 and one brief report in September prior to the bigger presentation. Ferons suggested requesting the second meeting in September so Committee would have had a tree committee meeting prior.

**C. 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;**

Arborist Haller stated that he did not have an opportunity to review. Committee Member Stotesbery asked how far along is the collaboration and a brief update to bring her up to speed. Arborist Haller suggested to invite Rodney back for an update of present the plan. Committee discussed that they should do work on their comprehensive plan before they ask Downtown Renaissance to come back.

**D. 1000 Crane Avenue; City Planting Strip; Update and discussion; Request by Tree Committee Chair;**

Ortega asked staff to provide a brief status update. Ferons stated that according to Gallagher, Mayor Britton told him that the City put money in a budget to cut down the trees, as it turned out this was not the case. In the meantime the trees were cut down with the stumps remaining. Committee had not formalized the noticing. Committee discussed that the City needs to communicate with Gallagher about the stump grinding and then discuss appropriate types for replacement. Stotesbery suggested inviting Gallagher to participate in a meeting to discuss appropriate replacement, if Gallaher chooses not to participate then the Committee will decide without his input. Arborist Haller suggested that a smaller tree would be appropriate to appease the neighbor.

**E. Proposed revisions to amend Chapter 12.24 "Trees and other Vegetation" of the St. Helena Municipal Code to further protect trees within the community; Continued discussion from previous meetings;**

Chair Ortega said that Committee Member Carlin would like to be on the subcommittee and would like another member to be on the subcommittee to work on a more simplified tree ordinance. Committee Member Stotesbery indicated that she would like an opportunity to bring herself up to speed on the ordinance that was rejected by City Council and then come back at the next meeting to confirm that she would be on the subcommittee. Committee discussed that the ordinance should include protecting private property trees, and that applicant must choose from a certified arborist a lists that will be provided by the City.

**7. TENTATIVE AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING:**

A.

**8. ADJOURNMENT:** A motion to adjourn to a regularly scheduled meeting of the Tree Committee on September 12, 2013 at 3:30 P.M. in the main conference room of City Hall located at 1480 Main Street, St. Helena, CA was made at 5:05 pm