

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, September 19, 2013
3:30 pm

1. ROLL CALL

Present: Susann Ortega, Edie Kausch, Kacey Stotesbery, Carol Troy, Kellie Carlin and Susan Allen.
Absent: None.
Staff: City Arborist Jim Haller, Senior Management Analyst Kathy Robinson

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

August 8, 2013; Approved with revisions.

Motion to approve with revision by Committee Member Stotesbery seconded by Committee Member Kausch to approve. Approved 5-0.

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.**

During Public Comment Rodney Friedrich speaking for the Downtown Renaissance showed them a picture of a potential parklet for the downtown, said that red zones area would have parklets and gave a brief overview of where they are headed.

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 met with Caltrans and stated that six trees in the Tunnel of Elms are in serious decline and needs to be removed. The removal has not yet been scheduled and City Arborist Haller will keep the tree committee up to date.

5. PERMITS TO BE DISCUSSED:

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

Ortega briefed the committee where they left off. Arborist Haller provided a list of trees from the master list, selecting trees that were 40' or below so they would not need to be topped off in future years. Committee members discussed other trees, the location site, suitability and what other types of trees are in the area. Property owner Forni described the area that would receive the trees, prior use and preferred tree i.e. crate myrtle. Committee discussed with City Arborist various options. Committee provided their recommendation of Chiltapla, Golden rain tree, Chinese rain tree and Chinese pistache. Property owner Forni will take recommendation and research the trees listed and she will in turn choose from the committee's recommended list.

6. SCHEDULED MATTERS:

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

Chair Ortega handed out copy of 2013 Summary Activity Report of Tree Committee from December 2012 to May 2013. Ortega added Magnolia Oaks report stating that they could keep in with the tree committee report in this simplified model or keep it as a separate report. Committee member Stotesbury agreed to do the annual PowerPoint and another committee member would provide quarterly report. Stotesbury suggested adding on the November agenda a discussion of what the committee wants to put in the presentation as she would like to work on the presentation over the holiday. Committee members discussed that the level of detail on the summary report would be too much detail and to scale it down in the oral presentation, the summary report could still be a handout. Committee members then discussed quarterly reports. The quarterly presentation would provide just a brief report. Committee asked staff to request to be put on the City Council's schedule for October 8th to be presented by the Chair.

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;

Arborist Haller handed out tree survey and map. Committee member reviewed the inventory with Haller. Committee recommended starting out with 2-3 trees and to keep it spread out. Committee recommended to start with #42 (1153 Main), #70 (1400 Main) and #53 (1065 Main). Staff will start permit process and bring back to committee on October 8th meeting.

Public comment: Friedrich representing Downtown Renaissance interested in understanding how to work with tree committee. Downtown Renaissance hopes to raise money to trim annually instead of every five years. Renaissance would like to work with City in getting a quote for pruning, would like to have a recommendation from tree committee on how to prune (pruning guidelines). Renaissance wants to be on same page and would like to have input on where the replacement will be i.e. moved five feet to avoid being hit by cars and pedestrians. They do not want to in opposition with tree committee. They would also like to see height restrictions from a pruning standpoint. Friedrich asked that the committee consider all angles, doors opening on trees and people hitting head on trees.

Committee member Kausch suggested that small trees could be moved for safety and parking and to place these on agenda for the winter months as these are the best times to have them moved.

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

Chair Ortega briefed committee on current status. Arborist confirmed that there were no overhead lines and that there was a lot of space for taller trees. Gallagher thought the letter was his permission to remove at his expense and City to plant. Haller recommends three Black Oaks, 15 gallon, will provide lots of habitat, afternoon protection. Committee agreed to put this back on agenda and asked staff to send a letter to property owner Gallagher inviting him to next meeting to participate in discussions regarding the replacement tree.

D. 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 meeting

Committee member Stotesbury said she is comfortable being on subcommittee and she would like to see provisions that include protection for larger trees on private property. Committee member Carlin stated that the subcommittee would be condensing to two pages. Chair Ortega asked subcommittee to include the Tree Management Guide (staff to provide to Stotesbury).

E. Recent City Council Approval the Final Map of the Lands of Vintner's Court, LLC.; Request by Tree Committee Chair.

Chair Ortega discussed the last planning commission meeting about the Oak Tree Villa final map. Chair mentioned that Peter talked to her and thought that there were some wording changes to the Tree

Committee's recommendations. Chair said that she email City staff Ferons and Desmond to find out if there were changes to the final Oak Tree Villa map that was being presented to the Planning Commissioners regarding Tree Committee recommendations #11 and #12 made May 10, 2012. Chair said that there was staff wording changes which got Peter Eland very concerned. Chair went on to read the recommendation. Chair continued to brief committee on what happened at PC meeting, how nervous Peter was about the tree which caused PC Chair Heil to discuss and come up with new wording with attorney input. Chair Ortega reviewed her notes of the PC meeting with Tree committee. Committee member Carlin said she will watch the video and see if the Tree Committee should come back and appeal. Arborist Haller suggested that the Committee should ask Ferons or Desmond what actually happened before initiating an appeal.

7. TENTATIVE AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING:

A. Tree Committee reporting, City Main Street tree plan and 1000 Crane Avenue.

8. ADJOURNMENT: A motion to adjourn to a regularly scheduled meeting of the Tree Committee on October 10, 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 5:19 pm