

Tree Committee Members:

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

**SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
ST. HELENA TREE COMMITTEE
ST. HELENA CITY HALL, CONFERENCE ROOM
1480 MAIN STREET, ST. HELENA
Wednesday, October 23, 2013
3:30 pm**

1. ROLL CALL

Meeting called at 3:34 pm.

Present: Susann Ortega, Edie Kausch, Kacey Stotesbery, Carol Troy, and Kellie Carlin.

Absent: Susan Allen, Carol Troy (late arrival).

Staff: None.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

September 19, 2013 – Special Meeting; Approved with revisions.

Motion to approve with revision by Committee Member Kausch seconded by Committee Member Stotesbery to approve. Approved 4-0.

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.**

None.

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.*

Chair Ortega reported that she asked John to use the October 10th agenda for today's meeting and that he put Crinella Park Neighbor Park Tree Zone under Item 6. D. rather than Oak Tree Villa as requested. Chair would like to add to the next meeting's agenda: a discussion of the wording change by the Planning Commission regarding Vintner's Court (one foot excavation acceptable within the canopy of the neighbor's heritage oak tree). It was suggested that the Committee file an appeal on Resolution #2013-59 regarding this wording change.

5. PERMITS TO BE DISCUSSED:

A. 1065 Main Street; tree removal;

Notice on trees were for October 10th meeting and were not changed to reflect this meeting. Members discussed policy of tree noticing, and having Jesse from the Star write about the removal of the Main Street trees and that this is the first phase of the Downtown Renaissance streetscape plan changes. Members had discussion about whether the trees are part of the Downtown Renaissance streetscape. Jesse stated that he will talk to City Arborist. Member Stotesbery suggested stating that these trees are the first phase of the Downtown Main Street Survey which identified all of the trees that are in poor

condition. Members agreed that the St. Helena Star story should reflect that these trees are the first phase of the Tree Committee replaces the trees of Downtown Main Street Survey that are beyond repair.

B. 1153 Main Street; tree removal;

Notice on trees were for October 10th meeting and were not changed to reflect this meeting. See 5.A.

C. 1400 Main Street, tree removal;

Notice on trees were for October 10th meeting and were not changed to reflect this meeting.

6. SCHEDULED MATTERS:

Chair Ortega asked if members would be in agreement to discuss Item C. of scheduled matters first since the owners of the property were present. Committee member Kausch asked if there should be a motion. Decided to go ahead and discuss Item C first.

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

Chair Ortega handed out copies to Tree Committee members of the December 2013 through October 2013 activity report and Magnolia Oaks Subdivision report that she presented orally to Council on October 8, 2013.

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 absent. No discussion.

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 stated the trees have already been removed and replacement trees are being discussed. Property owner gave a quick background update. Bob Gallagher, Sr. and Bob Gallagher, Jr. were present. The City allowed the property owners to remove trees and invited them back to be part of the discussion of what the replacement trees will be planted. Main concern was that it was close to fence and tree debris was going into the garden. Owners were hoping for something that was low growing perhaps a bush, tree fairly low in stature, and will not have a lot of stuff falling into his garden. Committee member asked if shade was an issue, and owner responded yes because that is where the garden is located. Owner would prefer something that had little shade. Committee member Kausch asked owner to state concerns about these trees and what he would like to have done on the property and with these two trees. Owner stated that with the two trees remaining, to take them out and replace with something else, keep the replacement trees trimmed and clean up everything that drops down. Stotesbery had question about stumps and owner said they were still there and that the City waived the fees for the permit leaving it up to the tree removal company to keep or remove the stumps. Members discussed number of trees for replacement and placement, whether to remove stumps or plant in between. Stotesbery recalled that previous meetings discussed planting fewer trees which is how they to came to initially choose Black Oaks. Kausch indicated that the committee was now open to a different discussion with consideration of smaller trees or bushes. The question of removing the other Oaks came up and it was decided that they could not be talked about and therefore no decision could be made.

Committee discusses the desire for larger trees on this street, but suggests the following small stature trees as alternatives: Magnolia grandiflora 'Little Gem', Crape myrtle, Arbutus 'Marina' or Arbutus unedo standards. As to the number of trees to plant, Committee to defer to City Arborist Haller. Question as to who is financially responsible for the removal of the stumps remains as is the future of

the oak trees in the same locale that were not removed. Committee asks Jim Haller to address these items at the next meeting

D. Oak Tree Villas subdivision.

Chair Ortega mentioned in reports by staff and committee that this was not on agenda so it was not discussed; however Senior Management Analyst Robinson after reviewing tape recording and checking all agendas emailed to committee, posted on website and on agenda board did in fact have Oak Tree Villas subdivision on Section 6. Scheduled Matters Item D. on agenda. 2. Tree committee reporting to City Council: Mayor requests the Committee's report to the City Council be simple ('short and sweet'), and easy for the public to understand; other Councilmembers have requested the Committee report on non-compliant activities occurring in town, trends and issues, recommendations to Renaissance St. Helena regarding main street trees, current projects in town, what is working or not working, how the City can help the Committee, the needs of the residents and if they are following the ordinances, and why they might not be following them

A discussion of the City's website, prompted by the Mayor, ensued with suggestions given for a FAQ section in the Tree Committee's section. One Committee member commented that eNews list all City committees

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 November 14, 2013 at 3:30 P.M. in the main conference room of City Hall located at 1480 Main Street, St. Helena, CA was made.