

Alameda County Public Works Agency
Tree Advisory Board Meeting
Wednesday, May 18, 2005 3:00p.m.
Public Works Building, 951 Turner Court, Hayward
Conference Room 230

Minutes

Attendees: D. Sheppard, K. Ready, D. Gallagher, I. Brainerd, S. Jones, S. Jackson, J. Browne, Bobe Sidney, Hiep Li

I. Public Comment- None

II. Announcements

Inta announces that Don Nelson will not be attending today. Joey Kalafonos, intern, is moving to Redding. His last day working for Public Works was May 16, 2005.

III. Approval of Minutes

Minutes from February 16, 2005 approved by all Board members.

IV. Violation Hearings

16111 Berkshire Rd., San Leandro

Inta states that Public Works received a call from a constituent on April 11th about a tree that was removed in front of 16111 Berkshire Road in San Leandro. Inta went out the next day and there was no evidence of the tree and tanbark had been put out. The constituent provided Inta with the contractor's information, and the contractor was issued a notice of violation and a fee of \$100 was imposed for doing work without a permit. We haven't heard back from the contractor but our Fiscal Dept. will follow up on it. The property owner, Mr. Bobe, stated that the tree was dead.

Mr. Bobe comes before the board and describes that the tree was either dead or dying and was in fear of the tree falling on someone or something. A couple of guys came by and offered to remove the tree and he agreed. He indicated that he did not use the contractor that was fined. He's in the process of looking for a replacement tree and is prepared to purchase and plant the tree.

D. Gallagher states that the condition of the tree was up to 50%. According to calculation and other criteria listed on the appraisal, the tree would be worth ½ which would be \$170. There was a violation, this was a county tree, and there has been some loss. A lesser fine is warranted in this case, along with the requirement of replacing it with a 15 gallon tree (with the same species or similar).

Inta points out that Evergreen nursery has a program that allows you to order, purchase, and have a tree planted (by the nursery). The cost is between \$100 and \$175.

Discussion ensued and it is motioned that Mr. Bobe:

1. Obtain and hire a nursery that will replace a 15 gallon size moraine ash tree within the county right of way.
2. The cost should be around \$150-\$200
3. Obtain a permit (no fee)

4. If unable to obtain the ash tree, have the county recommend an alternate tree for replacement.

Motion carried. Inta will call Evergreen nursery tomorrow and set everything up for Mr. Bobe.

2789 Castro Valley Blvd, Castro Valley

Inta states that this tree was originally pruned back for sign clearance on 02/04. There was another report that ½ of the tree was removed. Inta spoke with Mr. Li and he said he was a new owner, and he wasn't aware of the ordinance. Jim Browne did a tree appraisal and it was valued at \$520. Mr. Li admitted he paid the contractor to perform the work. Mr. Li states that he's a new tenant at this property. The property owner never informed him of the tree ordinance. There is a maintenance worker that maintains the trees on the property. He doesn't have any agreement or contract with him, but he lives in the back of the property. The owner lives in Arizona.

D. Gallagher suggests the owner be cited and that this be considered a high violation, because the property owner knew of the violation, and the damage was severe. That equates to 3 times the value of the tree, replacement of tree (largest size) planted by a contractor. It should be brought back before the board once the property owner is contacted.

Inta will contact the property owner and Mr. Li will give Inta the owner's current address.

V. Foothill Blvd. Median Trees

About 4 years ago Jim Browne and Richard Hancocks planted sycamore trees along the Foothill Blvd. median and had planned to phase out the Liquidambar and a palm tree that were not particularly healthy. Due to changes in Jim's job assignment, the project went undone. The trees were planted close to maintain consistency in spacing and to make sure the same number of trees were planted. Inta suggests that in the fall, the 6 sycamores and 1 moraine ash tree be moved out from under the Liquidambar and 1 palm tree to an empty median south of the current location. The trees are dwarfed and overcrowded. Stu and his crew would likely be able to water and maintain the trees once planted.

The board motions that the 6 sycamores and 1 ash tree be removed only if the county has funding in place beforehand. Motion carried.

VI. Follow Up Items: (Items that need to be reported back to the TAB)

Update on what's taken place since the last meeting

Castro Valley Blvd. Update

Inta went along Castro Valley Blvd (between Strobridge and Norbridge) and identified 7 trees that were missing, damaged, or pruned. These 7 trees need to be replaced including the tree at 2789 C.V.B. D. Gallagher advises that there's another tree that needs to be replaced near an Italian restaurant and burrito shop. There's a tree well under a parked car.

Inta- There are 11 trees that we plan to monitor their health, due to pruning or some type of damage. They're in front of the Cigarette Box, The Ice Creamery, (3)Petfood Express,

(2) 3717 C.V.B, 3725 C.V.B, and several in front of the trailer park. Rather than replacing these trees, we'll restoratively prune them. I emailed Mr. Chamorro and asked if he's interested in adopting the replaced trees. The county would be able to provide assistance in watering the trees. Inta has not heard back from Mr. Chamorro. K. Ready suggests contacting Bonnie Dutton at the Chamber of Commerce in assisting with this project.

Inta will contact her.

Review Guide for Plant Appraisal, 9th Edition

Inventory Project update

Provided 3 phase project, we're currently in phase 2, Joey was going through and reassessing the health of the trees and identifying any problems and maintenance needs for the trees. Phase 3 would be taking inventory on flood control trees and all trees w/in county right of way. He's taken inventory on 1,408 trees within the areas of Niles, Sunol, Grant Ave, Ashland, Blossom Way, C.V.B., E.C.V.B, Foothill Blvd, Fairmont Dr., Western Blvd, and Wilbeam. However, due to lack of staff the Inventory Project has been placed on hold.

Violation Update

There are 8 total violations. 2 paid \$100, 2 combined as 1 in San Lorenzo (neighbor takes care of yard). Contractor was fined for completing work without a permit. 1 warning letter, 1 new hearing, 1 in Ashland, identified diseased mulberry trees, 1 on Camden Ave. Inta presents board with flow chart of the violation process.

PG&E Update

Inta met with Dee McDonough of PG&E. Dee gave Inta copies of letters (about 30) of those interested in restorative pruning. About 1/2 of the 30 qualify for restorative pruning. Still waiting for final list from Dee, and also making sure those who don't qualify receive notice. Inta will check to see if there are more trees on Grant that need to be restoratively pruned.

VII. Tree Advisory Board

Meeting procedures/conduct

Member recruitment- Re-appointment next January

TAB retreat- Suggested to discuss issues and concerns of the Board and to also introduce new members. Board needs to recruit from District's 1 & 5.

VIII. Other

None

IX. Wrap up and adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 5:07p.m.

Next meeting scheduled for Wednesday, August 17th, 2005