

Alameda County Public Works Agency
Tree Advisory Board Meeting
Wednesday, September 17, 2008
Public Works Building, 951 Turner Ct, Hayward
Conference Room 230

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair, Kathie Ready; Vice-Chair, Don Sheppard; Donald G. Nelson; Dan Gallagher, Dee McDonough

OTHERS PRESENT: Inta Brainerd; Steve Jones; Lupe Serrano; Holly Smith; Jaime Benson, Jim Brown, Glenn Morimoto (appellant): Erica Campisi

CALL TO ORDER: The chair called the meeting to order at 3:05

I. PUBLIC COMMENT: - None

II. ANNOUNCEMENTS: - None

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:-May 21, 2008

IV. APPEALS:

1645 Via Helena San Lorenzo, CA 94580

Staff received a permit application from Mr. Morimoto requesting to remove a Sycamore tree. Mr. Morimoto reported that the tree had caused problems to his sewer (line replaced in 2007), damaged the walkway and that it was sickly. Upon inspection, staff found the tree to be healthy and damage to the walkway minimal. Staff denied the permit and recommended that the tree be pruned.

The Tree Advisory Board members were provided with copies of the permit application staff's correspondence, Mr. Morimoto's letter of appeal and pictures of the tree in advance of the hearing.

Mr. Morimoto was present at the hearing. Mr. Morimoto presented pictures of his damaged walkway, receipts for sewer work and reported that the tree had been neglected in the past because the property had been a rental.

Recommendation:

Based on the information the property owner and staff provided, the Tree Advisory Board felt that the appeal should be denied and the tree retained. The Board voted unanimously to deny the appeal and recommended that Mr. Morimoto have the tree pruned to alleviate his concerns.

V. Hearings:
17287 Via Carmen, San Lorenzo, CA 94580

While responding to a request from SLVHA regarding another violation, staff noted that a tree had been topped at the above location. From the remaining tree debris and aerial pictures staff was able to estimate the tree had been approximately 65' tall and had not been previously pollarded. No decay or disease was observed.

The Tree Advisory Board members were provided with copies of the Arborist's report, tree appraisal and pictures of the tree in advance of the hearing. This hearing was postponed from May's meeting as the property owner was unable to attend due to a back injury.

Mr. Archuletta was not present at September's hearing and did not call or give notice to advise staff he would not be present. No further information was provided. Staff recommended postponing the hearing but the TAB felt that the property owner had been given a second chance and due to his failure to notify staff of his absence should move forward with the hearing.

Mrs. Archuletta responded to the initial violation notice and reported that her husband and a friend trimmed some branches to keep the birds from the nearby park from sitting in the tree. The birds were leaving droppings that were landing on the cars parked under the tree. She reported that they did not know they needed a permit.

A consulting arborist determined the tree to have been valued at \$5,050.00 (pre-pruning) and the loss of value to be \$2,200.00. The arborist also recommended that the tree be preserved and restoratively pruned once every 2-3 years at least three times. Restorative pruning costs estimated at \$2700 - \$3000 for three prunings.

Recommendation:

It was recommended that Mr. Archuletta be fined the full loss of value (\$2200) and be required to comply with the arborist's recommendation regarding the restorative pruning. The TAB's recommendation was unanimous.

15745 Via Colusa, San Lorenzo, CA 94580

Ms. Lavadiee was not present at the hearing due to conflicting work schedules.

Staff presented information that the property owner's daughter had supplied in response to the violation notice. She reported that a limb had broken over the driveway and her husband removed the limb. They did not know permits were required. In response to this information

staff re-inspected the tree and found at least 10-12 cuts on both sides of the property as well as on the house side.

Because the damage was relatively minimal, staff assessed the minimum fine of \$500.00 plus the \$100.00 fine for work without a permit. Further pruning will be required to correct the improper cuts.

Recommendation:

It was recommended that Mrs. Lavadiee be fined the minimum fine of \$500 plus the fine for work without a permit (\$100) for a total of \$600.00 and be required to correct the improper cuts. The TAB voted 4:1. The motion was opposed by Don Nelson.

VI. Presentation on the Cherryland Moratorium (Jim Browne, PWA)

1998 Survey from Siegal & Stran identifies properties that were potentially eligible for historic status. No official designation was given. However, a project subject to CEQA may require attention because the trees may be considered a potentially historic resource.

Board suggests that PWA define what constitutes a historic or heritage tree. Staff (Inta Brainerd) states that no additional protection would be provided because the ordinance already protects all trees in the County right of way. Staff offered to provide historic information regarding heritage or historical status at the next meeting.

VII. Presentation on the Hampton Rd. project (Jaime Benson, CDA)

Hortscience's Consulting Arborist inspected and tagged 48 trees on Hampton Rd. 27 were considered for removal. Only 10 trees will be removed and replaced. All new trees will be 15gal trees from the approved PG&E list of species.

Dee McDonough will provide new PG&E list to Jaime Benson.

Trees will be maintained by CDA's contractor for 3 yrs.

Staff requested that CDA notify property owners by mail after the 3 year County maintenance period ends advising them of the transfer of maintenance responsibility and permit requirements.

VIII. Follow Up Items: -None

IX. Other –None

X. Wrap up and Adjourn: Meeting adjourned at 4:54 P.M.