

Alameda County Public Works Agency
Tree Advisory Board Meeting
Wednesday, November 18th, 2009
Public Works Building, 951 Turner Ct, Hayward
Conference Room 230

MINUTES

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Inta Brainerd, Rosalyn Peralta, Kwablah Attiogbe, Josette McCabe, and James M. McCabe

CALL TO ORDER: The chair called the meeting to order at 3:02pm

I. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

II. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Inta Brainerd has moved out of M&O at Turner Court and is now assigned to Engineering & Construction, Environmental Services Section at 399 Elmhurst Street. As a result of the move she will most likely not be spending 100% of her time on the tree program anymore. She will now be reporting to Kwablah Attiogbe, supervisor of the Environmental Services section. Appeals and recommendations will still go to Daniel and it may be possible that future meetings be held in the Elmhurst auditorium.

III. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Minutes from May 20, 2009 approved.

IV. **FOLLOW UP ITEMS:**

- **SLVHA:** Where and when possible all trees removed in San Lorenzo will be replaced with Sycamore trees.
- **Grant St. Redwood trees:** Tom Clements and his attorney did propose additional terms that the County deemed unacceptable. County Counsel is still working with the former owner's attorney and if an agreement is not reached soon the matter will be pursued through litigation.
- **Final Document for Nuisance Tree List:** Approved
- **Revised Guidelines for Violations:** Inta has changed wording from "if possible" to "unless exempted" in the bottom portion of "Replacements".

- **Review of Master Fees Schedule:** Based on discussions, Inta proposes increasing the permit application fee and contractor fee for the yearly permit as well as looking at other ways to recoup costs associated with the tree program . A possible concern over increased fees is that they may become too cumbersome and people may not bother acquiring appropriate permits.

V. Hearings:

15984 Windsor Dr, San Leandro

It was reported that a Bradford Pear tree had been topped. No permits were issued for this work. This tree was part of the group of trees planted using grant funding.

Mr. Yee notified Inta and stated that he will not be present for the meeting. Inta called the contractor and indicated that the property owner is out of the country, but gave him an option to attend. Contractor opted to attend the postponed meeting and was not present. Inta proposed if the Board was willing to postpone this hearing till February.

Dee McDonough motioned to postpone till the February meeting.

Motion seconded by Dan Gallagher.

Motion approved unanimous.

21120 Redwood Rd, Castro Valley

It was reported that a Hackberry tree was topped at this location. No permits were issued for this work. The Hackberry tree is part of a streetscape that the County maintains. The owner responded to the violation notice and indicated that she had the tree trimmed because it was in contact with the roof and was dropping honeydew (sticky residue left by Aphids).

Josette McCabe (co-owner) attended the meeting in place of her sister in law, Miranda McCabe. She states that they were not aware of any permits or notifications that would indicate the tree was going to get serviced. In response to the violation, Ms. McCabe mailed a letter to Inta. Inta did not receive the letter but Ms McCabe provided a hard copy for TAB review. Copies were distributed

Ms. McCabe was concerned about the sticky tar-like substance falling from the tree that customers track into the building resulting in repeated carpet cleanings and a potential liability problem should someone slip on the bricks. Also there was a concern that the tree branches were hitting the roof during windy weather potentially causing damage.

Dan Gallagher requested a receipt or verification of work performed. Ms McCabe could not recall the contractor's business name and did not have the bill on hand.

Dan Gallagher pointed out that the tree produces "little berries" and that it is the property owner's responsibility for cleanup of any debris that falls from the tree. The sticky substance is secreted by aphids which the County has already established a control for. Inta advised Ms. McCabe of the County programs already in place regarding the pruning and insect control of the trees. Ms. McCabe was advised that for any future problems she should contact the Maintenance & Operations department.

Dan Gallagher motioned a fine of \$500 for improper work.

Motion seconded by Dee McDonough.

Motion approved unanimous.

VI. Other: Next TAB meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 24, 2010

VII. Wrap up and Adjourn: Meeting adjourned at 4:37pm