

**CITY OF REDLANDS**  
**STREET TREE COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING**  
**August 27, 2015**

**1. Call to Order at 5:30 pm – Attendance**

Present: Don Buchanan, Chair  
Chris Sedmack  
Janet Ward  
Andy Hoder  
Roy Mannickarottu  
Andrejs Galeniek

City Council: Absent  
QOL Staff: Tim Sullivan  
Jocelynn Santa Cruz

Redlands Community  
Foundation liaison: Absent

Visitors: Annette Franco, SCE  
Chuck Dykes, SCE  
Chris Abel, SCE  
Phil Garrison, Redlands Fire Department  
James Harris, SCE  
Gil Garcia, SCE

**2. Public Comments** – Don Buchanan introduced everyone present, including the SCE visitors. Don Buchanan received a phone call from Kathleen Noehren about a dead tree at 705 Lugonia Ave. Erik Reeves was contacted and is working with Cal Trans for removal. Tree is on removal list once city gets new tree trimming budget.

**3. Approval of Minutes** – Approval of Minutes for July 6, 2015, Special Meeting. Eric Reeves is Erik Reeves, and trees should be all in lower case. Janet Ward motioned to approve the minutes with changes in spelling of Erik’s name and making trees all lower case, Roy Mannickarottu seconded. Unanimously approved (Don Buchanan, Chris Sedmack, Janet Ward, Andy Hoder, Roy Mannickarottu, Andrejs Galeniek).

**4. Status Reports**

a. *Bi-Monthly review of any new City parkway street trees in proposed developments (QOL)* – Tim Sullivan reported that Erik Reeves had no new developments to report.

b. *Bi-Monthly Street Tree Overview (QOL) – Update on City parkway trees trimmed, removed or planted* – Tim Sullivan reported 8 emergency city parkway tree removals due to heat-related issues such as dropping limbs. 1446 Sylvan Blvd (Eucalyptus), 514 Buena Vista St (Coast Live Oak), Sylvan Park (Coast Live Oak) 1311 Stillman Ave (Ash tree), 256 Cajon St (3 Bottle trees ),1231 Friar Ln (Liquid Ambar), 1 E. State St (Bradford

Pear), 5 E State St (Bradford Pear), 1106 W. Highland Ave (Pepper tree), 1072 W. Pioneer Ave (3 Liquid Ambar). Tim Sullivan reported that the city's annual tree maintenance Purchase Order for City Tree Maintenance/trimming will be larger than before with the new 2016 city tree budget. Currently, there is \$35,000 to cover interim minor tree work with West Coast Arborist (WCA). The city must go out for new bids for city tree service in the 2016 city tree budget. Andy Holder asked about the Gateway Project. General Funds for the project were not used, just funds from the Palmetto Orange Grove Sale. Eureka Ave and Orange Street on and off ramps are being improved by Cal Trans. Janet Ward asked if the City could use some of the Palmetto funds from the sale of a city owned orange grove to start trimming palm trees in high density areas.

## 5. New Business

- a. *Presentation by SCE Region Manager Local Public Affairs (Annette Franco)* – The Redlands area Southern California Edison (SCE) came to the STC meeting to show their partnership with the city and the STC. The SCE Presentation stated that SCE covers 50,000 square mile area, have 21 arborists, most ISA certified, and certified tree trimmers for high voltage line work. SCE is regulated by the Public Utility commission. 99% of trees needing trimming do not belong to Edison. Palm trees which need trimming, or replacement, SCE tries to replace the removed trees with appropriate tree species which SCE grows up in the Central Valley of California. Edison stated they had 250 trees to donate to the city of Redlands, to be used only in Parks, not as Street Trees. Chuck Dykes, SCE, handed out brochures “Right Tree, Right Place”, and “Avoiding Tree & Utility Conflicts”, put out by ISA. As cities develop, SCE tries to avoid future hardscape conflicts. Undergrounding also could causes conflicts with water and roots.

Current undergrounding projects include Cypress/San Mateo using Rule 20A monies. Cable and telephone companies may provide additional funds. Janet Ward commented to have Edison buy endangered Palm trees now that the housing/building market is picking up and landscapers are looking for trees for their construction projects. Andy Holder clarified that endangered Palm trees are either destroyed or relocated. SCE commented that there is a policy in place where Edison notifies the QOL department daily for updates on where they will be working. Andy Holder commented that Mowbray's had been doing a bad job trimming trees and Edison needed to improve their contractors work, and needed to coordinate the tree trimming so the trees still looks like a tree. Edison said Mowbray's is no longer the Edison contractor. Utility Tree Service out of San Bernardino is their new tree trimming contractor.

- b. *Discussion of street trees and adjacent parkway vegetation* – Chris Sedmack discussed policy for planting City Parkways with inappropriate landscaping, such as rose bushes, and hardscape. Tim Sullivan said Code Enforcement is checking around to prevent inappropriate plantings before it happens. Chris Sedmack asked how QOL is going to tell the homeowner to tear up what they put in the city parkways, due to the

drought, when the city starts planting new trees again. Tim Sullivan is checking on that. Tim Sullivan reported MUED has a rebate program and citizens are calling in wanting to pull out all of their grass, including the city parkways, including the city parkway trees. QOL is going to the sites to prevent code violations and doing outreach to the homeowners. Linda Richards or Carl Baker will be asked to do up more newspaper articles on improving the health of the city parkway trees during this drought period. Tim Sullivan will find out what MUED is going on publicity and reaching out to the public, and will check on what can be done. Currently, no thorn bearing bushes, thorny cactus or thorny trees can be planted in city parkways. The city has had several issues with thorn bearing plants.

- c. *Discussion of Parkway and street tree drought challenges* – Don Buchanan reported on seeing additional dead city parkway trees with homeowners not watering the trees. Andy Holder brought up the Made-In-The-Shade Program and finding discrepancies in the forms on the city's web site. Jocelynn developed a new and improved form. Proposed having QOL and Tim Sullivan go over the improved new form and have it match the one on internet. Made-In-The-Shade Program is on hold until city approves new tree trimming/maintenance contract. Tree trimming prices may change, depending on new contractor.

## **6. Old Business**

- a. *Discussion and recommendation of STC public outreach Power Point Presentation* – Don Buchanan reported on the updated version of the Power Point STC Presentation. Don Buchanan and Tim Sullivan have been updating the presentation and needed a motion to allow them to go out into the Redlands community to give presentations. Power Point Presentation will be updated, as needed. Roy Mannickarottu motioned, Andy Holder seconded. Motion carried unanimously (Don Buchanan, Chris Sedmack, Janet Ward, Andy Hoder, Roy Mannickarottu, Andrejs Galeniaks).
- b. *Discussion and possible recommendation of new utility bill insert information* – Possible new insert recommendation be on appropriate plantings in city parkways, such as no thorny shrubs, etc. Tim Sullivan and Don Buchanan will work on it. Tabled.
- c. *Discussion and possible recommendation of the STC's involvement with the Honorary Tree Program* – Tabled.

## **7. Possible Agenda items for Next Meeting**

- a. Discussion and possible action concerning the city's Municipal Code as it affects Street Trees. Discuss code discrepancy criteria for trimming trees.
- b. Utility Bill – Work on new STC insert. Stressing our city trees being the 3rd most valuable asset to the city. Possibly expanding to all of the local newspapers in addition. To provide better coverage on appropriate plantings in city parkways, such as no thorns on bushes, trees, etc.

- c. Discussion and possible action on revising the 2016 STC Goals and the 2015 STC Accomplishments and submitting current lists of Goals and Accomplishments.
- d. Discussion of City Parkway policy on what hardscape/plants which could be planted in city parkways, especially AFTER homeowner has planted the city parkway.
- e. Discussion and possible action on recommended amendments to the Street Policy and Protection Guidelines Manual with submission of Letter to CC for approval.
- f. Discussion and possible action on designation of Landmark Trees, Heritage Tree Rows and Stand, and Scenic Preservation Trees.

**8. Adjournment at 7:30 pm to next Special Meeting, September 28, 2015**

Submitted by Chris Sedmack, Secretary