

**CITY OF REDLANDS
STREET TREE COMMITTEE MEETING
August 28, 2014**

1. Call to Order at 5:30PM – Attendance

Present: Don Buchanan, Chair
Janet Ward
Linda Richards
Paul Woltzer
Andrejs Galenieks
Anita Braumberger

City Council: Jon Harrison
QOL Staff: Jocelynn Santa Cruz

Redlands Community
Foundation liaison: Absent

- 2. Public Comments** – Janet Ward reported that Jeremy & Cara Jackson at 246 Hastings Street had called Quality of Life (QOL) to have a dead tree which was covered with ivy cut down. Cara Jackson was very pleased with the city’s response in getting the dead tree removed in a timely manner and the mess cleaned up.
- 3. Approval of Minutes** – Approval of Minutes for April 24, 2014 regular meeting. Janet Ward motioned, Linda Richards seconded, motion passed unanimously. (Don Buchanan, Janet Ward, Linda Richards, Paul Woltzer, Andrejs Galenieks, and Anita Braumberger).
- 4. Status Reports**
- a. *Bi-Monthly review of any new City parkway street trees in proposed developments (QOL)* – Jocelynn Santa Cruz reported no new construction except for previously mentioned two new warehouses going in at San Bernardino Avenue. Chris Sedmack mentioned again the possibility of getting the contractor to use some of our endangered Palm Trees in their new projects.
 - b. *Bi-Monthly Street Tree Overview (QOL) – Update on City parkway trees trimmed, removed, or planted* – Jocelynn Santa Cruz reported that WCA trimmed 350 trees throughout Redlands through the Paris Program and routine maintenance. 20 trees were removed, most of them dead, along with 1 China Berry parkway tree which was damaged during the early August rain storm. No new trees have been planted. A big Ash Tree at 429 Phlox Court is planned to be removed due to damaging infrastructure at this location. Chris Sedmack still needs a dead tree at 1326 Fulbright removed.

- c. *Honorary Tree Program Update* – No report. Continued. Janet Ward would like to have tax write-offs for tree donations to the Honorary Tree Program. Chris Sedmack is to contact Shelli Stockton to find out the status of fall Honorary Tree Planting Projects and will contact Neal Waner on the available tree planting funds available through the Redlands Community Fund.

5. New Business

- a. *Discussion and action to appoint new Street Tree Committee Chairperson* – In the absence of key QOL staff Don Buchanan as STC Secretary invited introductions of the two new STC members Andrejs Galenieks and Anita Braumberger as well as all STC members, City Council and QOL staff at beginning of meeting so as to establish relationships. Janet Ward moved to nominate Don Buchanan as new STC Chairman as Chris Sedmack has been termed out. Paul Woltzer 2nd. Motion approved unanimously. Chris Sedmack volunteered to continue attending meetings and serve as secretary with City Council Member Jon Harrison's stated approval. (Don Buchanan, Janet Ward, Paul Woltzer, Linda Richards, Andrejs Galenieks, and Anita Braumberger.)
- b. *Palm tree: trimming, removing and selling endangered Palms-*
Continued. Janet Ward asked the status of sale of endangered Palm Trees under utility lines. Only one vender responded to the bidding process. Chris Sedmack commented on the possibility of getting the new developments in Redlands, as a process of approval, to try and get the developers to move our existing endangered Palm Trees instead of purchasing them from outside Redlands and moving them to their new projects. Jon Harrison asked QOL to ask the Planning Staff to keep in mind about moving Redlands endangered Palm Trees. The STC needs to make recommendation to Planning Commission and get CC approval on getting the Planning Commission to consider moving endangered Palm Trees into their approval process. Jocelynn Santa Cruz to ask Tim Sullivan to talk to the Planning Commission on this topic. Linda Richards to contact Nelda Stuck to get name of the vendor who moved a private tree in Redlands as it appeared in the Redlands Facts.
- d. *Discussion and possible action of the Street Tree Committee's involvement with the Honorary Tree Program* – Continued. See item 4c.
- e. *Discussion and possible action on recommendations to Council regarding street tree root barriers, tree trimming and maintenance schedules* –
Continued. Jon Harrison stated that Rule 13 allows Edison to get money from utility users in order to get funds for undergrounding existing overhead power lines. The city and the CC approves undergrounding projects with Edison accumulated funds. New utility lines for new construction projects, as a rule, had to be undergrounded since 1970.

Paul Woltzer commented on the use of Root Barriers – if residents use less surface water, tree roots stay near the surface in search of water. Deep watering and fertilizer promote root growth to go down deeper therefore preventing so much root damage by the roots remaining at the surface.

Janet Ward reported a dead newly planted Atlantis Cedrus tree in the Redlands median between Cypress and Ford Avenue. QOL will have Eric Reeves check the sprinklers to make sure they are working.

Janet Ward would like Eric Reeves to come up with a maintenance schedule to trim whole sections of parkway trees in Redlands at one time, instead of so piece-meal. Jon Harrison commented that to have a city-wide maintenance program would cost \$300,000 per year to keep up to date with tree trimming and that much funds are not available. The budget for 2015 is \$140,000 for the whole budget year.

- f. *Discussion and possible action on the use of fertilizer on street trees* – Paul Woltzer commented on the benefits of using fertilizer tabs when planting and during future maintenance of Street Trees. He had pictures of a Chinese Tallow Tree planted in front of his house compared with the same variety of tree planted on Garden St. It showed the effect of using \$6.00 of fertilizer tabs and his tree was considerably larger than the tree on Garden St which did not use tabs. Paul reported the function of using fertilizers on a tree. Regular watering drives nutrients out of the soil. Plant tabs stay in the soil for 2 years and are better used by the new trees.

6. Possible Agenda items for Next Meeting –

- a. Discussion and possible action concerning the Administrative functions of the Honorary Tree Program being returned to the STC.
- b. STC 2014 Goals and STC 2013 Accomplishments to present to the CC.
- c. Have WCA give assessment on the drought challenges facing our parkway trees and predicted future drought conditions.
- d. Utility Bill – Work on new STC insert. Possible of stressing our city trees being the 3rd most valuable asset to the city
- e. PowerPoint Presentation – Don Buchanan to use updated PowerPoint Presentation to community/service group organizations on the purpose and contributions the STC has made to Redlands. QOL to get approval to update PowerPoint Presentation.

7. Adjournment at 6:10 PM to next regularly scheduled meeting, October 23, 2014.

Submitted by Chris Sedmack, Secretary