

**CITY OF REDLANDS
STREET TREE COMMITTEE MEETING
February 26, 2015**

1. Call to Order at 5:35 pm – Attendance

Present: Don Buchanan, Chair
Chris Sedmack
Janet Ward
Linda Richards
Andrejs Galenieks
Andy Hoder
Roy Mannickarottu

City Council: Absent
QOL Staff: Tim Sullivan
Eric Reeves

Redlands Community
Foundation liaison: Absent

- 2. Public Comments** – Introduction of all Street Tree Committee Members, QOL Staff plus visitors – David Dangermond and wife Pat Dangermond. David Dangermond spoke on possible recommendations to City Staff on dealing with current drought on city trees. 15 years ago, Don Buchanan had interviewed Allen Dangermond, his father who served on the Street Tree Committee decades ago and received good input, so Don Buchanan invited David Dangermond for update. Don Buchanan passed out a handout on how the state of Georgia deals with drought and the stress on their urban trees. Recommendations: Do not plant during hottest months of the year, plant in the late fall and winter so trees can become established before the summer months. Do not plant in the summer or early fall months. Palm Trees are very drought tolerant such as Washingtonia and Canary Date Palms. The problem with drought tolerant trees is how they are watered. Lawns are planted around the trees and therefore drought tolerant trees receive too much water and die from too much caring. Buffalo Grass is recommended. Takes water twice a month and looks good. Crape Myrtles are drought tolerant, but are killed due to weedwhackers. Holly Oak and Virginiana Live Oak are ideal because they are resistant to Oak Rot. Recommends that when it is raining, golf courses not water their roughs; turn-off water on schools, parks, public buildings, etc.. These few steps will save a lot of water. If everyone saves 1 gallon a day, plant a tree and water it.
- 3. Approval of Minutes** – Approval of Minutes for December 11, 2014. Correction on #3, Approval of Minutes from December 11, 2014. Correction should read **Andrejs Galenieks seconded**. Linda Richards motioned, Janet

Ward seconded. Motion carried with correction. (Don Buchanan, Chris Sedmack, Janet Ward, Linda Richards, Andrejs Galenieks, Andy Hoder, Roy Mannickarottu).

4. Status Reports

- a. *Bi-Monthly review of any new City parkway street trees in proposed developments (QOL)* – Erik Reeves reported no new plantings. DRC working on new developments, but nothing to report yet. The project on the North Side/San Bernardino Avenue - nothing to report.
- b. *Bi-Monthly Street Tree Overview (QOL) – Update on City parkway trees trimmed, removed, or planted* – Erik Reeves reported that few trees were trimmed, no new ones planted. City removed 100-150 trees in December and 2 emergency removals. No budget left for trimming until new budget approved.
 - Erik Reeves reported that in August 2014, the City removed twenty six, 90ft tall, over 100 year old palm trees, at the end of Nevada Street by the waste water plant. The Street Tree Committee was never informed of these trees in danger of being removed until tonight, Feb 26, 2015. Edison removed the entire row of historic trees all in a row. When the winds blow in that area, the palm fronds were blowing onto the wires and the waste water plant would lose power. They had many complaints over many months/years. Chris Sedmack asked why this was never brought before the STC and the response was it was an emergency. Chris Sedmack said we might have been able to do something had we known months ago. Erik Reeves stated that some trees were moved, but due to their age, weren't doing very well. QOL and CC stopped Edison from destroying any more historic Palm Trees without notifying QOL first. QOL has shifted to a quarterly permit instead of a yearly permit for Edison. Edison must contact Tim Sullivan at QOL before doing any tree removals.
 - Erik Reeves reported that they received a report of someone removing city trees on Campbell/Summit so they responded and saved the Palm Trees being illegally sold. Janet Ward asked if that Landscape Firm could buy some of our endangered under the Edison wire Palm Trees. Erik Reeves said he had the business card from the Landscape Firm and would contact them.

5. New Business

- a. WCA was to give STC an assessment on the drought challenges facing our parkway and street trees and predicted future drought conditions as requested in our December special meeting, but were not available to do so at this time. – Erik Reeves will provide STC a list of drought challenges – ideas at April meeting.

- b. Utility Bill – Work on new STC insert. Possible stressing our city trees being the 3rd most valuable asset to the city – Linda Richards will work with Tim Sullivan and Don Buchanan to come up with a Utility Bill insert on how to water parkway trees during a drought.
- c. PowerPoint Presentation – Don Buchanan to present updated PowerPoint presentation to STC for use at community/service group organizations for the purpose and contributions the STC has made to Redlands – Don Buchanan presented 2006 Power Point that Ron Mutter had produced and both of them had shared with service clubs and other organizations around Redlands for two years. None of the current members of the STC had ever seen this, and Don is working to revise it with QOL staff. He gave one version of the updated Power Point and noted additional items that needed to be included. Don is to continue updating Power Point Presentation and will present it to STC again at April STC meeting.
- d. Current count of all dead Redlands Street and Parkway Trees – Erik Reeves reported there are approximately 1100 dead trees which need to be removed in Redlands, including Liquid Ambers. Don Buchanan will provide Tim Sullivan with a list of addresses and pictures of small dead trees on the North Side which the Boy Scouts may be able to remove, along with stakes, so as to expedite the long standing list of trees to be removed. Andy Hoder asked if the city could give the firewood to a vendor if they will remove the dead trees for free. Upper Management current policy is all or nothing. Tim Sullivan will talk with Fred Cardenas and see if QOL could bid out proposal to remove dead tree for free firewood.
- e. Discussion of WCA approved Street Tree Palette recommendations – Tabled to next meeting since WCA representative was not present.
- f. City Parkway policy on what hardscape/plants can be planted in city parkways needs discussion at April meeting. Tabled due to late hour of 2 hour meeting.
- g. Each new STC and CC member liaison needs copy of CC Approved Street Tree Policy and Protection Guidelines Manual. Tim Sullivan to provide.
- h. Discussion on communication between QOL and STC on removal of trees in City Parkways to be continued at next meeting.

6. Old Business

- a. *Discussion and possible action of the Street Tree Committee's involvement with the Honorary Tree Program* - No report. Janet Ward will get with Char Burgess on Tree Planting Projects.
- b. *Street Tree Program Outline PowerPoint* – Don Buchanan, Tim Sullivan and Jocelynn Santa Cruz will continue to update PowerPoint Presentation.
- c. *Discussion and possible action regarding Arbor Day 2015 activities* – Erik Reeves reported that 1-2 thornless Palo Verde Trees and a California Sycamore will be planted at the Redlands Historical Park as recommended during our December special meeting. Eric Reeves to let the STC know

the date so we can help plant the trees. Janet Ward motioned and Linda seconded approval of this plan for limited plantings in Heritage Park for 2015 Arbor Day due to continued 4th year of drought. Motion passed (Don Buchanan, Chris Sedmack, Janet Ward, Linda Richards, Andrejs Galenieks, Andy Hoder, Roy Mannickarottu).

- d. *Discussion and possible action regarding 2015 Goals and 2014 STC Accomplishments to date* – Chris Sedmack as past Chair of STC and Don Buchanan gave Tim Sullivan and committee members the revised and updated 2014 STC Accomplishments to submit to CC. All STC members were given two page listing of 2015 goals for review and discussion at our April meeting due to the fact we just lost three members and added three new ones as of this evening. New members need time to evaluate the goals before approval.

6. Possible Agenda items for Next Meeting –

- a. SC Edison attend another STC meeting on using Ally Arms to save trees.
- b. New Utility insert DRAFT for final approval.
- c. Examples of contractor trees still not being pruned correctly.
- d. Review of updated 2015 Street Tree Committee Power Point for approval before Tim Sullivan and Don Buchanan start visiting service clubs and other organizations in town to publicize our support role to the QOL and City Council.

7. Adjournment at 7:30 pm to next regularly scheduled meeting, April 23, 2015.

Submitted by Chris Sedmack, Secretary