

**CITY OF REDLANDS
STREET TREE COMMITTEE
SPECIAL MEETING
March 30, 2016**

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

Present: Don Buchanan, Chair
Janet Ward
Linda Richards
Andy Hoder
Roy Mannickarottu
Chuck Dykes
Absent: Andrejs Galeniaks

City Council: Absent
QOL Staff: Erik Reeves
Greg Brooks (MUED)

Redlands Community
Foundation Liaison: Absent

Visitors: Chris Sedmack

2. Public Comments – None

3. A. *Discussion and possible recommendation about redwood trees at Fire Station #2 on Garden Street* – Erik Reeves reported that, even though these are not Street Trees, the City Manager has asked the Street Tree Committee (STC) for their opinion concerning the removal of four dying Redwood trees at the Fire Station on the corner of Garden/Rossmont Avenue. The City is nearly finished with relandscaping all four of the Redlands Fire Stations to show homeowners demonstration models of plants and landscaping styles that they could use in their own yards for water conservation. Fire Stations # 1 and # 3 are already done. Erik Reeves has checked the Redwoods at Fire Station # 2, and had an outside arborist check them additionally. They feel herbicides caused the trees to start dying and evidence is noted on the ground around the trees to verify that. The contractor hired to landscape the Fire Stations does not want to work around or be responsible for the dying trees. Janet Ward reminded everyone that the soil is toxic for 3 months after removing these trees and asked about using Bayer's Systemic on the trees to save them in lieu of removal. Erik and the arborist recommend removing the three dead Redwood trees and one showing signs of disease or unhealthy condition to be replaced with four trees of a different species, probably drought resistant. Greg Brooks stated that the contractor charges \$1,000 for each tree to remove and replace with a 15 gal tree. Janet Ward alternatively suggested leaving the Redwoods and having local artists do a sculpture possibly by the Redlands Art Association, but no consensus was followed up on this idea. Linda Richards commented on the concerns with using weed cloth to block weeds as not letting in water and killing the micro-organisms in the soil but that was not a factor in these trees dying. Erik

Reeves reported that they will be planting four new trees along with planned shrubs, orange trees, mulch, etc., taking in account the surrounding area. Erik Reeves will work with Carl Baker to contact the Redlands Daily Facts to have a reporter do a story on the four dying Redwoods being removed, the circumstances, and that they will be replaced.

Motion made by Andy Holder to “Remove four dying Redwood trees in a cluster at Fire Station # 2 on the corner of Garden/Rossmont Avenue.” Chuck Dyke seconded the motion. Motion carried. (Don Buchanan, Linda Richards, Andy Hoder, Roy Mannickarottu, Chuck Dykes approved, Janet Ward opposed).

- B. Discussion and possible recommendation about Earth Day event on April 22, 2016 – Linda Richards reported that Jon Harrison, along with Katie at the Chamber of Commerce, have a last minute Earth Day event to be held on Friday April 22, 5:00 pm – 8:00 pm at Ed Hales Park in Redlands. Don Buchanan said the STC was invited to participate in this City Earth Day program funded by a grant obtained by the Chamber of Commerce. Jon Harrison and City staff has encouraged the STC to provide a table to hand out information on how to take care of trees. This year’s Earth Day theme is “planting trees”, something that our STC is quite experienced at doing. Linda Richards will reserve a table for the STC and Chris Sedmack, Janet Ward and Linda Richards will staff the STC table. Chris Sedmack will call Cal-Fire in Riverside to try and obtain handout brochures on the planting, care and maintenance of trees.
- C. Discuss Arbor Day planting – Don Buchanan, Jocelynn Santa Cruz and Erik Reeves are coordinating dates, paperwork and other details for Redlands Arbor Day 2016 to be conducted at our Hillside Memorial Cemetery. The Proclamation Declaration for the Arbor Day is in staff development at the present time. The Arbor Day planting this year will be conducted on National Arbor Day, April 29th, at 5:00 pm in BLOCK 5 of the City Cemetery, north of the old Mausoleum. The STC will be planting, along with four members of the Redlands City Council and a Cub Scout den invited by Councilmember John James, two 15 gal Incense Cedar trees to replace the two dead Incense Cedar trees that have already been removed. West Coast Arborist contractors will provide the trees and resources for this planting. Non-potable water will be used to nurture these trees to fill in gaps in cemetery landscaping while we respect the drought water conservation guidelines directed by the State of California during this 4-year drought. Don Buchanan will invite the Redlands Daily Facts to attend.

8. Adjournment at 6:20 pm to next Meeting, April 28, 2016

Submitted by Chris Sedmack, Secretary