

**CITY OF REDLANDS**  
35 Cajon St., Council Chambers  
**STREET TREE COMMITTEE**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**June 23, 2016**

**1. Call to Order at 5:33 pm – Attendance**

Present: Don Buchanan, Chair  
Andrejs Galenieks  
Andy Hoder  
Roy Mannickarottu  
Chuck Dykes  
Linda Richards

Absent: Janet Ward (excused by prior notice)

City Council: Paul Barich

QOL Staff: Tim Sullivan  
Aaron Evans  
Jocelynn Santa Cruz

Redlands Community  
Foundation Liaison: Absent

Visitors: Chris Sedmack  
Matt Levesque, representing homeowners at 1264 W. Crescent Ave.  
Paul Jacobson, Owner at 1264 W. Crescent Ave.  
Melissa Steward, Owner at 1266 W. Crescent Ave.  
Keith & Mia Sheffer, Owners at 843 Cedar Ave.  
Eva Rojas, Owner at 511 W. Palm Ave.

**2. Public Comments** – All visitors were in attendance to speak on respective Agenda items. No other public comments.

**3. Approval of Minutes –**

A. Minutes for April 28, 2016 Regular Meeting. To be accepted as submitted, motion by Andy Hoder, second by Roy Mannickarottu. The motion passed unanimously. (Don Buchanan, Andy Hoder, Roy Mannickarottu, Andrejs Galenieks, Linda Richards, and Chuck Dykes.

B. Minutes of May 16, 2016 Special Meeting. To be accepted as submitted, motion by Linda Richards, second by Roy Mannickarottu. The motion passed unanimously. (Don Buchanan, Andy Hoder, Roy Mannickarottu, Andrejs Galenieks, Linda Richards, and Chuck Dykes.

#### **4. Status Reports – (Given by Tim Sullivan)**

A. Bi-monthly review of any new City parkway street trees. No reportable action.

B. Bi-monthly Street Tree Overview. Fifteen trees were removed, ten were trimmed. Currently using limited City staff until purchase order with West Coast Arborists takes effect on July 1<sup>st</sup>, when the new Fiscal Year Budget becomes effective.

Councilman Paul Barich informed the Committee that he will ask City Council to increase funds allocated for Street Tree purposes up to \$270,000 (approximately \$30,000 more than last year's allocation). There is also supposed to be a meeting with Redlands Community Foundation on July 8<sup>th</sup>, to ask for possible contributions from them. Ms. Eva Rojas commented from the audience that we should seek donations from local businesses to "sponsor" Street Tree activities.

#### **5. Old Business –**

A. *Discussion and possible recommendation regarding proposed tree removal at 1246 W. Crescent Ave.* — (This matter was continued from an Agenda item at the May 16<sup>th</sup> Special Meeting). Tim Sullivan identified three mature camphors in front of the owner's property. At this point there was input from Mr. Paul Jacobson (homeowner at this address) and his representative, Mr. Matt Levesque, pertaining to perceived damage to a retaining wall, which they believe was caused by roots from the subject trees. They said they had consulted with their own arborist and a civil engineer, who together advised them that the wall was stressed because of pressure from the adjacent tree roots. It was the owner's opinion that if the wall collapsed as a result of this condition, then the City would have liability for damages.

This agenda item had been held over so that all STC members could conduct a site visit to determine issues not brought up at the special meeting. Don Buchanan asked the other STC members if they had visited the site, and what observations or opinions they might have. All of the STC member had visited the site and noticed that tree roots had migrated under the base of the wall. Andy Hoder indicated he saw roots from the tree had caused minimal damage to the adjacent stone curb, and asphalt pavement on the street. In his view, one of the trees had significant die-out from an unknown cause. Another tree limb was extending into the street at an angle and height such that it was being impacted by trash trucks. He was concerned that if the limb broke off, it could cause damage to vehicles and/or injury to pedestrians. He also called attention to an old drip irrigation line which was wrapped around the bases of the trees—it was questionable whether the lines were still functional, but he inquired as to whether excess irrigation at some earlier point in time may have contributed to pressure on the wall.

Don Buchanan, Chris Sedmack and Janet Ward had visited the site and did not see any measurable damage to the retaining wall. Andrejs Galenieks referred to the City's guidelines for maintenance of the urban forest and said he was in favor of preserving the trees.

There was further dialog between STC members, the homeowner and his representative, who referred to the minutes from the previous STC meeting which noted that Erik Reeves had inspected the site and generally agreed that removal of this tree would be appropriate. Don Buchanan stated that he had submitted photos of the site to Erik Reeves and Erik had changed his opinion. (Erik Reeves was not present at this meeting and therefore could not comment).

Ms. Melissa Steward (owner of the adjacent property at 1266 W. Crescent Dr.) commented that she had only been contacted by someone from the Street Tree Committee the

day prior to this meeting and was not previously aware of the issues with the trees in front of her neighbor's house (at 1264 W. Crescent Dr.). Subsequent to that discussion, it was her impression that the trees in front of her property might also be removed as part of the series of same-species trees that were in question, because of similar damage caused to the street and curb, and because it would be more economical for the City to remove all those trees at once. She said she and her husband would be opposed to the removal of the trees in front of her house.

After further discussion, Don Buchanan then called for a motion on the matter. Chuck Dykes motioned for the removal of the trees in question at this address. Linda Richards seconded the motion. Chairman Don Buchanan then called for a vote.

The vote was 5 to 1 against removing the trees. The motion did not pass. (Don Buchanan, Roy Mannickarottu, Andrejs Galeniaks, Chuck Dykes, and Linda Richards voted no; Andy Hoder voted yes).

Mr. Paul Jacobson then asked what alternatives he might have. It was suggested that he could correspond with the Director of Quality of Life and/or City Council.

Don Buchanan then made a motion to recommend the repair by the City of the affected curbing and street pavement, and to have appropriate trimming carried out as described in our general discussion. Andy Hoder seconded the motion. A vote was called for, and the votes were unanimous in favor of the motion. (Don Buchanan, Roy Mannickarottu, Andrejs Galeniaks, Chuck Dykes, Andy Hoder, and Linda Richards). The motion passed.

*B. Discussion of proposed banner referring to water conservation, to be displayed above Cajon Street at Vine (i.e. vicinity of City Hall).* Jocelynn Santa Cruz informed us that reservations for displays in this space are already booked out for the rest of this calendar year. However, we could put this subject on our Agenda for our next regular meeting, so that we could develop the exact message we want to display. It is expected that time slots for next year will begin booking sometime this Fall. In the meantime, the STC/Chris Sedmack should contact companies who make those banners to get an estimate of the cost. We should also consider possible sources of funding for that project.

Roy Mannickarottu inquired about the possibility of using the portable electronic sign/trailer to encourage homeowners to water their trees. Tim Sullivan said the sign is not available at this time.

*C. Discussion of possible removal of a tree at 511 W. Palm Ave., at the homeowner's request.* The homeowner, Eva Rojas, attended the April 28<sup>th</sup> meeting with her original request. At that time it was not clear as to the location of the property line that divided her driveway from the parallel driveway on her neighbor's property at 519 W. Palm Ave. Ms. Rojas stated that her neighbors had erected a fence between the two driveways, resulting in a very narrow clearance between the fence line and the street tree (a palm) on the other side of her driveway. It was her contention that the street tree did not conform to minimum setback standards for safe clearance from vehicles entering her driveway, particularly the motorhome which she parks at the rear of her residence.

At the time of that special meeting the Street Tree Committee agreed to continue this Agenda Item to a subsequent meeting, which would allow Ms. Rojas time to research County records and maps, and to determine the exact location of the property line. In principle, if the neighbor's fence was encroaching on her property, she could ask to have the fence moved,

thereby widening the access to her driveway. This would theoretically solve her problem without removing the Street Tree.

At today's meeting, Ms. Rojas returned with plat maps that showed the exact location of the subject property line. The map did not reveal any obvious incursion on Ms. Rojas' property.

Members of the Street Tree Committee revisited the property. Tim Sullivan and several committee members noted that this palm was instrumental for the landscaping of Palm Avenue for many blocks with appropriate spacing for esthetic view by residents and visitors to the community. Removal of the tree is not in keeping with the street tree palette.

Chairman Don Buchanan called for a motion. Chuck Dykes motioned to have the subject tree removed. Andy Hoder seconded the motion. The vote was 5 to 1 against removing the tree. The motion did not pass. (Don Buchanan, Andrejs Galenieks, Roy Mannickarottu, Linda Richards, and Chuck Dykes voted no; Andy Hoder voted yes).

## **6. New Business –**

A. *Discussion pertaining to California's Street Trees Value.* Andrejs Galenieks provided us with a handout from Elsevier, a publisher of scientific, technical, and medical information. The handout focused on the function and value of street trees in California, and provided statistics on the benefits of street trees, to include the fact that these trees remove a huge volume of CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere. Street Tree Committee agree that street trees add value to our community in many ways.

The handout advocates the planting of more street trees, which would result in a proportionate increase in their value to the community. Andrejs Galenieks and Chuck Dykes volunteered to research the data and explore the possibilities for future expansion of the Redlands Street Tree Program.

B. *Discussion of the proposal to remove a large eucalyptus tree at 843 Cedar Ave.* The homeowners at this address, Keith and Mia Sheffer, were present. They described the hazards of large limbs falling from the tree (a risk to children playing in their front yard), and the fact that some of the limbs reach precariously close to their dwelling (potentially causing damage to their roof). It was also noted that the root structure of the tree has caused substantial damage to the adjacent stone curb.

Andy Hoder commented that there were several other large eucalyptus trees in the neighborhood that presented similar hazards and/or nuisances, and that if this tree were removed consideration might be given to taking out some of the other offending eucalyptus trees.

Chairman Don Buchanan called for a motion. Andy Hoder motioned for removal of the subject tree at 843 Cedar Avenue, at the city's expense. Chuck Dykes seconded the motion. Motion passed. (Don Buchanan, Andrejs Galenieks, Andy Hoder, Roy Mannickarottu, and Chuck Dykes voted yes, Linda Richards abstained).

There was a brief follow-up commentary regarding potential replacement of the tree. It was stated that the homeowner would have the option to plant a new tree at their expense, within the guidelines specified in City ordinances, and with the tree being selected from the approved Street Tree Palette. Chris Sedmack remarked that Crape Myrtles were not approved as street trees there, but could be planted in their yards.

C. *Discussion of proposed removal of several eucalyptus trees on the east side of Alabama Street, north of River Bluff Avenue.* Members of the Street Tree Committee visited the

site to evaluate the proposed tree removal. Unfortunately, there was some confusion as to the location of the subject trees. There is a large industrial warehouse building at this location, but there are no eucalyptus trees on the property. It was then explained by Tim Sullivan (QoL) that the Agenda Item referred to a cluster of approximately 25 trees north of the industrial complex, but there was no specific street address as the land is essentially vacant, with no sidewalk or other improvements. It was further clarified that removal of the subject trees had been requested by So. Cal. Edison because the trees had a potential to interfere with overhead power lines. If approved, the trees would be removed at Edison's expense.

At this point in the discussion, Chairman Don Buchanan motioned that the subject trees should be removed as described above. Roy Mannickarottu seconded the motion. Chairman Don Buchanan then called for a vote. The motion passed. (Don Buchanan, Andrejs Galeniek, Andy Hoder, Roy Mannickarottu, and Linda Richards voted yes; Chuck Dykes abstained due to a conflict of interest). So. Cal. Edison will be notified accordingly.

#### D. Possible items for the next regular Street Tree Committee meeting.

1. Adoption of the ANSI A300 standard for Street Tree maintenance. Chuck Dykes said he can bring us a copy of the document, as it cannot be downloaded.
2. Discussion of a Redlands Honorary Tree Program.
3. Further discussion of the California Tree Value pamphlet, to include any additional information gathered by our volunteers, Andrejs Galeniek and Chuck Dykes.
4. Discussion of wording for the proposed street banner pertaining to watering street trees.
5. Erik Reeves to contact Fred Ford's firewood business for a proposal to remove dead street trees.
6. Discussion of an update to the Redlands Street Tree Palette, to include the addition of Engelmann Oak, as suggested by Linda Richards.

**7. Adjournment** at 7:15 p.m. Next Regular Meeting scheduled for October 27th, 2016. (City Council is dark for the month of August, which would be the normal bi-monthly meeting date).

\*Submitted by Andy Hoder, Acting Secretary