

CITY OF REDLANDS
STREET TREE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
December 11, 2014

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

Present: Don Buchanan, Chair
Janet Ward
Linda Richards
Andrejs Galenieks

City Council: Jon Harrison
QOL Staff: Tim Sullivan
Erik Reeves
Jocelynn Santa Cruz

Redlands Community
Foundation liaison: Absent

- 2. Public Comments** – Cathy Childs and her two neighbors voiced concerns for two City Parkway trees which are 20’ tall, but have been trimmed as bushes for over 30 years by the homeowners. Erik Reeves had evaluated them and provided a street view photo showing their height in relation to city trash cans, standing well above the curbs on either side of homeowner’s driveways surrounded by low spreading junipers between curb and sidewalk. Erik stated they are healthy trees (huge bushes), single trunk, but obstructing views of homeowners for safe exit from driveways into streets. Tim Sullivan reported that the recommendation by QOL was to have WCA lace up the bushes into trees. Janet Ward motioned, Linda Richards seconded to pursue trimming into normal tree canopies in lieu of removal as requested by homeowners. Motion passed unanimously (Don Buchanan, Janet Ward, Linda Richards, Andrejs Galenieks).

-Janet Ward asked about a Redwood requiring trimming at 213 Campbell Street. Tim Sullivan said tree was on the list and was probably already done.

- 3. Approval of Minutes** – Approval of Minutes for August 28, 2014 regular meeting. Janet Ward motioned, Andrejs Galenieks, motion passed unanimously. (Don Buchanan, Janet Ward, Linda Richards, Andrejs Galenieks).

4. Status Reports

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

Previous Judson Ranch Project north of the Redlands Airport was planting new Street Trees with alternating varieties.

- Janet Ward asked about replacing Camphor Trees destroyed by car accident on Garden/Cajon Street. Risk Management is seeking reimbursement.
- Janet Ward asked about replacing a dead tree in the Redlands median and replacing it with a Guadalupe Palm.
- Erik Reeves stated that when the City removes trees, this year so far totaled 15-20 dead trees, they put door hangers on the homeowners doors informing them of their dead trees being removed. City will hold off on planting new trees until we discuss the use of planting drought tolerant trees.

b. *Bi-Monthly Street Tree Overview (QOL) – Update on City parkway trees trimmed, removed, or planted* – 16 Liquid Ambers were removed on Jasmine Street. West Coast Arborist (WCA) trimmed 100 Palm Trees in front of Moore School between Dearborn and Judson. WCA is doing some final Grid Trimming, depending on remaining tree trimming budget. Janet Ward brought up a big diseased Palm Tree on Ford St. Erik Reeves will investigate.

- Chris Sedmack asked about a destroyed Oak Tree in the Redlands Historical District behind the Catholic Church and wondered why this tree did not go before the Historical Commission for review before the Oak Tree roots were ground due to the PARIS Street Resurfacing Project. Erik Reeves said time and cost prevented the tree from going to the Historical Commission. After the roots were trimmed, the Oak Tree was leaning in a different direction than the trimmed roots would dictate. There were other issues with this Oak Tree so the tree was removed.
- Don Buchanan inquired as to City status with dead tree removal. Tim Sullivan will explore getting a City Parkway dead tree count by next February's STC meeting, but that is was down from the 1100 identified previously. He will explore contracting with the city of Rialto to see if we can get all our dead trees removed less expensively, as their costs are lower than ours.

5. New Business

a. *Discussion and possible action regarding City tree management during drought conditions* – Don Buchanan noticed that the local newspapers were reporting this last summer that Redlands was not looking into taking care of their trees by not addressing the issue of drought as it affects our urban trees. Don had requested the subject for discussion at our October meeting, providing articles on “Drought and Urban Trees” to QOL and the STC, but our meeting was canceled for lack of quorum. Linda Richards subsequently researched on Don's request several articles on stress caused by California drought. Don visited Office Depot and provided copies of

all articles to STC members at this meeting for review and discussion at our February meeting. City's goal is for a 20% reduction in water usage by 2020. STC needs to develop guidelines, brochure, mailer detailing do's and don'ts for planting and taking care of drought tolerant trees.

- Don Buchanan stated that one of the STC's Goals is to evaluate the approved Street Tree Palette and discuss which trees are drought tolerant and make recommendations on addition of drought tolerant trees suitable for City Parkways. Don Buchanan motioned, Janet Ward seconded. Motion passed unanimously (Don Buchanan, Linda Richards, Janet Ward, Andrejs Galenieks). Tim Sullivan will call WCA and will have recommendations for additions/deletions on the approved Street Tree Palette concerning drought tolerant trees.
- Don Buchanan, working with QOL, has updated a PowerPoint Presentation and will present the PowerPoint at the February STC meeting. Ron Mutter as Public Works Director originally created the STC power point a number of years ago and both Ron and Don made the rounds of groups in Redlands for over a year presenting this educational publicity tool to service clubs and at various city wide functions. At present none of the current STC members has ever seen the power point, so we need to evaluate and add new photos of projects accomplished during the last decade. The STC needs to reactivate this education program in addition to developing newspaper articles and water bill mailers with drought tolerant tree concerns.
- b. *Discussion and possible action regarding Arbor Day 2015 activities* – Erik Reeves recommended planting 2 drought tolerant trees at the Heritage Park for National Arbor Day. The park is already using drought tolerant trees. Thornless Palo Verde's were recommended to complement the current plantings. Don Buchanan asked for the STC to be able to visit the Heritage Park as we were asked by the City Council to approve the original park and Street Tree planting design. STC needs to check out various locations for the new trees and to see the results of implemented plans. Jocelyn Santa Cruz will handle Arbor Day Proclamation details.
- c. *Discussion and possible action regarding 2014 goals & accomplishments* – Don Buchanan will present to the STC a draft of the 2014 STC Accomplishments and a draft of the 2015 STC Goals at the February STC meeting.

6. Old Business

- a. *Discussion and possible action of the Street Tree Committee's involvement with the Honorary Tree Program* - No report. Tabled. Janet Ward would like to have tax write-offs for tree donations to the Honorary Tree Program for trimming Redlands City Parkway trees. Janet Ward motioned, Linda Richards seconded. Motion passed unanimously (Don Buchanan, Janet Ward, Linda Richards, Andrejs Galenieks).

6. Possible Agenda items for Next Meeting –

- a. WCA to give assessment on the drought challenges facing our parkway and street trees and predicted future drought conditions.
- b. Utility Bill – Work on new STC insert. Possible of stressing our city trees being the 3rd most valuable asset to the city.
- c. PowerPoint Presentation – Don Buchanan to present updated PowerPoint presentation to STC for use at community/service group organizations on the purpose and contributions the STC has made to Redlands.
- d. Current count of all dead Redlands street and parkway trees.
- e. Discussion of WCA approved Street Tree Palette recommendations.

7. Adjournment at 6:10 PM to next regularly scheduled meeting, February 26, 2015.

Submitted by Chris Sedmack, Secretary