

CITY of REDLANDS
STREET TREE COMMITTEE MEETING
Thursday, April 25, 2024
Regular Meeting MINUTES

Present: Chris Sedmack
Kelly Covey
Paul Hodson
Adrian Asencio

Absent: Jessica Barrios
Bettina McCloud
Katherine Vienne

FCS Staff: Erik Reeves
Jocelynn Butters

City Counsel Liaison: Eddie Tejeda, Mayor

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – Attendance – 5:30 pm
2. **PUBLIC COMMENTS** – Several speakers were in attendance and spoke on the importance of not trimming trees during bird nesting and breeding season.

Kandie Cansier of Oak Glen has been a bird rehabber for 43 years. In 2023, there were 41 Great horned baby owls orphaned. In 2024, 52 Great horned baby owls, 12 Barn owls and 3 Red tail hawk chicks fell from their nests during private and city tree trimming during breeding season around the Inland Empire. Orioles create woven basket nests in the dead palm fronds, owls are cavity nesters and use the balcony in palms as a shelf. Some falls from nests are due to weather, rain, high winds, birds building nests in unsuitable sites; additionally, an increase of rodents has also been observed. Ms. Cansier reiterated that trees should not be trimmed during nesting/breeding season. It is recommended to begin trimming from September to February when it is easier to see nests in big trees. Typically, bird rehabbers will begin receiving calls reporting birds falling when trimming starts in March. Orioles, Screech Owls, Songbirds breeding season is February to August. The Bushy-Tailed squirrels are also known to nest in Oak trees. Trees are a Redlands treasure and the need to improve tree trimming schedules should be created and adhered to. Fish and Wildlife is a reliable source to contact to report fallen or injured animals.

Kandie Cansler rehabilitates raptors, Marsha Sadler rehabilitates Songbirds, Leslie Friplett rehabilitates squirrels, racoons and mammals.

One problem is with Edison severely trimming trees.

The City of Redlands needs to set standard for trimming trees during breeding season.

Erik Reeves remarked that West Coast Arborist has a biologist and arborists on staff; trees are routinely checked before trimming. On Ridge St, a large Eucalyptus tree needed crown reduction, a Hawk's nest was located, but was not disturbed.

Mr. Richards shared an example of an avocado tree in Morro Bay where a nest was located and wasn't trimmed until the nesting/breeding season was over. Resident, Linda Richards suggested that a standard for trimming trees during breeding season should be updated to the Redlands website. Tree trimmers performing work in Redlands need a business license to trim city trees and should be provided with the City Requirements on tree trimming practices.

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** February 22, 2024, Regular meeting – Kelly Covey motioned, Paul Hodson 2nd - motion passed unanimously (Chris Sedmack, Kelly Covey Paul Hodson, Adrian Asencio).

4. STATUS REPORTS:

- A. ***Bi-monthly review of any new City parkway street trees in proposed developments:***
Erik Reeves reported no new projects requiring street trees. Project north of Citrus Valley High School still on drawing board.

- B. ***Bi-monthly Street Tree Overview - Update on city parkway trees trimmed, removed, or planted*** - Erik Reeves provided a handout of a list of dead trees, out of approx. 45,000 trees, .04% meet the criteria for removal. Dead trees 15" in diameter are being scheduled with City staff for removal. Greater than 15", West Coast Arborist removes. Erik Reeves handed out a flyer with information on how to report and request the removal of tree poles and tree tie which Street Tree Committee member, Adrian Asencio spearheaded.

Erik Reeves provided an update on the Cypress Circle street lighting trenching almost completed and new lights to be installed within the next 2 months. New wiring in Cypress Circle entrance is being replaced. After that, Cypress trees will be planted in the vacant tree well sites within Cypress Circle.

Erik Reeves reported on Azalea Court door hangers were handed out asking who would like a new parkway tree and received 3 responses. Possible tree replacement options are White Fringe Trees or Pink Tabebuias, will be planted this spring

Erik Reeves will present to the STC verbiage to use on the door hanger notifying homeowners/businesses that their city parkway trees have been of special value to the city and are on the City's Landmark Tree list.

Scrub Oak Tree on Olive is dead

5. OLD BUSINESS:

- A. ***Discussion and possible action on Street Tree Policy & Guidelines Manual Draft*** – Tabled until next STC meeting.
- B. ***Discussion and possible action on topic of heat index and effects*** - Kelly Covey reported contacted by Daily Resource Group for proposal for Heat Index and Canopy Assessment. Tabled until next STC meeting.

6. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. ***Discussion and possible action on tree removal at the following location:***

- *1521 Cheyenne Way – Crape Myrtle* – Paul Hodson motioned to remove Crape Myrtle and replace with 2 trees (Pink Trumpet and/or White Fringe Trees). Adrian Asencio 2nd, Motion passed unanimously (Chris Sedmack, Kelly Covey Paul Hodson, Adrian Asencio)
- *1710 Somerset Ln – Palm Trees (2)* – Chris Sedmack motioned to keep Palm and to trim Palm after nesting season. Kelly Covey 2nd. Motion passed unanimously (Chris Sedmack, Kelly Covey Paul Hodson, Adrian Asencio).
- *1127 Alexis Ln – Indian Laurel Ficus* – Indian Laurel Tree planted in a 7' parkway and tree too large for the parkway. Kelly Covey motioned to removed tree and replant with 1 – 2 appropriate trees in the fall. Adrian Asencio 2nd. Motion passed unanimously (Chris Sedmack, Kelly Covey Paul Hodson, Adrian Asencio)
- *1632 Irwin Ct – Cork Oak* – Adrian Asencio motioned to keep Cork Oak, Paul Hodson 2nd. Motion passed unanimously (Chris Sedmack, Kelly Covey Paul Hodson, Adrian Asencio).
- *1610 Juanita Ln – Liquidambar* – Paul Hodson motioned to keep tree and do root pruning, trim tree and repair sidewalk. Kelly Covey 2nd. Motion passed unanimously (Chris Sedmack, Kelly Covey Paul Hodson, Adrian Asencio)
- *25 Grant St* – Tree to be handled by the city.

7. POSSIBLE AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING:

- A. *Discussion and possible action/status on dying historical landmark trees* – Chris Sedmack reported that homeowners whose parkway trees were nominated for the Street Tree Historical and Landmark Tree List be notified on their parkway tree(s) were picked for additional tree protection measures by the City of Redlands. The door hangers were approved by the STC with a unanimous vote
- B. *Invite West Coast Arborist to the June 27, 2024 STC Meeting to report on cities presentation to mitigate nesting season*
- C. *Discussion and possible action on City Policy to set standard for Tree Trimming Schedules during breeding season*
- D. *Update on Cypress Circle project*
- E. *Update on Azalea Court tree planting*
- F. *Update on Eureka Street replanting – Cypress Trees*

8. ADJOURNMENT AT 7:09 PM. Next Meeting August 22, 2024

Minutes submitted by Chris Sedmack