

Alameda County Public Works Agency
Tree Advisory Board Meeting
Wednesday, February 24, 2010
Public Works Building, 951 Turner Ct, Hayward
Conference Room 230

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair, Kathie Ready; Vice-Chair, Don Sheppard; Dee McDonough, Dan Gallagher

OTHERS PRESENT: Inta Brainerd, Judy Jung

CALL TO ORDER: The Chair called the meeting to order at 3:35 p.m.

I. PUBLIC COMMENT: None

II. ANNOUNCEMENTS: Don Nelson will not be able to make today's meeting.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes from November 18, 2009, approved.

IV. TAB BUSINESS:

- Member contact list updated
- Kathie Ready elected Chair, Dee McDonough elected Vice-Chair

V. FOLLOW-UP ITEMS:

- **Review of Master Fees Schedule:** After discussion, the Board felt that only the fine for work without a permit and appeals fees should be increased.
- **Fines Report:** All fines have been paid and are up-to-date.

VI. HEARINGS:

15984 Windsor Dr., San Leandro

It was reported that a Bradford Pear tree had been topped. No permits were issued for this work. This tree was part of the group of trees planted using grant funding.

Mr. Yee informed the Board that he did not know permits were required. He felt the tree needed to be pruned back because the branches were growing into the sidewalk and driveway. He shared before and after pictures with the Board. He also indicated that the tree was affecting the phone and cable lines.

Dan addressed the contractor and confirmed that he was just a friend who did the job as a favor and was not paid for it.

Mr. Yee apologized to the Board.

Don Sheppard motioned that the owner be fined \$100 for work without a permit and that he be required to hire an arborist to correctively prune the tree.

Dan Gallagher amended the motion to include a \$500 fine for loss of value.

Motion seconded by Kathie Ready.

Motion approved unanimous.

1463 Via Escondido, San Lorenzo

It was reported that two (2) trees were removed from the right-of-way. No permits were issued for the work.

Mr. Sychov responded that he just bought the house last May. He had noticed that the trees were out of shape, hanging over the house, into the power lines and the roots were under the foundation. When Mr. Sychov inquired about pruning the trees a contractor advised him against it stating that it would accelerate root growth. During a storm back in November, one of the trees experienced a partial failure. The County responded and cleaned up the debris in the roadway. The owner then checked with the San Lorenzo Village Homes Association (SLVHA) who told him to contact the County. When he called the County he was connected to the Permit Center where he was told that permits were not required for tree on private property. The owner did not know about rights-of-way and they were not explained to him.

Dan explained that trees most likely would not have been approved for removal, however, the owner did try and do the right thing by talking to SLVHA and the County and received bad information.

Dee recommended that trees be replaced. Discussion ensued regarding size and species.

Dan Gallagher motioned a fine of \$100 for work without a permit and that a 36" boxed London Plane tree be planted on the Channel St. side and that a 24" boxed tree (species to be agreed upon by the owner and Inta Brainerd) be planted on the Via Escondido side.

Motion seconded by Kathie Ready.

Motion approved unanimous.

16075 Channel St., San Lorenzo

It was noted in the field that a Magnolia tree was either being removed or had been topped. No permits were issued for this work.

The owner responded that she had planted the tree 30 – 33 years ago and did not know that it would grow so big. She also indicated that she did not know permits were required and if she had she would have obtained one. She felt the tree needed pruning because it was hitting the electrical wires and was worried about hers and her neighbor's service drops. She also indicated that the tree had dropped some limbs in the past. She couldn't afford to hire a contractor so she had some friends prune the tree. She offered to remove the tree and replace it with a 15 gallon tree.

Dee inquired if the owner had contacted PG&E about her concerns regarding the wires. She had not.

Dan recommended that the tree be removed, stump ground, and that the replacement tree must be a 24" boxed tree from the medium or large species group.

Kathie motioned that in addition the owner be required to pay a \$100 fine for work without a permit and a \$500 fine for loss of value.

Motion approved unanimous.

16096 Carolyn St., San Leandro

It was reported that a Bradford Pear tree was topped. This tree was part of a group of trees planted using grant funding. No permits were issued for the work.

Judy Jung provided Cantonese translation for Mr. and Mrs. Kou.

The property owners explained that they felt bad and asked for leniency as they were new owners and did not know permits were required for tree work. They reported that the tree was growing into the power lines and they wanted to prune it back before it caused any problems.

Dee moved that the tree be removed, stump ground and replaced with a 24" boxed Aristocrat Pear tree. In addition to the removal and replacement the property owner be required to pay a \$100 fine for work without a permit and a \$500 fine for loss of value.

Dan seconded the motion.

Motion approved unanimous.

VII. Other: Future TAB meetings to begin at 3:30 unless more time is needed.

VIII. Wrap up and Adjourn: Meeting adjourned at 5:07 p.m.