

Alameda County Public Works Agency
Tree Advisory Board Meeting
Wednesday, September 15, 2010
Public Works Building, 951 Turner Ct, Hayward
Conference Room 230

MINUTES

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Inta Brainerd; Tami Turpin; Maria Contreras (Interpreter)

CALL TO ORDER: The Vice-Chair called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

I. PUBLIC COMMENT: None

II. ANNOUNCEMENTS: Don Nelson and Kathy Reedy will not be able to attend today's meeting.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes from May 19, 2010 approved.

IV. FOLLOW-UP ITEMS:

- **Fines Report:** \$3200 issued in fines last quarter. \$1400 still outstanding.

V. HEARINGS:

15872 Via Alamitos, San Lorenzo

It was reported that a Zelkova Elm was improperly pruned. No permits were issued for this work. A permit application was submitted on February 17, 2010 but was incomplete due to missing replacement information and application fee. Owner was notified but when he came in work had already begun. Contractor performing work was not the same as the one listed on the permit application.

Property owner and contractor were not present for May 19th meeting of Tree Advisory Board. The property owners were subsequently fined \$600.

On June 30, 2010 it was observed that the tree was in the process of being removed. No permits were issued for this work. Too much of the canopy had already been removed to try and save the tree.

The Property owners now report that the tree was out of balance, endangering power lines and the neighbor's cars, and causing cracks in the sidewalk and their house. The property owners provided several documents to support their claims; a plumbing estimate for damage caused by the tree, a letter from their doctor, a doctor visit verification form, photographic evidence and a letter summarizing their point of view. Dennis Filippi from the County's M&O department was called in to clarify his conversation with the property owner. The board also talked of the property owner's discussion with John Rogers regarding emergency tree removal. The cost incurred by the County for the tree appraisal was considered when proposing a fine.

Dan Gallagher moved for a second fine in the amount of \$600, require the property owner to plant a 24" box Sycamore and the work be completed within 90 days of receiving the hearing results letter.

Dee McDonough seconded the motion.

Motion approved unanimously.

Dee McDonough explained the conditions to the property owner.

17062 Via Corona, San Lorenzo

It was reported that a Privet tree was topped at this location. No permits were issued for the work. The property owners reported that the tree work had been done by Castillo Tree Service. The property owners had purchased the home recently and wanted the tree pruned because it was overgrown (into the power lines and over their roof). The contractor explained that if tree had only been pruned away from the power lines and house, it would not be aesthetically pleasing. Dan Gallagher explained to the contractor proper pruning and why a tree should not be topped. Dan also recommended that the property owners consider litigation against the contractor.

Dan Gallagher motioned that the property owners remove and replace the tree with a 15 gallon tree chosen from the approved tree list, the permit application fee be waived, and the contractor be fined \$500.00 for improper work.

Don Sheppard seconded the motion.

Motion approved unanimously.

VI. Other: No comments.

VII. Wrap up and Adjourn: Meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.