

URBAN FOREST ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Thursday, September 07, 2017

CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS

Meeting started at 4:07PM

REVIEW FOR MEETING MINUTES

JUSTIN MEEKER: Justin works for a landscaping company; 3rd page – “canker” not cancer; Clarification of what a canker actually is will be given

MARK WISNIEWSKI: Graduated from UC Davis Environmental Planning and Management and double major in Landscape Management and Landscape Architecture.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

None

AGENDA

1. SELECTION OF CHAIR

Nominees: **Mark Jenne** (by Bruce Ritchings), **Brian Bishop** (by Mark Wisniewski)

Committee vote: 3-2 in favor of **Mark Jenne (Brian Bishop and William Morrison absent, no vote by Mark Jenne)**

Chair responsibilities: Keeps order, in charge of meetings, determines how long agenda items should be given, crafts the agenda (generated by work determined/decided by City Council, ensure meeting minutes are correct (Committee is not required to have minutes, only to record decisions).

2. HERITAGE TREE APPLICATION FOR DOWNTOWN FICUS TREES – Sheila Cameron

Urban Forests: Trees and Plants for the City video (KPBS)

Recommended books: Collapse by J. Diamond, Hidden Life of Trees

UFAC Website has documents: “Notes on Walkabout Reviewing the Ficus Trees” (done a couple weeks ago) and the “Value of Ficus Trees”

Sheila hopes that UFAC will recommend the 51 Ficus trees to become Heritage Trees. Sheila removed Tree #4 from Heritage Tree Application.

If UFAC does not sanction the Heritage Tree Application, Sheila will still go to Planning Commission and City Council. Trees with Heritage Tree status cannot be removed unless they meet removal requirements according to UFMP’s Tree Ordinance. If the trees are not protected, they will be cut down. Recommends having an alternative to reduction costs.

Process of Heritage Trees:

UFAC recommends and Planning Commission votes on Heritage Tree Application.

Actions:

Mark W: Wants accurate application to be correct before we vote on it. Can’t read WCA report out in the field and compare report to the tree – bigger circles, bigger numbers (make as readable as the Save the Trees report).

Tim: Allow applicants to use the WCA list. Recommends before applications come out to the Committee, the City Arborist ensures that the application is fully vetted. May approve if only *Ficus microcarpa*, *Ficus benjamina* does not qualify.

Sheila: We will make corrections and resubmit application.

Virginia Wilson – Recommended when doing cost-benefit analysis, take into consideration the benefits of trees for the past decades.

Mark Delin – Application to be defined as “downtown ficus trees”, d.s.h (diameter at standard height, 4.5 feet above ground level) 15 inches or more, not individually. Committee recommended individually.

Carol: Can City prune the trees to fix the misshaping? **Bruce** says yes if they know how to correctly. Trees were not pruned properly before and had damaged trees. **Mark W.** says with building within 10 ft. from the trees, sunlight, roofs (etc.), you cannot re-shape to get the original shape of the tree. **Mark J** says that you can balance the trees.

Postpone discussion of pruning to a later date.

Motion: Correct the application and resubmit. Unanimous voted YES.

3. DISCUSSION OF FICUS TREE REPORTS – CONTINUED

Tim: What happens if committee members do not agree with Tree Risk Assessment category categorization – what are the members asked to do? City arborist: Committee can give guidance and their opinions and direction can be given to Council.

Tim: Maintain the canopy as it is until the tree is replaced.

City Arborist: Start planting additional trees. Additional comment: It is up to the committee to make decisions altogether. If sidewalk repairs are necessary, we will look at the tree removal at the time.

Public comments: If you’re cutting the roots, you may have to lose some of the canopy.

Chair: Do members agree with what was written in the report for the three high risk trees?

Brian: When you have something that is doing damage, he would rather see replacement. Haven’t seen cankers cause big problem on trees.

Mark W.: Impervious concrete under roots, concerns that many light fixtures and utility lines are in contact with tree branches.-Utility lines run through the tree branches. Clearance issues between multiple trees and the adjacent buildings and roofs. There is a jade plant near Tree #1 on Bruce’s report.

Tim: Does not agree – in his experience, cannot categorize them as high or medium risk trees. All of them appear to be “low” risk. Sees pruning as unnecessary (except for clearance for building).

Justin: Agree with some of the report, concerns are planters were pretty small around the trees. Consider expanding planters and create long-term solutions for impeding roots.

Bruce: There is one tree that is questionable (610) – this tree needs to be monitored. Considered the three trees low-risk, not cutting any of them down.

Carol: nothing additional to add.

Chris: City’s position is to maintain the trees and not remove.

Canker is a fungus. What organism is the canker (specifics) should be given when we say a tree has a canker.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

- STREET TREE INSTALLATIONS ON SANTA FE (NORTH SIDE OF STREET FROM NARDO ROAD TO BONITA DR) AND LA COSTA THROUGH PRIVATE PUBLIC PARTNERSHIPS

- DEVELOPMENT OF TREE AND LANDSCAPE PLANS FOR THE NORT SIDE OF SANTA FE BETWEEN NARDO ROAD AND BONITA DRIVE, AND BOTH SIDES OF BIRMINGHAM BETWEEN I-5 FREEWAY AND VULCAN AVENUE
- Set priorities for committee (think ahead)
- Meet once a month. Tentatively scheduled for **Thursday, October 19 at 4PM.**

ADJOURNMENT