

Alameda County Public Works Agency
Tree Advisory Board Meeting
Wednesday, October 19, 2016 (postponed from August 17, 2016)
Public Works Building, 951 Turner Ct., Hayward
Room 230A

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair, Dan Gallagher; Vice-Chair, Dee McDonough; Kathie Ready; Don Nelson; and Walt Fujii

OTHERS PRESENT: Inta Brainerd; Jim Browne; Kwablah Attiogbe; Barbara Grant (appellant); Ron Silva

CALL TO ORDER: The Chair called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.

I. PUBLIC COMMENT:

- None

II. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- None

III. TAB MINUTES

- May 18th minutes approved
- June 15th minutes approved
- July 20th minutes approved

IV. VIOLATION HEARING

16017 Berkshire Dr. San Leandro

- Staff presented hearing summary.
- Ms. Grant passed out pictures and provided history of the tree from the time she bought the house in 2007.
- In 2007 and 2011 she used a County approved contractor to prune the tree.
- Ms. Grant reported that in 2014 the tree had BoxElder Bugs and was dripping secretions everywhere.
- She stated that in 2015 the population exploded and the cars were covered. She sprayed with Home Guard and in 2016 the bugs reappeared.
- Dan inquired about what County contractor she had previously used (Arbortech).
- Kathie inquired about why the owner wasn't present. She replied that the contractor appeared earlier than planned, she had errands to run, and when she came back she found that the tree had been overpruned.

- She had payed “Juan” \$150 before she left and he was only to prune a few of the lower limbs.
- Dan asked if she was aware of the ordinance and she stated not with the full extent of it.
- Dan asked about a mechanism to trigger reminders and enforcement. Inta reported that County ITD was working on an improved database that would have those features.
- Don motioned to remove and replace the tree. No second. Motion died.
- Walt recommended a restorative plan and Dan requested specific fine amount and a frequency schedule for the plan from a qualified contractor.
- Walt motioned that the resident be fined \$100 for work without a permit; hire a county approved contractor to provide a restorative plan schedule that includes 3 prunings over the next 6 years; staff to approve plan; PO to provide photo after each; and Dan added that the initial pruning be done this winter.
- Kathie seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously.
- Ron Silva, who also lives on Berkshire, commented that trees in the area are neglected.
- Staff offered to put in a work request.

V. TAB MEETING SCHEDULE:

- Dan raised the question of whether or not to move the TAB meeting time to a later time.
- Discussion ensued and the consensus was to maintain the current schedule of meetings beginning at 4pm unless there are a lot of agenda items in which case the meeting would begin at 3pm.

VI. TREE ORDINANCE REVISIONS AND FINES:

- Staff handed out a hard copy of a PowerPoint presentation to the TAB.
- Staff presented the 3 fundamental changes to the ordinance and the 3 fine structures.
- Discussion ensued regarding ordinance language, enforceability of the ordinance, and whether any of the options would capture the loss of value for a highly valued tree.
- Kathie motioned to remain neutral. Motion died.
- Dee offered that TAB support revisions and Option 3 with knowledge that if the ordinance doesn’t function as intended we can revisit and revise again.
- Dan motioned to approve revisions as written, Option 3 from the fines schedule, and that no appeals fee be charged for hearings.
- Don left the room at 4:55.
- Dee seconded the motion.
- Motion approved 3:1 with Walt opposed and Don absent.

VII. WRAP UP AND ADJOURN: Meeting adjourned at 5:02 p.m.