

CITY OF REDLANDS STREET TREE COMMITTEE

January 24, 2008

1. Call to Order – Attendance

Present: Chris Sedmack, Chair
Jim Rock
Paul C. Woltze
Augustin Ortega
Shelli Stockton
Janet Ward

Liaison: Jon Harrison, Mayor, City of Redlands

QOL Staff: Rick Cross, Operations Manager
Gary Van Dorst, Director.

Parks Commission: Kristin Saukel

2. **Approval of Minutes** – December 27, 2007, minutes approved.

3. Correspondence and Communications

4. New Business

- A. Monthly Street Tree Overview by the Quality of Life (QOL) staff. Fortunately, not many City trees were damaged by the recent strong winds, but there were a lot of displaced palm fronds. The City has two employees assigned to remove damaged trees, limbs and palm fronds.
- B. Status Report – Update on planting the 1,000 trees – Gary Van Dorst reported that 140 residents have returned cards from residents requesting trees to be planted. This is approximately an 11 % response. The QOL Department is also receiving 20 to 30 telephone calls per day with questions regarding the tree planting program. The QOL Department is mailing a second batch of cards to residents in South/East Redlands offering to plant a tree in their City parkways, if the residents return the enclosed cards indicating they will water the new City parkway trees. Tree planting in the North Redlands area will be covered by a grant. The City plans to start planting City parkway trees within 10 days. They would like to plant 450 to 500 trees before warmer weather starts.
- C. Status Report – Honorary Tree Planting Program (HTP) – Shelli Stockton reported that West Cost Arborists (WCA) would soon be planting 51 HTP parkway trees and 41 City Park trees. The QOL Department will notify the donor/s of the location/s where their tree/s were planted. Emily Bueermann requested HTP assistance in providing funding for trees for Redlands' schools. She presented a wish list of trees that the various local schools would like. It was stressed that before funding a tree project, the STC would need assurances from the various school staff that they would maintain and care for the trees that would be planted on school grounds.

- D. Status of City of Redlands Parkway Palm Tree RFP – Staff is working on the RFP. - continued.
- E. Status Report – Redlands Parkway Tree Palette - continued.
- F. Request for Recommendation for removal of street tree at 623 Falcon Lane - The STC unanimously voted not to remove the approximately 30-foot oak tree, since it is healthy.
- G. Monthly review of the City Parkway Street Trees in anticipated/or current developments or any City improvement which would involve destruction of parkway trees – According to Gary Van Dorst, the overlays are not workable. The QOL Department will now be notified in advance if a parkway tree is in danger because of changes to a parkway and they in turn will notify the STC.
- H. Status Report on updating tree policies and guidelines manual – STC members are working on a policies and guidelines manual. - continued.
- I. The Terrace status report – To date, the City has spent \$19,109 to complete the irrigation system and to remove diseased trees. The City plans to celebrate Arbor Day by planting trees on The Terrace. HTP will fund the tree costs.

5. Old Business

- A. Review of draft for increasing City Parkway widths – A draft was handed out for committee members to review and discuss at the next STC meeting. – continued.

- 6. Public Discussion and Comments** – A visitor requested that the City plant some of the 1,000 trees on Church Street near the Zanja. She voiced her concerns about this area, which is near the railroad tracks, is unsightly due to the lack of trees and all the dirt/barren land. Gary Van Dorst said some of this land belongs to the railroad, Metrolink and the County. Also, the 100-year flood zone impacts the use of the Zanja. He stated he would review ownership of this area, research whether a City easement exists and, if possible, the STC could help with planting trees in that area. There is concern that there is no water source in that area.

7. Possible Agenda Items for Next Meeting

- A. Election of officers

8. Adjournment to Next Regular Meeting on Thursday, February 28, 2008.

Prepared by Janet Ward, Acting Recording Secretary