



ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

March 1, 2006

Burgess Recreation Center
700 Alma Street, Menlo Park

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m.

Commissioners Present: Rick Stevens (Chairperson), Martin Engel, Dan Kocher, Bob Swezey, Doug Scott

Commissioners Absent: Frank Carney, Sarah Granger

Staff present: Dianne Dryer, Environmental Programs Coordinator
Ruben Nino, Director of Engineering

Public present: None.

A. PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

B. REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS: Bob Swezey reported on a presentation by Whole House Building Supply at this month's Kiwanis meeting. WHBS is a local house salvage company that takes apart house components before demolition and sells them.

C. BUSINESS ITEMS

1. **Approval of Minutes of February 1, 2005:** Approved unanimously.
2. **Final Review of Street Tree Management Plan:** It was suggested to add on page 13 instructions to owners to water the replacement trees in dry months, "typically April through October". M/S to approve the Plan by Scott/Kocher. Unanimous approval.
3. **Amendments to Street Tree Ordinance:** Dianne Dryer explained that the ordinance needs updating and will be amended when the Street Tree Management Plan is taken to the City Council for approval. Discussion centered around the difficulty in defining the City right of way where street trees are located. Also there are questions around the problems related to large shrubs and hedges. It was suggested that staff bring back proposed amendments for review.
4. **Reforestation Project:** Ruben Nino explained that the cost per removal of a street tree and replacement planting depends on who does the work (City crew or contract crew). He thinks that there may be \$50,000 available in FY2006-07. The Landscape Assessment brings in about \$600,000 per year, which is used for tree pruning, sidewalk repair and some of the street sweeping costs. Another \$150,000 comes from the General Fund. Commissioners asked for more details on costs and

funding sources, as well as a timeline for implementation. Plans for the pilot project were discussed briefly, focusing on the importance of publicity in the neighborhood and obtaining input from residents. It was decided that Arbor Day would be a good opportunity to begin publicizing the need for reforestation. A street near Oak Knoll School with many liquid ambers could be chosen for the Arbor Day planting ceremony. A class of students and some neighbors could be invited.