



ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

October 4, 2006

Burgess Recreation Center
700 Alma Street, Menlo Park

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 6:34 p.m.

Commissioners Present: Dan Kocher (Acting Chairperson) Martin Engel, Jeff Jahnke, Jeanne Durnford

Commissioners Absent: Rick Stevens, Bob Swezey, Doug Scott

Staff present: Dianne Dryer, Environmental Programs Coordinator

Public present: None

A. PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

B. REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS: New Commissioner, Jeanne Durnford was introduced.

C. BUSINESS ITEMS

1. **Approval of Minutes of August 2, 2005:** Approved unanimously.
2. **Pilot Reforestation Project:** Dianne Dryer reported that the Consulting Arborist, Barrie Coate, has finished surveying the trees in the Pilot neighborhood, noting species, size and condition. Trees were given a Removal Priority Rating (1, 2, or 3). Out of about 420 street trees surveyed, about 100 of them received a Priority 1 rating, which indicates that they should be removed and replaced in the next few years. Forty trees from that group will be selected for removal this fall. Letters to residents about the pilot reforestation project, with a list of the 40 selected trees and suggested replacements, will be mailed in mid-October. Information will be posted on the City website about the project, including the arborist's survey, photos of replacement species, and the list of addresses and numbers of the 40 trees proposed for removal. Posters will be put on heritage sized trees with information about how to ask questions, make comments and file an appeal. Small flags will be inserted into the ground at locations where replacements will be planted (not always the same spot as the present tree). Residents will be given the opportunity to request a tree larger than 15 gallon size if they pay the incremental cost. Dianne Dryer and Ruben Nino will take comments and questions by phone and email. A "Tree Walk" with the consulting arborist, City Arborist and Dianne will be conducted on November 4th to answer participants' questions and view problematic

trees. Commissioners were asked to notify Dianne if they plan to attend. West Coast Arborist Co. will start removals and replacements at the end of November, completing by the end of December.

3. **Environmental Awards Program:** Six nominations were received. Dianne Dryer will review and confirm the background for each and prepare packets for the Commissioners to make their selection of awards at the November 1st meeting. Jeff Jahnke volunteered to help take photos of each nomination. The award presentation will take place at the Council meeting on November 14th.