



ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

September 10, 2008

Burgess Recreation Center
700 Alma Street, Menlo Park

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 6:36 p.m.

Commissioners Present: Jeanne Durnford (Chair), Dan Kocher, Mitch Slomiak, John Nash, Doug Scott, Kristin Kuntz-Dureseti

Commissioners Absent: Jeff Jahnke

Staff present: Dianne Dryer, Environmental Programs Coordinator

Public present: Walter Levison and Dave Muffly

A. PUBLIC COMMENTS: none

B. BUSINESS ITEMS

1. **Approval of July 30, 2008 Meeting Minutes:** Unanimously approved.
2. **Street Tree Reforestation Update:** Contract arborists Walter Levison and Dave Muffly reported on their progress and findings for the street tree survey. As of September 10th they have surveyed 1,550 street trees, and may survey as many as 3000. About half of the survey trees were ranked Priority One, but most can be pruned rather than removed. With proper pruning soon, most could be re-categorized as Priority Two or Three. Others will have to be removed and replaced due to structural problems, severe decline (nearly dead), or stunted growth due to root bound condition. Most of the trees in Priority One are liquidambar which need end weight pruning. Walter and Dave suggested that the contract tree company for the City should have constant supervision to ensure proper pruning to avoid future structural problems. They also have observed that there are many vacant places where trees could be planted. In November they will summarize their findings and suggest tree species appropriate to plant along streets in Menlo Park. The Commissioners discussed the importance of using the data to create a multi-year plan for managing annual cycles of pruning, removing and planting.
3. **Planning for Environmental Quality Awards:** About 8 nominations were received. John Nash and Dianne Dryer will gather the information needed for the Commissioners to make their selections on October 1st.
4. **Update on Pending Contracts for Garbage and Recycling Services:** Dianne summarized the proposed collection service enhancements and rebuilding of

the Shoreway Recycling & Disposal Center (owned by the SBWMA). A new company is being recommended to provide collection services beginning in January 2011. There will also be a request for approval of the issuance of bonds to help pay for the new recycling and garbage transfer facility. These proposals will go to Council for discussion and approval on October 7, 2008. All information is posted at www.rethinkwaste.org , or contact Dianne.

C. REPORTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mitch Slomiak reported that there was lots of interest in the Green Ribbon Citizens Committee from visitors to the Downtown Block Parties. He announced that there will be a meeting on September 27 to provide information about opportunities to get involved with the GRCC.