



ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

December 3, 2008

Burgess Recreation Center
700 Alma Street, Menlo Park

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 6:33 p.m.

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

Commissioners Absent: None

Staff present: Dianne Dryer, Environmental Programs Coordinator
Lisa Ekers, Engineering Services Director

Public present: Walter Levison, Dave Muffly

A. PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

B. BUSINESS ITEMS

1. **Approval of November 5, 2008 Meeting Minutes:** Unanimously approved.
2. **Street Tree Reforestation Program Update:** Staff and consulting arborists Walter Levison and Dave Muffly summarized the findings of the survey. They recommended that about 270 large street trees should be removed due to structural problems and serious decline. Another 50 to 80 smaller street trees should also be removed over time due to stunted growth, poor structure or health problems (replacement will result in growth of healthier, larger trees). About 730 large trees are in need of corrective pruning to mitigate structural problems and prolong their lives. Commissioners repeated their concern that the contract tree trimmers for the City need to be properly trained and monitored. Maintenance pruning of liquidambar should be increased to every three to four years. Commissions expressed the importance of tracking through a database all street tree maintenance, removals and replacements, and the related costs. They recognized the necessity to spend what funding is available as efficiently as possible. Staff will implement a plan very soon to remove and replace at least 100 of the top priority trees this winter, where property owners agree. The cost is estimated at \$1,000 per site.
3. **Election of Officers:** Mitch Slomiak and John Nash were unanimously elected Chairman and Vice Chairman respectively.

C. Announcements and Reports

Mitch Slomiak announced a Green Ribbon Citizens Committee meeting on December 13th, open to all.

Dianne 'Dryer announced two upcoming Council Goal Setting Workshops, open to all. She also reported on progress on the Climate Action Plan, a draft of which should be presented to the Council on January 13th. She said that the Green @ Home program now has 56 trained volunteers for three cities, including Menlo Park. There will be one more training in January.