



ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

July 1, 2009

Burgess Recreation Center
700 Alma Street, Menlo Park

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

Commissioners Present: Mitch Slomiak (Chair), Doug Scott, Kristin Kuntz-Duriseti, Dan Kocher, Butch Byers, Megan Gutelius, and Jeanne Durnford

Staff Present: Dianne Dryer, Environmental Programs Coordinator
Juan Alvarez, City Arborist

Public Present: D. Ellis, G. Lounsbach, J. Martin, J. Fisher, A. Teter, G & M Andean, Laurie Chang, Doug Teter, Maureen Teter, and Alex Cannera

A. PUBLIC COMMENTS: Alex Cannera objects to City's maintenance practices at Sharon Park. Seedling trees are being eaten by goats. Recently two young oak trees were removed by a City maintenance worker--- reason unknown.

B. BUSINESS ITEMS

1. [Heritage Tree Appeal Hearing: 1155 Santa Cruz Ave](#)

Doug and Maureen Teter, appellants, each read statements about why they oppose the removal of the heritage tulip tree in their neighbor's backyard. They requested that time be allowed for additional treatments to get rid of the aphid infestation, before removing the tree.

Maureen Teter read a letter from neighbor Joy Wentz, objecting to the tree removal permit.

John Martin, owner of the property, listed efforts they had made to preserve the trees and to treat the problems with aphids, to no avail.

Gary and Mary Andeen, adjacent neighbor at 1135 Santa Cruz Avenue, support the removal of the tree. Ms. Andeen showed a petition from neighboring houses with 16 signatures in support of Martins permission to remove the tree.

Deborah Ellis, consulting arborist for the Martins, stated that it is very difficult to control tulip tree aphid infestation. No methods work consistently. There are some exceptions, depending on the circumstances.

After lengthy discussion, Commissioner Doug Scott motioned to uphold the permit for removal of the tree (Jeanne Durnford seconded). Motion failed 2 yes and 5 no.

Butch Byers motioned to grant the appeal with the condition that a one time root treatment with Merit® be applied in February 2010; if upon evaluation by the City Arborist before August 31, 2010, the treatment hasn't worked and there continues to be evidence of aphid infestation, the tree will be granted an immediate removal permit. Motion seconded by Kristin Kuntz-Duriseti. Motion approved by 6 Commissioners; Durnford abstained.

2. **Minutes for Meeting on June 3, 2009:** Approved with corrected date at top.
3. **Changes to Upcoming Meeting Dates:** The Commission agreed to cancel the August meeting.
4. **Commissioner to take Meeting Minutes:** Jeanne Durnford volunteered.
5. **Planning for Environmental Quality Awards:** Commissioners Byers and Gutelius volunteered to coordinate the awards program this fall. Dianne Dryer suggested that nominations be taken through September 10th and that selection of awardees be done at the October 7 Commission meeting. Presentation at a Council meeting in November is preferred.
6. **Climate Action Plan:** Mitch Slomiak reported that the City Budget passed, including funding for some CAP revisions. He will coordinate with Lisa Ekers on volunteer experts in the fall involving the following:
 - Strategies
 - Measure Cost/Benefit Consistency
 - Target setting
7. **ECR/Downtown Vision Update:** Five commissioners attended the June 18 workshop. Reports are on City website.
8. **Commission Report: none planned.**

C. Reports and Announcements

SBWMA Shoreway Recycling Center Upgrades: Bond Financing Plan to City Council on July 14.

Dianne Dryer Retiring – Commissioners thanked Dianne Dryer for over 11 years of service as the Environmental Programs Coordinator at the City and presented her with a framed series of outdoor photos of Menlo Park, signed by each Commissioner.