



**Design Review Board  
Street Tree Subcommittee  
Minutes - Unapproved**

Planning and Environmental Services  
130 Cremona Drive, Suite B, Goleta CA 93117  
(805) 961-7500

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**MINUTES - UNAPPROVED**

**STREET TREE SUBCOMMITTEE**

June 23, 2009  
2:00 p.m.  
Goleta City Hall  
130 Cremona Drive, Suite B  
Goleta, California

**Members:**

Chris Messner, Chair  
Simon Herrera

Bob Wignot

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**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Chris Messner at 2:03 p.m., at the City Hall, 130 Cremona Drive, Suite B, Goleta.

**ROLL CALL**

Members present: Chris Messner, Chair; and \*Bob Wignot. \*Member Wignot entered the meeting at 2:15 p.m.

Member absent: Simon Herrera.

Staff present: Bill Millar, Parks and Open Space Manager; and Linda Gregory, Recording Clerk.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

None.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Street Tree Subcommittee Meeting Minutes for May 26, 2009.

**MOTION:** Wignot moved, seconded by Messner, to approve the Street Tree Subcommittee Meeting Minutes for May 26, 2009, as submitted. (The motion was continued to end of meeting).

Member Wignot stated that he will abstain from voting on the motion because he did not attend the meeting on May 26, 2009.

By consensus, the motion to approve the minutes was continued to the end of the meeting.

**NEW ITEMS:**

**None.**

**CONTINUED ITEMS:**

**A. Discussion regarding adding more tree species to the Recommended Street Tree Planting List.**

Chair Messner stated that the speaker at last Subcommittee meeting, Bob Muller, Director of Research, Santa Barbara Botanic Gardens, provided some very good comments. He believes that the list Bob Muller provided, entitled "Diversity of California's Urban Forests" will be a useful resource that can be reviewed when considering adding more tree species to the Recommended Street Tree Planting List.

Bill Millar, Parks and Open Space Manager, stated that Goleta Valley Beautiful (GVB) may be submitting a list of tree species for consideration by the Subcommittee for adding trees to the Recommended Street Tree Planting List. He encouraged Goleta Valley Beautiful to submit suggestions of species on an ongoing basis when there are items for consideration.

Chair Messner recommended that requests for adding tree species to the Recommended Street Tree Planting List should be submitted in time for the request to go through the proper procedures before installation of the trees. He noted there has been some history of late submittals and installations, and not going through the proper process.

Bill Millar, Parks and Open Space Manager, reported that he plans to submit a report to the Subcommittee for consideration regarding adding the fruitless olive tree species to the Recommended Street Tree Planting List

Chair Messner recalled a previous discussion that the fruitless olive trees would be appropriate for center dividers because the trees would not be in the way of pedestrians or parked cars. He suggested that the fruitless olive trees be considered on a case-by-case basis to be determined by the City Arborist. He stated that the species fits well as street trees in areas where there are few pedestrians and low traffic. He likes the Swan Hill variety of the fruitless olive tree but expressed concern that the 15-gallon container or 24" box sizes will not be tall enough for a street tree.

Member Wignot recalled that the planting of several fruitless olive trees was proposed with a project submitted by the Greek Orthodox Church that was previously reviewed by the DRB.

Member Wignot stated that the Subcommittee members have committed to reviewing the list provided by Bob Muller, Director of Research, Santa Barbara Botanic Gardens, to see if there are some species that would be appropriate to add to the City's list. He noted that the books authored by Bob Muller pinpoint the locations of the trees so that specimens that may be of interest can be observed.

Chair Messner suggested that when the Subcommittee decides to submit tree species for review by the DRB, it would be helpful to submit the recommended tree species in groupings of approximately five or ten species to facilitate the review process.

Bill Millar, Parks and Open Space Manager, stated that currently, in terms of diversity, the City's urban forest is doing pretty well, with a good palette. One of the goals is to provide choices so the level can be maintained, but it's not trying to catch up.

Member Wignot asked Bill Millar if there are areas in the City where there would be an opportunity to create something akin to the Santa Barbara Botanic Gardens.

Bill Millar, Parks and Open Space Manager, stated that the Stow House site has a very good collection of species and that it may be a possibility to consider something on the site that is similar to the concept of the Santa Barbara Botanic Gardens. He stated that when a landscape study was conducted at the Stow House for the Historical Society, the collection was compared to the Huntington Gardens. He noted that Mr. Stow was a horticulturist. Bill Millar stated that he attended the Goleta Valley Beautiful annual Heritage Tree Tour last Sunday which included visits to the Sexton House and Bishop ranch house to view specimens.

**B. Methods to conduct an outreach for community and professional input with regard to the process for updating the Recommended Street Tree Planting List. (Item requested by the DRB on February 24, 2009).**

Member Wignot requested that Bill Millar comment on the status of the previous Subcommittee discussion recommending methods to conduct an outreach for community and professional input by placing information on the City's website. He suggested that the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) section of the website would be useful for questions from the public regarding trees. He also suggested placing an item regarding trees on the Goleta TV Channel 19 scroll that would direct the public to the City's website for additional information.

Chair Messner stated that it is important to move forward with the Subcommittee's recommendations for methods to conduct a public and professional outreach that includes: posting the Recommended Street Tree Planting List, Nursery Standards

and Planting Guidelines document on the City's website for the public's information; using the FAQ concept on the website; and placing tree information on the Goleta TV Channel 19 scroll.

Bill Millar, Parks and Open Space Manager, stated that he will present the Subcommittee's recommendations regarding public and professional outreach to staff and report back at the next Subcommittee meeting.

## **INFORMATION ITEM**

### **A. Urban Forest Management Plan Update**

Bill Millar, Parks and Open Space Manager, stated that the stop work order on the grant has been lifted by the State. Currently, staff is in the process of submitting back billings. The next step is to prepare a report that focuses on the actual current state of the urban forest, leaving commercial interests aside. Policies and guidelines will also need to be developed with regard to the Urban Forest Management Plan.

Chair Messner stated that the results of the satellite imaging assessment by NCDC showed that the City's canopy coverage was 19 percent, which is very good compared with their assessment of other cities nationwide that averaged 28.9 percent. He stated that there is not a problem with regard to the City's canopy coverage compared to the assessment of other cities or a need to catch up; and that the purpose of adding trees is to diversify. He commented with regard to being careful that the idea is not commercial. He submitted a copy of an e-mail to City staff from Michaela Parlin, Production Manager, NCDC Imaging, dated January 14, 2009, Subject: Table of various Cities' Existing UTC (Urban Tree Canopy Tree Assessment) for comparison & Cool Fact Sheet on UTC, with attachment "Urban Tree Canopy Tree Assessment".

Bill Millar, Parks and Open Space Manager, stated that results of the NCDC imaging report showed that the City did pretty well and that there is not a need to catch up. He said that the Urban Forest Management Plan realistically needs to be designed so that it is relevant to Goleta. He noted a few examples of the City's unique characteristics that include: the coastal environment that provides a natural cooling effect, predominately narrow street parkways and center medians, and concerns with regard to views.

Member Wignot commented that property owners would not be precluded from planting a tree in their front yard rather than in the public right-of-way.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES: (continued to end of meeting)**

Street Tree Subcommittee Meeting Minutes for May 26, 2009.

**MOTION: Wignot moved, seconded by Messner, and carried by a 2 to 0 vote (Abstain: Wignot), to approve the Street Tree Subcommittee Meeting Minutes for May 26, 2009, as submitted.**

#### **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Chair Messner stated the Continued Item A (Discussion regarding adding more tree species to the Recommended Street Tree Planting List); Continued Item B (Methods to conduct an outreach for community and professional input with regard to the process for updating the Recommended Street Tree Planting List); and Information Item A (Urban Forest Management Plan Update), will all be continued to the next meeting.

The next Street Tree Subcommittee meeting will be August 11, 2009, at 2:00 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT: 2:45 P.M.**