

**MINUTES
REEDLEY STREETScape MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
FEBRUARY 15, 2000**

The agenda for the Streetscape Maintenance Committee Meeting of February 15, 2000, was duly posted in accordance with Government Code Section 54954.2.

A regular meeting of the Streetscape Maintenance Committee was held on February 15, 2000, in the Reedley City Hall Conference Room. The meeting was called to order at 8:07 a.m.

Members Present: Dale Melville, Jan Minami and Richard Bedoian.

Members Absent: None.

Staff Present: Michael Olmos, Community Development Director; and Kay Pierce, Administrative Assistant.

Others Present: Steve Loeffler.

C. Melville moved, C. Minami seconded to approve the minutes from the meeting of January 25, 2000. Motion carried unanimously.

REPORT ON MAINTENANCE ACTIVITY

A. Steve Loeffler reported that he spoke to Gerald Purviance regarding the removal of trees on "G" Street between 11th Street and 12th Street. He also spoke with Jeff Viau regarding the removal of the roots from the magnolia trees once they were cut down. Jeff suggested leaving a long tree trunk so that his crew could wrap a chain around the trunk and attempt to remove the tree with a backhoe while using the jackhammer to loosen the roots from the cement. The only problem that might arise is whatever the tree roots are wrapped around will also come up with the tree when removed by the backhoe.

C.D.D. Olmos stated that one of the problems staff has with the downtown area is that there is a lot of piping in the sidewalk and street that does not show up on the Public Works maps. There have been problems in the past with pipes being broken that no one knew existed.

Richard Bedoian approved of trying one tree as suggested to see how much of a problem the crew had, all the while being careful of the underground pipes.

Steve Loeffler asked who would be responsible for the underground electrical? He stated that last time he did tree removal by the Opera House, he ran into some electrical stubbed out there, but there is no telling what electrical there might be on "G" Street. There was no decision made on this.

B. Steve Loeffler stated that the Crepe Myrtle trees that were planted in front of the music store at Dr. Jelen's office were a quick fix just to plant something in the planter and these trees can be easily removed and replaced with either a hackberry or a Pistache tree at no cost to the City. Steve explained that he felt some type of tree needed to be

planted so that the business owners didn't complain about no tree in their area. The Committee directed Steve Loeffler to not buy any more Crepe Myrtle trees.

C. Steve Loeffler suggested before the next meeting, he will obtain a streetscape map from staff to show the groupings that are already planted and the future plantings so that there is a definite plan for the tree plantings. C. Melville suggested that Steve state on the Streetscape map any changes in the tree plantings, including the date planted, so that the map always stays updated. Every six months Steve could then bring the map into City Hall and have Mike Pardo update the permanent map.

D. Steve Loeffler asked the Committee whether he should direct Purviance Tree Removal to begin removing the magnolia trees on "G" Street between 11th and 12th? C. Minami asked if there are enough funds in the budget for this tree removal? Mike Olmos replied that the Committee needs to talk about a billing submitted from Loeffler Landscape for tree removal back in March of 1999 which was the first segment of trees removed on "G" Street between 9th and 10th Streets. Staff was not aware that the billing for this first section had not yet been submitted by Loeffler Landscape. Steve Loeffler replied that soon after the first section of trees were removed and replanted, he was called away on an extensive green house project and did not get around to billing the City for this project until now. He apologized for taking so long to submit this billing.

Mike Olmos went on to state that the budget is in good shape at this point in time and there are sufficient funds to pay this most recent billing. However, we will have to watch our funds for the remainder of the fiscal year. Since this billing is so late, there is not enough money in the 1999-2000 budget to remove any additional trees on "G" Street between 11th and 12th Streets. Mike Olmos asked Steve Loeffler to submit any other outstanding invoices by the next Streetscape meeting so that staff can balance the budget and see what funds are still available in this fiscal year.

C. Minami asked Staff for a breakdown of the streetscape budget to see what expenses have been paid for this far in the fiscal year and what money is still available. Staff will have that information at the next meeting.

The Committee stated that it is disappointed that no funds are available this fiscal year to remove and replant any additional trees. Mike Olmos stated that the three strawberry trees that were removed by the Public Works crew will be covered under the Public Works budget. Also, the two trees that will be planted on 12th Street in front of Uncle Harry's will also be paid for out of Public Works Street funds since it was considered sidewalk repair included in a street project. Loeffler Landscape will plant the three trees at the Opera House and the two trees on 12th Street in front of Uncle Harry's and send the billing to Mike Olmos for payment out of street funds. This billing will include all labor for the trees and whatever work might need to be done on the irrigation system. The crepe myrtles that will be replaced in front of the music store and in front of Dr. Jelen's will be on a separate billing. These two crepe myrtles will be replaced with either a Pistache or a hackberry.

The magnolia trees that are tagged on "G" Street between 11th and 12th will have to wait until a later date for removal. It will be decided at the next Streetscape meeting exactly how many magnolias can be removed and replaced.

Steve Loeffler stated that Public Works Superintendent, Jeff Viau, thought the cost of tree removal might be reduced considerably if the Public Works crew can successfully remove the magnolias with the backhoe. If this turns out to be fact, then perhaps the remaining Streetscape funds can be used to replace five or six trees. This will be decided at a later date.

OLD BUSINESS

A. C. Melville referred to the minutes from the meeting of January 25, 2000, where it stated that the Bergtholds were only supposed to remove the two strawberry trees directly in front of the door of the Opera House, leaving the three remaining strawberry trees in place. All five Strawberry trees were removed and C. Melville asked what happened?

Community Development Director Olmos stated that he was not aware that all five trees had been removed. Public Works Superintendent, Jeff Viau, was not in attendance and could not be reached for an explanation. C.D.D. Olmos stated he would find out and report back to the Committee at the next regular meeting.

The Committee members asked Steve Loeffler of Loeffler Landscape Maintenance whether or not Mr. Bergthold spoke to him regarding the type of trees to be replanted in this area of the Opera House. Steve Loeffler replied that he did speak with Mr. Bergthold and the two trees selected were not Italian Cypress, but junipers instead. Mr. Loeffler stated that he was present when the Public Works crew removed the first two strawberry trees. He also stated that Mr. Bergthold did want all five trees removed. However, the Committee agreed only to removal of the first two strawberry trees, with possible removal of the remaining three strawberry trees in the future, if at all. The Committee members were very clear on leaving the remaining three strawberry trees in place. The Committee did agree to the removal of the single strawberry tree in front of Richard's Clothing so that a Pistache or hackberry tree could be planted in this area.

C.D.D. Olmos suggested that Jeff Viau might have decided to remove all five strawberry trees while they were still small enough to replant successfully.

C. Melville stated that since all five strawberry trees were removed, three hackberry trees should now be planted in place of the strawberry trees. The Committee is in agreement with this suggestion and have directed Steve Loeffler to plant three (3) hackberry trees to replace the three (3) strawberry trees that were removed at the Opera House. The Committee has also directed Steve Loeffler to discontinue planting ANY crepe myrtle trees in the streetscape area. Only Pistache and hackberry trees are to be planted in the streetscape district from this moment on, unless directed otherwise by the Committee.

C. Bedoian reported that the Public Works crew has completed the sidewalk repairs on 12th Street in front of the El Monte Café and did an excellent job. However, there is now an additional tree well that needs a tree planted as well as the vacant planter that is already there. The Committee has directed Steve Loeffler to plant either a Pistache or a hackberry, depending on the selection of trees that he has already planted in this area.

NEW BUSINESS

A. The Committee was presented with the latest list of businesses in the streetscape district that are now paying the monthly streetscape fee. C. Bedoian stated that he did not see several businesses listed that are located on 11th Street between "F" and "G". The Committee members asked if Sylvia Plata from the Finance Department could come into the meeting so they could ask her about those businesses that the Committee does not see on the list. Sylvia Plata joined the meeting and told the Committee that she would physically check each location to ascertain whether or not there is a business at each address and find out why it is not listed in the accounts payable. Sylvia will try to have this information available for the Committee at the meeting scheduled for March 7th.

CITIZEN REMARKS - None.

COMMITTEE / STAFF COMMENTS / REPORTS

A. C. Minami stated that she had an idea to present that might make communication between the Committee and Loeffler Landscaping more clear. She suggested that staff draft a separate memo after each meeting that goes directly to Loeffler Landscape outlining those directions that were decided at the meetings. All agreed that would be a good idea.

B. Dale Melville suggested placing the 11th and "G" Street traffic signal on the March agenda. Jan Minami stated that with regard to the RDA and the intersection controversy, City staff is preparing a pro and con, fact based document to present to the RDA for submittal to the RDA members to get their input on this intersection. This information will then be brought back to the Streetscape Committee for their opinion. Jan Minami has asked Mike Olmos to get her the name of the traffic specialist who spoke for the Specific Plan who was in favor of stop signs and had statistics to back up his information. This information will also be presented to the RDA.

C. Dale Melville referred to comments make by Mike Olmos regarding the street tree policy that the City has in place. Dale asked the Committee members their feelings about developing a tree removal policy for the Streetscape District. Staff will obtain a copy of the street tree policy and the sidewalk policy for Dale Melville who will attempt to draft a policy for the next Committee meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 a.m. Next meeting will be March 7, 2000.

Richard Bedoian, Chairman
Streetscape Maintenance Committee

ATTEST:

Michael Olmos, Secretary