

**MINUTES**  
**REEDLEY STREETScape MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**JANUARY 25, 2000**  
**Special Meeting**

The agenda for the Streetscape Maintenance Committee Meeting of January 25, 2000, was duly posted in accordance with Government Code Section 54954.2.

A special meeting of the Streetscape Maintenance Committee was held on January 25, 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: Jeff Viau, Public Works Superintendent; Michael Olmos, Community Development Director; City Engineer, Andrew Benelli; and Kay Pierce, Administrative Assistant.

Others Present: None.

C. Minami moved, C. Bedoian seconded to approve the minutes from the meeting of January 18, 2000. Motion carried unanimously.

**REPORT ON MAINTENANCE ACTIVITY** - None.

**OLD BUSINESS**

A. Discussion regarding Hazard Elimination Grant to replace 11<sup>th</sup>/G Street Signals. Community Development Director, Mike Olmos, reiterated this item by stating that staff is looking for discussion and a recommendation from the Committee. The existing signal poles and lights are adequate, but not the most modern or up to date and safety would be enhanced if they were replaced with larger lights along with a mast arm over the intersection. There are many fender benders at this intersection. The total grant is \$160,000, with \$16,000 of that amount is the City's 10% match. What staff has in mind is if the grant is accepted by the City, that the signals be replaced in this intersection with signals similar to those in Porterville, which have an old-fashioned look. Mike Olmos provided pictures of those various lights from other communities for the Committee. Jan Minami asked if there is a way to make the box containing the light itself look more antique. City Engineer Andy Benelli, responded that he was not aware of any, but it could be researched.

Dale Melville stated that the intersection of "I" and 10<sup>th</sup> Street seems a more likely intersection to install a new light because of the traffic load. Mike Olmos stated that the accident rate is higher at 11<sup>th</sup> and "G" Streets. Dale Melville asked if the money Caltrans is making available can be used for any other location? Mike Olmos responded by replying that it couldn't because the 11<sup>th</sup> and "G" Street was the project that was qualified. He added that he would bring the pictures being viewed by the Committee to the Reedley Downtown Association (RDA) meeting on Wednesday, January 26.

It was a consensus of the Committee to withhold any decision on the project until after input from the RDA and the City Council. This item will then be brought back to the Committee for its decision. The Committee also stated its appreciation that the Council will not be taking any action at the City Council meeting this evening and will wait to obtain more public input before making a final decision. Caltrans does not need an immediate answer on this project, because the money for this project is on file. This item will be placed on the Streetscape Agenda for February 15, 2000.

B. Request from Art Bergthold to remove Strawberry Trees on 10<sup>th</sup> Street in front of the Opera House. The original five trees that were planted on 10<sup>th</sup> Street by the Bergtholds were removed after receiving a request from Mr. and Mrs. Bergthold to remove these five trees because they were messy and too tall. The City removed the five trees and replaced these five trees with five Strawberry Trees after receiving agreement from Mr. and Mrs. Bergthold. Mr. Bergthold is now requesting that the two Strawberry Trees directly on either side of the entrance to the Opera House be removed and replaced with two ornamental trees that are not messy and will not scratch the sides of the tour buses.

Public Works Superintendent, Jeff Viau, suggested replanting the Strawberry trees with Crepe Myrtle trees because they are slow growing and could possibly be trimmed back sufficiently to not inhibit the buses parking on 10<sup>th</sup> Street. However, he did add that it was not going to be easy to keep branches from growing out over 10<sup>th</sup> Street because of the distance between the curb and the trees. He suggested that a bush might be more appropriate than a tree in these two spaces. The ornamental Italian Cypress suggested by Mr. Bergthold is very labor intensive and would cost the Streetscape additional funds for the maintenance on these two trees.

Jan Minami asked if the Committee should ask Tree Fresno for any recommendations for trees in areas that bus traffic? Jeff Viau agreed that they might have some nurserymen in Tree Fresno that could make a recommendation.

Dale Melville stated that this is a unique situation because tour buses do park in this area. He continued by stating if the Bergthold's want to plant a bush in this area, or another type of ornamental tree the Committee could come to an agreement with them on the type of tree, but the Bergtholds should have to pay the cost of removing the Strawberry trees and the installation of new bushes or trees and any other labor or material costs involved. He added that there is nothing wrong with the existing Strawberry trees other than they are slightly messy and their branches grow out too far and if it wasn't for the request to replace them, they would remain in this location. He would be flexible on the type of tree selected for planting, even if it was decided to select a bush.

Mike Olmos stated that the Committee should focus on the fact that this is a unique business. When the City approved placement of an awning at the Opera House, they took into consideration that the Opera House is a theater and people come into town for special events to this location. They did something unique for a business that is basically unique. Richard Bedoian felt the Committee could replace the two trees on this same basis.

Jan Minami added that a precedent had already been set when the Committee authorized removal of the magnolia tree in front of the music store on 10<sup>th</sup> Street because the tree was covering their sign and out-of-towners could not find their store. A replacement tree has not yet been planted in this location. The Committee also allowed Uncle Harry's Restaurant

to remove a tree because it was blocking the patio entrance and replaced this planter with brick which was paid for by Uncle Harry's Restaurant. Neither business was charged for the removal of the tree.

Richard Bedoian does not have a problem with the two trees being removed in front of the Opera House. However, the trees need to be removed and replanted in a short period of time, before Blossom Trail. Jan Minami is also in agreement with the removal of the two trees, but feels the Committee should maintain control over the situation and still be able to accommodate certain unique requests. If the Committee approves a special request such as the request from the Opera House, the Committee will only cover the cost of a typical tree replacement. Any expenses beyond this would have to be covered by the business requesting the tree removal and replacement. Mr. Bergthold already agreed to pay for the replacement trees over and above the normal cost if the tree he selected was more expensive.

Jan Minami added that, in the future, if we have requests similar to this, if the Committee accommodates requests that are not in the Committee's normal rotation of trees, the Committee could remove and replace the tree, but the business making the request should have to pay half of the cost of removing and replacing the trees as well as any labor involved.

Dale Melville stated that he feels if the a business asks for a tree removal and replacement, the business should pay the entire cost. This will discourage individuals from changing trees.

The Committee will not allow the removal of any trees that are covering store signs because the type of trees being planted now are eventually going to be taller than the stores and will eventually grow past the store signs.

Mike Olmos relayed to the Committee that outside the Streetscape District, the City has a tree policy in place where a street tree will not be removed by the City unless there is a health or safety issue. If the request to remove a tree was in any other place than the downtown district, the City would deny the request. Jan Minami added that the Committee will consider special requests because the Downtown District is a unique area, but the business requesting the tree replacement should be liable for the cost of the replacement. The Opera House is a unique business because of the bus traffic and the benefit to the Downtown District and the possible business brought in for the downtown district.

The Committee agreed to remove the two trees. A decision needs to be made as to the type of trees to be replanted, and if it is a high maintenance tree, the business owner will have to assume the additional cost. However, there should be trees that can be selected that do not require a high maintenance. The Committee will solicit different types of trees from Mr. Bergthold and submit them to Loeffler Landscape Maintenance for his input so that he can assure the Committee that the particular tree chosen will not cause additional maintenance. If the trees selected do create additional maintenance even though Loeffler Landscape has assured the Committee it won't, then the Committee will not pay any additional maintenance fee for the trees selected.

A final decision was made as follows: Due to the problem of tour buses which park on 10<sup>th</sup> Street and the branches from the Strawberry Trees scratching the buses, Jan Minami

moved, Dale Melville seconded to direct the City crews to remove and replant the two trees. The new trees will be selected by Mr. Bergthold, with concurrence from Loeffler Landscape Maintenance the Public Works Superintendent as to species of tree. However, Mr. Bergthold will have to pay for the trees and any parts that might be needed to repair the sprinkler system. The City will do all the labor involved in the removal and replanting of the trees. This does not set a precedent for future requests for tree removals in the downtown streetscape area. The remaining three Strawberry Trees will remain. Motion passed unanimously.

The Committee also directed that the single Strawberry Tree located on "G" Street between 11<sup>th</sup> Street and 12<sup>th</sup> Street will be removed, replanted in a City park and replaced with a Chinese Pistache or Hackberry tree to blend in with the new trees being planted in the downtown Streetscape district.

It was recommended that Loeffler Landscape Maintenance apply a substance to the remaining three Strawberry trees on 10<sup>th</sup> Street that will prevent them from growing fruit so that the mess created by the fruit dropping onto the sidewalk will be eliminated.

**NEW BUSINESS**

A. Directed Loeffler Landscape to replace the tree that was removed in front of the Music Store on 10<sup>th</sup> Street.

**CITIZEN REMARKS** - None.

**COMMITTEE / STAFF COMMENTS / REPORTS** - None.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 9:01 a.m. Next meeting will be February 15, 2000.

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Richard Bedoian, Chairman  
Streetscape Maintenance Committee

ATTEST:

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Michael Olmos, Secretary