

MINUTES
REEDLEY STREETSCAPE MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
August 14, 2001

The agenda for the Streetscape Maintenance Committee Meeting of August 14, 2001, was duly posted in accordance with Government Code Section 54954.2.

A regular meeting of the Streetscape Maintenance Committee was held on August 14, 2001, in the Reedley City Hall Conference Room. The meeting was called to order at 8:04 a.m.

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

Members Absent: None.

Andrew Benelli, Public Works Director/City Engineer; and Kay Pierce, Administrative Assistant.

Others Present: Steve Loeffler of Loeffler Landscape Maintenance.

Dale Melville moved, Jan Minami seconded to approve the minutes from July 10, 2001. Motion carried unanimously.

REPORT ON MAINTENANCE ACTIVITY

A. Steve Loeffler reported that the watering is set for everyday at 2:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m. for five minute intervals for a total of ten minutes per day. Steve originally had the timer set for three days on and one off, but some of the ground cover in the pots started stressing, so he changed it back to everyday. Jeff Viau and Steve met out in the field and Jeff was shown all the places where the water lines need to be fixed. Jeff will work these repairs into his schedule. Steve's crew is removing the dead plants and the sunburned plants from the corner pots. Steve is leaving the plants draping over the pots. Washington Mutual at 10th and "G" did their own pruning of the plants outside of their building. They placed signs in their windows and they felt they couldn't be seen very well, so they butchered the plants by topping the flax. The Committee instructed staff to write a letter to all merchants that have pots located on the corners asking them to restrain themselves from pruning the plants in the pots and to instead call City Hall and make a request and let Steve decide whether the plants can be pruned. Steve's crew is just thinning and removing dead material from the pots as well as replacing some dirt in the tree wells so they are uniform. Some of the gazania is showing signs of a root fungus that the blue grass on the Rail Trail also seems to have. Steve found a species of gazania that is not affected by the root fungus and has asked Reedley Nursery to locate some of this gazania. Steve planted some of this new variety by Uncle Harry's restaurant and it's not affected by anything. Steve would like to plant some of thus gazania before the Fiesta.

Jan Minami reminded Steve that Taste of the Town will be held on September 6.

2. Andrew Benelli reported that Council Member Gobby left him a message stating that it seemed that some of the trees were not getting watered. Andrew and Jeff Viau walked the district and he couldn't find what trees were being referred to. Steve Loeffler stated that Elmo from

Reedley Hardware complained also. Steve stated that was when he had the water timer for three days on and one day off. Steve talked to a fellow in Dinuba who mentioned the Rail Trail and when bubblers are installed, perforated pipe should also be installed in the ground past the root barrier and fill it with gravel, so that when the bubbler goes on, it first fills up that pipe to get some deep rooted watering. Some of the Pistache trees is getting too much surface watering. Steve is going to install some of this perforated pipe in some of the Pistache tree wells. Andrew stated that the pipe installed in the Rail Trail tree wells are two feet deep and they are sitting a little below the surface as well. Steve stated that the trees will still get some surface watering, but it does help to deep water so that some of the roots will be directed down rather than sideways. Andrew stated that the roots won't go down because they run out of oxygen and the only way to get the roots to go down is if there is some gravel in the pipes so the oxygen is available also.

Steve asked if there is a projected time for the next section of tree removal. Andrew stated that the budget has been approved for the funding, but the time frame has not been decided. It will probably depend upon the availability of the Public Works crew. Andrew stated that the crew will probably remove a couple trees at a time and it will probably happen over the winter; either at the end of the year or the first of next year. Andrew stated that the trees in the wells where the irrigation lines are in bad shape should be removed first. Steve replied that the trees that are in jeopardy right now would be at Ben's Body Shop and Wells Fargo. The lines are not broken, but they are being pinched and stopping the flow of water. Jeff Viau is doing sidewalk work at Ben's Auto Body right now, so maybe these trees can be removed now. The removal of these trees will not affect Fiesta or Taste of the Town since they are on the side street. Steve stated there might be a total of five trees in this area that could be removed.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Andrew Benelli reminded the Committee that the City Council approved the requested \$5,000 for the tree removal in the downtown streetscape district. Andrew stated that the City Manager stated that what really needs to be done is for the monthly streetscape fee to be raised. Dale suggested that the Committee should seriously consider raising the rates even if it is only fifty cents a month. There is never a good time to raise monthly rates and the Committee would like to wait to see what happens with the Walmart project. The \$5,000 approved by Council will take care of replacing trees, repairing the irrigation system, and hold off raising rates for at least another year. Jan suggested designating \$1,500 of the \$5,000 be placed in a reserve account for emergencies and if the fund gets close to having to use the \$1,500, then the Committee will consider raising monthly streetscape fees. Andrew stated that at the end of last year, the Streetscape budget had \$2,960 in reserves. Dale stated that his understanding was that the City was still going to be able to help with tree replacements, as they have in the past, and this is a real benefit for the Streetscape budget. Andrew reported that the Public Works crew is down three employees and this makes it more difficult on the remaining crew to try to get work done.

The \$5,000 approved by Council will go directly into the Streetscape account to be used throughout the year for needed purchases and repairs. Any balance left by the end of fiscal year 2002 will be carried over into the next fiscal year.

NEW BUSINESS

A. The Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2001-2002 was presented to the Committee for their approval and signature by Chairman Bedoian. Dale Melville moved, Jan Minami seconded to approve the Annual Report. Motion carried unanimously. The report will now be forwarded on to City Council after being noticed in the paper.

CITIZEN REMARKS - None.

COMMITTEE/ STAFF COMMENTS / REPORTS - None.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 a.m. Next meeting will be September 11, 2001.

Richard Bedoian, Chairman
Streetscape Maintenance Committee

ATTEST:

Andrew Benelli, Secretary