

MINUTES REEDLEY STREETSCAPE MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE MEETING AUGUST 3, 1999

The agenda for the Streetscape Maintenance Committee Meeting of August 3, 1999, was duly posted in accordance with Government Code Section 54954.2.

A regular meeting of the Streetscape Maintenance Committee was held August 3, 1999, in the Reedley City Hall Conference Room. The meeting was called to order at 8:03 a.m.

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

Members Absent: None.

Staff Present: Michael Olmos, Community Development Director; Jeff Viau, Public Works Supervisor; and Kay Pierce, Secretary.

Others Present: Sandy Cox of Loeffler Landscape Maintenance.

C. Melville moved, C. Minami seconded to approve the minutes from the meeting of May 19, 1999; C. Minami moved, C. Melville seconded to approve the minutes from the meeting of June 16, 1999. Motions carried unanimously.

REPORT ON MAINTENANCE ACTIVITY

A. Jan Minami stated that she has concerns about standing water in the gutters particularly Coffee and Candy. Some of the pots are planted in a very light soil that does not hold water well. This soil will probably be changed in the fall. Sandy Cox stated that they have the timer set to water three times daily for five minutes at each watering. She stated she is still having problems with the lines in front of Cal Fed Bank and Bank of America which she has capped off two of the bubblers from Pioneer Equipment down to 9th and "G" which leaves two bubblers still functional. She asked if the line had been fixed in the tree well in front of Jasmin Printing on 11th Street where the water seems to go underground. To date, the line has not been fixed.

Sandy Cox stated that a tree has been replaced in front of Dr. Jelen's office next to Cal Fed Bank A Crepe Myrtle was planted in this location.

Jan Minami asked when the rest of the Magnolias are coming out? Staff replied that the Committee will have to give staff direction on how many trees to remove. Sandy Cox stated that the three trees that were removed were replaced in the evening and this went well. Purviance Tree Service removed the trees early in the day; the Public Works crew capped off the lines; Loeffler Landscape then came in that evening, installed the new irrigation and the new trees. This process went along very well with only three trees at a time. Staff stated that if it is more convenient to remove and replace three or four trees at one time instead of 10 or 14, this can be done.

Dale Melville suggested on checking what was budgeted for tree removal for the 1999/2000 fiscal year and proceed with tree removal depending on the budget and availability of funds. Staff replied that there is \$1,500 available for tree removal. The Committee decided to remove those Magnolias between 11th Street and 12th Street and replace them with the Hackberry and Pistache trees.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Community Development Director Olmos brought back the map from the last meeting which shows the types of trees planted in the Streetscape District, the dates the trees were planted and the location of the benches. Some trees still need to have the dates placed on the map. The original Crepe Myrtles and Magnolias were planted in 1986. The location of the new pots and all benches will also be shown on this map.

B. The two new benches that were purchased by Larson Realty have been installed. Names plates are needed for both benches and Richard Bedoian will take care of this.

C. Jan Minami asked who was in charge of asking the Fire Department to hose down the sidewalks in the downtown area? Richard Bedoian stated that the Downtown Association has this in their contract. The Fire Department does not automatically do this. When Bruce Bergthold was Fire Chief and a member of the RDA, he coordinated the hosing down. The Public Works Department did hose down the area in front of Common Grounds a couple of years ago. There is a concern about the amount of gum on the sidewalks. Dale Melville stated that there is a chemical that can be purchased to remove gum from sidewalks. He will get more information on this product and report back at the next meeting.

Staff will get in touch with Rick Gibble of the Fire Department to get more information on when the downtown area can be hosed down by the Fire Department. Dale Melville asked if each merchant is responsible for removing the gum off the sidewalks in front of their business. Jan Minami replied that she doesn't think the merchants are aware of this. If a chemical can be purchased to remove the gum, Dale Melville will pass this information along to the merchants. It would be nice to have the sidewalks hosed down before September 2, 1999, as this is a Reedley Night Out for the downtown area.

NEW BUSINESS

COMMITTEE/STAFF COMMENTS/REPORTS

A. Jan Minami stated that she has been receiving complaints about the stenciling on the sidewalk. The comments are that this stenciling is not pretty, the kids don't see it, and why are we putting the gorgeous pots out on the corners and then stenciling white paint on the sidewalk? Public Works Superintendent, Jeff Viau, stated that he received this direction from the Police Department, who said they were receiving requests from the downtown merchants. Superintendent Viau feels that since the "No Skateboarding" in on the sidewalks the Police

Department should enforce this ruling. Jan Minami doesn't feel that the kids are going to pay any attention to the stenciling on the sidewalk, but if is a request from the Police Department, then it has to be done, but enforcement needs to be carried out also. The merchants would like the stenciling to be done in a more aesthetically pleasing manner or skip the sidewalk painting.

B. Jan Minami asked Community Development Director Olmos if he checked on the light poles that the City of Fowler has available. He stated that Fowler has 27 light poles for sale. Public Works Superintendent Viau stated that these light poles are actual antique street lights, not replicas, from the Hollywood area and are completely wired. Mike Olmos stated that he has spoken with PG&E regarding the replacement of the existing light pole with the old-fashioned light poles. PG&E stated that they own the lights downtown and would want the City to purchase the system. He isn't sure if PG&E is still making that request, but could find out. The City of Fowler has not set a price on the light poles yet, but as soon as they decide, they will contact the City of Reedley. The funding for the street poles would not come out of the Streetscape budget. Several Council Members are interested in purchasing these poles. An update on this item will be on the next Streetscape agenda.

C. Community Development Director Olmos stated that staff will get in touch with the Fire Department and ask them to contact Joy Schumann regarding hosing down the downtown streetscape area before "Taste of the Town" night in September.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 8:52 a.m. The next meeting will be held on September 14, 1999.

Richard Bedoian, Chairman
Streetscape Maintenance Committee

ATTEST:

Michael Olmos, Secretary