

**MINUTES  
REEDLEY STREETScape MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE MEETING  
JANUARY 20, 1999**

The agenda for the Streetscape Maintenance Committee Meeting of January 20, 1999, was duly posted in accordance with Government Code Section 54954.2.

A regular meeting of the Streetscape Maintenance Committee was held January 20, 1999, in the Reedley City Hall Conference Room. The meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.m.

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

**Members Absent:** None.

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

**Others Present:** Sandra Cox of Loeffler Landscape Maintenance.

Dale Melville moved, Richard Bedoian seconded to approve the minutes from the December 9, 1998 meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

**REPORT ON MAINTENANCE ACTIVITY**

Sandra Cox of Loeffler Landscape stated that they would like to start pruning some of the Magnolia trees because the branches are starting to hang down over cars. Dale stated that he thought the trees were supposed to be allowed to grow taller. Sandra stated that some of the Magnolias need a light trimming because some the branches are really hanging low, but they will trim only those branches that are causing problems and growing into the overhead wires. Dale stated that he doesn't want to see them put too much time into trimming the Magnolias because many of them are scheduled for removal and need to be tagged. Sandra stated that many of the Crepe Myrtles need to be trimmed approximately six inches because of freeze damage. She also asked Jeff Viau, Public Works Superintendent, if Public Works is going to cap off the irrigation line in the tree well in front of the music store where the most recent Magnolia was removed?

The question of when more Magnolias are going to be removed was brought up and if Purviance Tree Service would be called in to remove them. Jeff Viau stated that after the removal of the trees, the Public Works crew has to repair a lot of damage to the irrigation system and he would prefer having the Public Works crew remove the Magnolias to keep the damage to the irrigation system at a minimum. Mike Olmos, Community Development Director, stated that if Jeff felt it would be more cost effective and he had the manpower to remove the trees, it was all right with him. Jeff stated that Public Works could handle the removal of the ten or so Magnolia trees that need to come out.

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Sandra Cox stated that she would have Steve Loeffler mark those trees in one area that needed to be removed. Loeffler Landscape previously stated that ten trees at one time was the limit for replacement and preferably all in one area at one time.

Jeff asked about the replacement trees, whether a decision has been made about what types of trees to plant? Trees wells already empty need to have trees planted in them as soon as possible. One in front of the Teri Hut, one at Martens Chevrolet and one in front of the Musci Store. It was suggested that the Chinese Hackberry or Chinese Pistache be planted.

Sandra Cox asked if there would still be room for ground cover in the tree wells if these species of trees are planted? She also asked if the Committee has heard anything derogatory about the strawberry trees that are planted on 10<sup>th</sup> Street? Dale Melville stated that although he hasn't heard anything derogatory about the trees, he was under the impression that the strawberry tree didn't not grow very large. Sandra Cox stated that the strawberry trees at Fresno State College are huge and she had taken pictures of these huge trees and showed them to the Committee. She added that the owner of the Opera House, Pat Bergthold, asked her to prune the trees so that they would not bush out, but would grow straighter. Dale Melville added that he doesn't think it is a good idea to let property owners dictate the way the trees should be pruned, that the pruning should be done in a consistent manner as per Streetscape Committee policy.

Dale Melville replied to the question of ground cover by stating that there will be many other places for plants and groundcover when the intersection of 11<sup>th</sup> and "G" is reconstructed. However, he feels that the main thing is to shade the downtown area because of the intense heat of summer. Jeff Viau stated that he didn't feel the trees would block off the front of the stores or their signs for very long before the trees grew higher than the store fronts

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **A. Selection or different tree varieties for streetscape area.**

Dale Melville stated that he preferred the Chinese Hackberry as was suggested by Tree Fresno. He also likes the Chinese Pistache. Sandra Cox added that Watson's Nursery also like the Chinese Pistache and had several planted in front of their business if the Committee wanted to view them. Dale added that the Chinese Pistache is a slow growing tree, but a very attractive tree. Sandra Cox stated they would like to see a tree drop all its leaves in a short period so there wouldn't be constant debris from the trees in the downtown area. Dale replied that the Chinese Pistache has small leaves and does drop them over a two to three week period. He added that the trees are very colorful in the fall.

Jeff Viau added that he also likes the Ginkgo Biloba because it is an attractive tree with an interesting leave design and is not affected by the smog. He added that the tree also drops its leaves over a two week period. It is a slow growing tree but has a deep root system and will eventually grow taller than the buildings for shade.

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Sandra Cox stated that there are several Chinese Hackberry trees growing in Fred Loeffler's yard with is located on Reed Avenue across from Reedley College for viewing by the Committee. The trees are approximately eight to ten years old.

Another tree variety suggested was Red Bud trees. Dale Melville pointed out that there are several of this species planted on Manning Avenue in front of the Town and Country shopping center. He added that Red Bud trees start out slowly, but their growing speeds up rapidly.

It is the consensus of the Committee to begin removal of at least ten magnolia trees on "G" Street between 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> Streets. Loeffler Landscape Maintenance has been directed to replace the magnolias with Chinese Hackberry and Chinese Pistache trees. The three tree wells that are presently empty will be planted with Chinese Hackberry as soon as Loeffler Landscape can acquire the trees. When the corner treatment is construct at 11<sup>th</sup> and "G" Streets, a combination of Chinese Hackberry and Ginkgo Biloba will be planted.

**NEW BUSINESS** - None.

**COMMITTEE/STAFF COMMENTS/REPORTS**

Jan Minami asked Jeff Viau if there is a map of the location and dates the trees were planted? Staff replied that the Engineering Technician might be able to assist with this project if the information on the tree planting dates is provided. Sandra Cox will contact staff with the dates of the trees planted in the last two years.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 a.m. The next meeting will be held on February 17, 1999.

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Richard Bedoian, Chairman  
Streetscape Maintenance Committee

ATTEST:

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Michael Olmos, Secretary

**AGENDA**  
**STREETSCAPE MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE**  
**Wednesday, January 20, 1999**  
**8:00 a.m.**

**This meeting is held at the Reedley City Hall, 1733 - 9th Street, Reedley**

- 1. Roll Call.**
- 2. Approval of minutes from December 9, 1998.**
- 3. Report on Maintenance Activity.**
- 4. Old Business.**
  - A. Selection and/or viewing of different tree varieties for streetscape area.**
- 5. New Business.**
- 6. Citizen Remarks.**
- 7. Committee/Staff Comments/Reports.**
- 8. Adjournment.**

**MINUTES  
REEDLEY STREETSCAPE MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE MEETING  
DECEMBER 9, 1998**

The agenda for the Streetscape Maintenance Committee Meeting of December 9, 1998, was duly posted in accordance with Government Code Section 54954.2.

A regular meeting of the Streetscape Maintenance Committee was held December 9, 1998, in the Reedley City Hall Conference Room. The meeting was called to order at 8:15 a.m.

**Members Present:** Dale Melville, and Richard Bedoian.

**Members Absent:** Jan Minami (had RDA meeting).

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

**Others Present:** Sandra Cox of Loeffler Landscape Maintenance.

Dale Melville moved, Richard Bedoian seconded to approve the minutes from the November 4, 1998 meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

**REPORT ON MAINTENANCE ACTIVITY**

Sandra Cox of Loeffler Landscape Maintenance reported that they have begun light pruning of the streetscape trees. Two new strawberry trees were planted to replace the trees that died in front of Richard's Clothing and Image Beauty Salon. Also replaced one tree in front of Martens Chevrolet that died due to an air pocket under the root system due to the irrigation line cracking and one tree was replaced in front of the Teri Hut.

Dale Melville asked how big the strawberry tree normally grows? Sandra Cox stated that although it is a slow growing tree, the tree will grow as large as the space allowed for it to grow. If the tree is very confined, it will be smaller than if the space allotted the tree is larger. The strawberry trees have been replacing the magnolia trees because merchants wanted a slow growing tree so that it wouldn't cover the store signs.

Sandra Cox reported that the tree well near Jasmin Printing had to be plugged up because there is a large hole going underneath the cement. Loeffler Landscape keeps putting dirt into the tree well.

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Richard Bedoian asked about the large hole near the tree well in front of Valley Ford New Holland. Public Works Superintendent, Jeff Viau, stated that he was called out to investigate the every-expanding hole and discovered that there was an old underground gas tank that finally rusted through on the top and the street tree was slowly sinking into the top of the tank. The Public Works Department filled the old tank with sand slurry and recompact the ground.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **A. Update on 11<sup>th</sup>/"G", 10<sup>th</sup>/"G", and 11<sup>th</sup>/"F" intersection stop signs.**

Community Development Director Olmos reported to the Committee that this request was presented to the City Council on November 24<sup>th</sup> and the Council is receptive to this request but would like to hold off until later in the year when it is not foggy. Rather than place the stop intersection in January as originally suggested, the Council would prefer later February or early March. The Council would like this item brought back to them before it is implemented to have City Engineer Benelli discuss how this would be set up. Mike Olmos stated that more permanent stop signs might be best so that the signs are not removed or knocked over. This information will be presented to the Council for their review later in the spring.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **A. Request from Reedley Music Center for tree removal.**

Faith Hull, owner of the Reedley Music Center located at 1649 - 10<sup>th</sup> Street, has requested the removal of the magnolia tree directly in front of her business. She has stated in her letter that the tree blocks the front of her store and customers looking for the business that are not familiar with Reedley cannot find the store.

Dale Melville drew a description of the store and tree location for the rest of the Committee showing where present signs were located on the building and stated that the signs were visible to motorists regardless of the direction from which the vehicle came.

Committee Member, Jan Minami, submitted a letter to the committee in her absence stating that the current store signs are fully visible whether you walk or drive from either direction and an above-awning sign would be visible coming from the intersection of 10<sup>th</sup> and "G" Streets. She agreed with Dale Melville's suggestion of replacing the magnolia tree as part of the Streetscape Committee's tree replacement schedule.

Richard Bedoian stated that this is the first he has heard of the request from Mrs. Hull. Staff also stated that no phone calls or previous written requests have ever been received from Mrs. Hull.

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Richard Bedoian added that he visited this location and agreed with the other Committee members that he could see the store signs from any direction.

The consensus of the Committee is to have staff contact Gerald Purviance Tree Service for removal of the one Magnolia tree nearest the alley and replace it with a different variety of tree that will grow taller. Dale Melville stated that Susan Stiltz of Tree Fresno recommends the Chinese Hackberry because it is not a messy tree and has low water maintenance. He stated he would like to plant a fast growing tree so that it grows quickly past the store signs. Sandra Cox was asked if she would be able to obtain a Chinese Hackberry tree from a local source. She will contact local nurseries.

Public Works Superintendent, Jeff Viau, stated that fast growing trees are the ones that tear up the concrete in the sidewalk and curb and gutter areas. He stated that a moderate growing trees that is nice is the Chinese Pistache and although it does shed, it has beautiful fall colors. It also requires some pruning because it is a thick tree. He added that the Gingko Biloba tree is a nice tree that has a deep root system, is conical in shape and doesn't spread out too far, but is a slow growing tree. He stated that the City of Fresno planted several different varieties of trees; a different variety each block. The idea behind two or three different varieties was in case of a disease in one particular tree, it wouldn't spread to the other varieties.

Staff will contact Mrs. Hull regarding the removal of the magnolia tree after hearing back from Gerald Purviance so that Mrs. Hull can make provisions for parking. She will also be informed that a different variety of tree will be replanted in place of the magnolia.

The Committee asked Sandra Cox to locate three Chinese Hackberry trees to replace the tree in front of Martens Chevrolet, in front of the Teri Hut and to replace the magnolia being removed in front of the Reedley Music Store. Staff will contact Gerald Purviance to set up removal of the Magnolia tree.

Sandra Cox asked the Committee if the rest of the Magnolia trees are going to be removed this spring so that Loeffler Landscape Maintenance can either plan on pruning the trees or waiting for removal. Approximately 20 magnolia trees have been removed from the downtown area to date. Some of the branches are starting to fall and do need pruning. Dale Melville stated that he recommends not pruning the magnolias until the next Streetscape meeting in January. In the meantime, he will bring a reference book on trees to show the Committee and perhaps Doug Watson of Reedley Nursery can attend for some input on trees. Richard Bedoian stated that there are a couple of magnolia trees that do need some attention because a few branches are hanging low enough that they need removal. It was suggested that Loeffler Landscape flag those magnolia trees that he feels should be removed and the Committee members can take a look at his recommendations before the next meeting in January. Sandra Cox suggested that when a decision

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is made on the removal of the trees, that one area be removed at a time so that the replacement trees can be planted at the same time and the growth of the new trees will be consistent.

Dale Melville suggested selecting two or three different varieties by the next meeting and then the Reedley Downtown Association can be polled on the selection of trees made by the Streetscape Committee.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 a.m. The next meeting will be held on January 20, 1999.

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Richard Bedoian, Chairman  
Streetscape Maintenance Committee

ATTEST:

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Michael Olmos, Secretary