

Alameda County Public Works Agency
Tree Advisory Board Meeting
Wednesday, May 16, 2012
Public Works Building, 951 Turner Ct, Hayward
Conference Room 230

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair, Kathie Ready; Vice-Chair, Dee McDonough; Dan Gallagher; Don Sheppard; Donald G. Nelson

OTHERS PRESENT: Inta Brainerd; Kwablah Attiogbe; Karen Hill; Mark Homen; Irene Moore

CALL TO ORDER: The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

I. PUBLIC COMMENT: None

II. ANNOUNCEMENTS: None

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes from February 23, 2011 approved.

IV. FOLLOW-UP ITEMS:

- **Fines Report:** No information received from Fiscal Department.

V. APPEALS:

21439 Rizzo Ave., Castro Valley

Mark Homen, attorney at law, was present to represent Ms. Moore and Ms. Hill. Mr. Homen presented plumbing receipts documenting the damage that the tree roots have caused. The tree roots have been causing sewer problems since the 1990's and since that time the owner has spent over \$25,000.00. The property is a rental unit and Ms. Moore's sole income. The tree roots are lifting her pathways. Ms. Hill pointed out the problem is not going to go away. She indicated the driveway was lifted by the roots and repaired in the 90's and is now a problem again.

Kathie Ready recommends seamless sewer for plumbing problems. Dan Gallagher clarified ordinance sections 12.140 B2 and 12.130 D. Additionally, he pointed out that the process for seamless sewer involves slipping a thick ABS pipe through the existing terra cotta. He also brought up that if the pipes are not replaced they will continue to leak sewage into the ground and become a health and safety issue. Dan pointed out that the tree roots can be pruned to repair the pathways.

Mr. Homen, again, requested that his client be allowed to remove the (2) Camphor trees.

Ms. Moore told the TAB that the trees are hazardous. One of them dropped a limb that fell on a car and she was responsible for the costs of repairs. She further stated that the trees are a nuisance and every year she loses money as a result of the trees causing damage.

Kathie Ready explained that in the past many trees were removed without permits and that's why the Alameda County Tree Ordinance was passed.

Dee McDonough pointed out that even new trees would continue to cause problems to the owner's sewer line if she does not replace the pipe.

Don Sheppard and Don Nelson agree that the trees are the wrong tree in the wrong place and that more attention needs to be paid to all the problems they have caused the owner.

Kathie Ready and Dan Gallagher feel that the trees can be pruned back from the house, root pruned, sewer repaired.

Don Nelson motioned to allow the removal of the trees and replace with a species from the approved list with two 24" boxed trees.

Don Sheppard seconds motion upon clarification of the size of the replacements.

Motion was approved 4 -1 with Dan Gallagher opposed.

- VI. Retreat/Training:** The question was posed whether or not the TAB members felt that another retreat may be necessary or whether or not they would like some additional training. Members reported that they did not feel either would be necessary unless a new member was appointed. Some topics members felt would be beneficial to a new appointee included:
- Tree Ordinance;
 - Review of guidelines for assessing fines;
 - Roberts Rules of Order;
 - Brown Act
 - History of TAB
- VII. Other:** Don Sheppard asked how the County could help with getting property owners to remove ivy from trees in San Lorenzo Creek (property lines extend to

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center of creek). Ina Brainerd to check with Code Enforcement to see if the NPO can apply to have property owners remove the ivy.

VIII. Wrap up and Adjourn: Meeting adjourned at 5:07 p.m.