

**CARSON CITY SHADE TREE COUNCIL**  
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A regular meeting of the Carson City Shade Tree Council was held on Thursday, May 29, 1997 in the Administrative Complex Conference Room #59, 2621 Northgate Lane, Carson City, NV at 5:30 p.m.

**PRESENT:** Chairperson Donna Kuester  
Ralph Marrone  
Mike Aragon  
Dallas English  
Craig Hartman  
Isabel Young

**STAFF:** Scott Fahrenbruch, Parks Superintendent  
Steve Flansberg, Streets Superintendent  
Fran Smith, Recording Secretary  
(SHA 5/29/97 1-0000.5)

**NOTE** - Unless otherwise indicated each item was introduced by Chairperson Kuester. Individuals speaking are identified following the heading of each item. A tape recording of these proceedings is on file in the Clerk-Recorder's office. This tape is available for review and inspection during normal business hours.

**A. CALL TO ORDER** - Chairperson Kuester called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m. A roll call was taken and a quorum was present although Members Hartman and Foster were absent. Member Hartman arrived at 5:47 p.m. and Chairperson Kuester noted that Member Foster's was an excused absence.

**B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES** - None.

**AGENDA ITEMS**

**1. REVIEW AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING TREE RELATED MAINTENANCE AND LANDSCAPING ISSUES AS IT PERTAINS TO THE CARSON CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT** - (1-0025.5) Jim Magness, Carson City School District Supervisor of Grounds - Chairperson Kuester said she had sent a letter to the president of the School Board who had turned it over to Mike Mitchell and it eventually was given to Mr. Magness. She stated that some concerns had been expressed by the public regarding the School District. She commented on the Arbor Day function at the high school where a School Board member was to have attended but had not. She added that the Council had donated a tree worth approximately \$1,000 and had not received a thank you from the principal or anyone else. She said the next day the Council had been at Eagle Valley School where they had participated by helping them prune and had instructed them on how to take care of the plants. She commented that concerns had been expressed because the Members had been told that the sprinkler system in the upper turnaround had not been working for more than two years. Mr. Magness said it was fine and has been working for eight years. She noted that concerns had been expressed that there had not been anyone from the School District there and Mr. Magness said the Council was there on a Saturday and that his people are not paid overtime. She asked if those people, rather than getting overtime, are given comp time and Mr. Magness said no one had asked about attending. Chairperson Kuester then stated she was not personally attacking him for this and Mr. Magness said he is a working supervisor and has very little time to deal with the community. She then commented that at the past two seminars there has been free lunch, literature, and instruction but no one from the schools has participated. She said she had personally sent out applications to the School Board, to the district office, and to Mr. Magness inviting them attend the seminars and Mr. Fahrenbruch had followed up. She added she had not received any response whatsoever. Mr. Magness said he had things to do during the day and it is hard for him or his employees to take off. She expressed her feeling that their taking advantage of the free instruction and participating could eventually save the schools time and money by using an improved method of maintenance.

Member Hartman arrived at 5:47 p.m. as this discussion was beginning.

(1-0125.5) Mr. Fahrenbruch felt a lot of the problem was a lack of commitment by the front office of the School

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District to fund the employees during their participation in these learning opportunities. He added that he knows Mr. Magness' employees personally because he often lends them equipment. Chairperson Kuester reiterated her concern with the comments made to the Council by the public about school maintenance. Member Young suggested that Mr. Magness sent someone to the seminars even if it is only one person. Mr. Magness indicated the work load did not allow for him to spare anybody. Mr. Fahrenbruch suggested he cross train his people in more than one thing if possible. At this point Chairperson Kuester commented that Mr. Magness should not take the brunt of this but rather it should be someone higher up but, as Member Marrone commented, they chose not to be at the meeting. Member Hartman felt that the Council could be trying to micro-manage the School District when all they could do was invite them. Chairperson Kuester then said she was looking for a motion to drop it or continue it. Member Marrone suggested sending a Member to a School Board meeting to let them know the concerns the Council had. He said he would also talk to School Board Member Gary Ailes first. Member English moved that Member Marrone call Dr. Ailes and if that didn't work then someone could attend a School Board meeting. There was no second and Member English withdrew her motion. Dr. Ailes arrived at this point. Member Marrone advised Dr. Ailes of the the Council's feeling that the School District had not been cooperating and that they had not sent anyone to the free seminars. Mr. Flansberg said his employees who had attended the recent seminar had learned a lot and had enjoyed it. Member Marrone noted that Mr. Magness had said he only has three employees and that they cannot take time off to attend. He reiterated that the Council had planted a \$1,000 tree at the high school and had not even received a thank you note. Chairperson Kuester then said concerns with over watering of trees had been brought to Mr. Magness' attention who had become angry. She also mentioned the Council's tree planting at Eagle Valley Middle School; however, they had been informed that the sprinkler system had been out for two years. She added that a gentleman from the forestry service had spent most of the day trying to get it to work. She also noted the school people had been alerted three years ago about the trees planted under power lines at Fritsch School and had done nothing about it. She added that the solution had eventually cost the taxpayers money. She also commented that the general public perceives that the School District does not care, does not want to do things, and is not listening to the public. She felt the problem with the seminar is a perfect example and is a reason why the taxpayers refuse to fund school issues. Dr. Ailes said he would see what he could do to resolve the problems. At this point Member Marrone stated that the teachers and students at Eagle Valley Middle School had sent a thank you letter for the work the Council had done. No formal action was taken.

**2. REVIEW AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON STORM DAMAGE TO TREES FROM WINTER 96-97 - (1-0961.5)** Mr. Flansberg stated they have done approximately one half of the work to date and have sixteen remaining total loss trees to remove and that this needs to be done by July 1. He added they have also spent a lot of time taking care of the "widow makers". He then talked about a problem with pest control and explained that the contractor did not want to do it this year because he is having trouble with the sprayer in that it poses a liability problem for him. Mr. Flansberg then stated there is a new product that has been approved in California which is called Merit-75. He added that rather than being a mist treatment it is sprayed around the base of trees in the fall and in the winter it will go up into the trees. No formal action was taken.

Chairperson Kuester declared a recess at 6:50 p.m. When she reconvened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. a quorum was present.

**3. REVIEW AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING ARBOR DAY CELEBRATION 1997-98 - (1-1201.5)** Chairperson Kuester said she was very pleased with how the activities went. This included the tree planting at the high school. She noted she had sent volunteer forms for the students to fill out and the teacher had returned them as she had been requested. Chairperson Kuester then said certificates would be sent to the students. She also noted she had sent copies of pictures that had been taken at the celebration. At this point she mentioned that Member Foster had a concern with the last paragraph in the Arbor Day letter that had been out. This had to do with a request for a donation from the recipients and Member Foster had indicated a desire that this be changed in the future. Chairperson Kuester also commented that the tree planting at the Attorney General's office went well and that the Leisure Hour Club had been very happy with the celebration. Ms. Sinnott expressed her feeling that future tree planting should be done on City property so that they can be maintained by the City rather than the State as is the case with the tree at the Attorney General's office. Mr. Fahrenbruch suggested perhaps setting up a policy where people can request tree planting. He also noted if there is a problem with a tree on State property

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they should request help from the City. The discussion turned to sending letters in January of each year to groups who could then request tree planting. No formal action was taken.

**4. REVIEW AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON FORMATION OF A SUBCOMMITTEE TO WORK ON LANDSCAPE ORDINANCE WITH CITY STAFF, BUILDERS ASSOCIATION, AND GENERAL PUBLIC** - (1-1529.5) Chairperson Kuester stated that Principal Planner Rob Joiner had requested meetings between City staff and these groups. She added that she would be on the subcommittee. She also felt that the builders are burdened with too much landscaping and said she had also asked Member Marrone to participate because he knows a lot of the people involved. She noted that the subcommittee would be meeting throughout the summer and the intention is to have something to the Board of Supervisors for approval no later than September. She said the meetings would be noticed according to the Open Meeting Law and that the public would also be invited to attend. Mr. Fahrenbruch felt they should make sure it is clear that volunteers are invited to participate on the subcommittee and that no action be taken during the meetings. Mr. Ruf asked who would enforce the ordinance and Chairperson Kuester said it would be the City's code enforcement officer and that Ms. Sinnott could possibly get involved. No formal action was taken.

**5. REVIEW AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING SHADE TREE COUNCIL SEMINAR FOR OCTOBER 28, 1997** - (1-1725.5) Member Hartman stated he had contacted a speaker, Bill Green, from Southern California. He added that the talk would be about the liability aspects for homeowners and municipalities regarding trees. He said Mr. Green was very interested in doing the seminar and had been tentatively booked. However, Member Hartman then asked the Council they would pay Mr. Green the fee which is \$500 plus expenses. Discussion ensued on this and Member Hartman expressed his feeling on what would happen if Mr. Green received another offer which he could take at his fee. Member English suggested a flat fee of perhaps \$600 where a cheaper air fare or hotel could be looked at. Ms. Sinnott suggested telling Mr. Green his fee would be paid from grant funding with the thought it could influence him. Member Marrone stated he had spoken to Guy Rocha about speaking but had not yet heard back. Chairperson Kuester said Mr. Rocha would need a letter of intent. She also asked if he should be the keynote speaker or have him speak after lunch. She also asked how long it is anticipated the pruning session would be. Member Marrone suggested starting with Mr. Rocha and then bring in the pruning followed by Mr. Green. Discussion ensued on the schedule for each item. Chairperson Kuester said there had also been a suggestion that Rob Joiner speak on planning issues. She noted she needed to talk to him about the subcommittee and would also ask him about speaking. The discussion turned to who could teach the pruning segment and several names were suggested. No formal action was taken.

**6. REVIEW AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON MARKETING OF TREE SELECTION GUIDE** - (1-2533.5) Member English provided samples of a draft flyer to be placed with the books at marketing sites. She also explained how the process would work. No formal action was taken.

**7. REVIEW AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON NEW MEMBERSHIP DRIVE FOR SHADE TREE COUNCIL** - (1-2607.5) Chairperson Kuester stated as of January and February there would be three and possibly four openings. She noted that she and Members Foster and English would be leaving as would Member Hartman if he chose to not be reappointed. She added she had talked to City Personnel who said they would take applications at any time. She suggested if Members know of anyone who is interested they should tell them and also invite them to meetings to become familiar with the Council. No formal action was taken.

**8. REVIEW AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON A LIAISON FOR WORKING WITH PARKS STAFF REGARDING GRANTS, GIFT FUNDS, SECRETARIAL DUTIES, ETC. OF SHADE TREE COUNCIL BUSINESS** - (1-2708.5) Chairperson Kuester explained there is correspondence she needs to take care of but does not have the time to handle this. She added that the Council needs somebody to work with Sandy Tschumperlin of the Parks Department on grants. This would be to work strictly with the Treasury and the grants process. She also noted that person would be responsible getting the information to Susan Stead by the end of the term for the grant. She added there needs to be two people to go to the Parks office and put together a file for Council business. She noted that Member Young had volunteered to do that but Chairperson Kuester felt she would need another person to help. She then said there is a separate gift fund account that needs to be looked at and utilized on a regular basis and cited an example of how this would work. Mr. Fahrenbruch said as far as grants go they would be taking a

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more active stance in the Parks Department. He added what they need is somebody to help coordinate the criteria relating to grants. Member Aragon said he would help Member Young. Chairperson Kuester also noted that Member English could no longer keep up the scrapbook and said somebody needed to take it over. Member English explained that it is not fancy but is a chronological sequence of events. Chairperson Kuester asked if there was any volunteer to handle the gift fund. She explained this is a person acting as a treasurer recording any funds from any books that are sold, any donations, etc. Member Young said she would volunteer. No formal action was taken.

**9. REVIEW AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING PARKS BUDGET HEARINGS AS IT PERTAINS TO SHADE TREE COUNCIL** - (1-3139.5) Chairperson Kuester thanked the Members who had attended the hearing. She was happy with the allocation they received considering the competition. She emphasized a lot of that was because Members had attended and explained when the Board of Supervisors see interested people attending they fund. She commented that even though Question 18 money would be available the Board funded Parks with a lot of one shot money. She noted several other requests that had not gotten funded such as the code enforcement, RSVP, womens organizations, etc. She added that \$25,000 had been allocated for Ms. Sinnott which was \$5,000 more than last year and, because of this and similar requests, reiterated her reason for feeling that Members need to be there. Mr. Fahrenbruch echoed her sentiments. No formal action was taken.

**10. REVIEW AND POSSIBLE ACTION OF SUMMER SHADE TREE COUNCIL WORKSHOP** - (1-3285.5) Chairperson Kuester commented this would be in combination with a barbecue and would be held at the Marrone house. Discussion ensued on a date and it was agreed to have it July 17 from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. There was a question if the workshop could be held at a private residence because of the Open Meeting Law. It was also noted that the District Attorney would be consulted on this. No formal action was taken.

**11. REVIEW AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON NEVADA DIVISION OF FORESTRY MEETING ON FEDERAL GRANT WRITERS AS IT RELATES TO THE SHADE TREE COUNCIL** - (1-3501.5) Chairperson Kuester said Susan Stead had the Federal grant writing people coming in. She said they want input from people who apply. She noted that former member Ann Nunnemaker would meet the Federal people at Fremont School on June 9 at 9:15 p.m. and that she would meet them at 11:30 a.m. Discussion ensued on the subjects that would be covered. She also encouraged the Members to attend. No formal action was taken.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Ms. Nunnemaker stated that the Reno Shade Tree Council would be having their annual barbecue meeting and said they wanted to be sure this Council knew they were invited. She said it would be June 18 at 6:00 p.m. at Idlewood Park. Chairperson Kuester said she planned to attend and encouraged others to do so because the Reno people have been supportive of the Carson City group.

#### **REPORTS**

**Parks and Recreation Staff** - Mr. Fahrenbruch said he and Ms. Sinnott are working on replacing the damaged trees at Mills Park. He also noted they had been able to save some trees at Riverview. He said the Downtown Beautification project was out to bid and said the hope was to have the Board approve it at their meeting July 3.

#### **GENERAL DISCUSSION**

Discussion ensued on the summer schedule and it was agreed the next meeting would be September 25.

There being no further business Chairperson Kuester entertained a motion to adjourn. Member Marrone moved to adjourn. Member Hartman seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0. Chairperson Kuester adjourned the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

The Minutes of the May 29, 1997 meeting of the Carson City Shade Tree Council

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ARE SO APPROVED 9/25, 1997

/s/  
Donna Kuester, Chairperson