

CARSON CITY SHADE TREE COUNCIL
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A regular meeting of the Carson City Shade Tree Council was scheduled for 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, October 6, 2010 in the Community Center Sierra Room, 851 East William Street, Carson City, Nevada.

PRESENT: Chairperson Lee-Ann Keever
Vice Chairperson Gianna Shirk
Member Carole Brewer
Member Kyle Horvath
Member Terrill Ozawa
Member Jens Peermann
Member Roy Trenoweth

STAFF: Roger Moellendorf, Parks and Recreation Department Director
Tamar Warren, Recording Secretary

NOTE: A recording of these proceedings, the council's agenda materials, and any written comments or documentation provided to the recording secretary are public record. These materials are on file in the Clerk's Office, and available for review during regular business hours.

CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL AND DETERMINATION OF QUORUM (5:30:22) -
Chairperson Keever called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Roll was called and a quorum was present.

CITIZEN COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS (5:31:01) – None.

1. ACTION ON APPROVAL OF MINUTES (5:31:36) – Chairperson Keever requested to capitalize Web Site as a two-part word. She also requested noting whether a council member's absence was excused or not. **Member Brewer moved to accept the minutes of the August 4, 2010 meeting, as corrected. The motion was seconded by Member Trenoweth. The motion carried 7-0.**

2. MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA (5:32:30) – Chairperson Keever asked to go to non-action items and invited Member Horvath to comment on his new news. Member Horvath announced the birth of their daughter, Mia Kaelan, on Aug. 12, 2010, weighing 7 pounds, 11 ounces. Agenda item 3B was discussed after item 3C

3. AGENDA ITEMS:

3-A. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE ABSENCE OF ANY COUNCIL MEMBER FROM THIS MEETING (5:33:22) – This agenda item was skipped.

3-B. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE 2010 FALL TREE CARE SEMINAR (6:08:33) – Chairperson Keever introduced the item and distributed the event agenda and speaker list, incorporated in the record. Member Horvath asked if he could forfeit his 30 minutes at the end of the seminar for 15 minutes at the beginning, so that the attendees could come up with ideas supporting the initiative throughout the day. However, since the speakers' times were

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already set, Chairperson Keever suggested Member Horvath launch the concept during the Council members' introduction segment, then elaborate at the end of the day. Member Brewer stated that Comma Coffee would cater the event and charge \$20 per person. In response to a question by Member Peermann, Chairperson Keever said that invitations had been sent out to 340 people on their mailing list. Member Peermann requested several copies to distribute to his contacts. Mr. Moellendorf agreed to check on the procedure of purchasing gift cards. Chairperson Keever stressed for the record that the money spent on the Fall Tree Care Seminar was raised by the Council, and that it was not the City's money. Member Ozawa wanted that information to be announced, and Chairperson Keever agreed to include it in the press release. Mr. Moellendorf confirmed that 3-5 trees would be selected, and that his staff would find the appropriate planting locations. Vice Chairperson Shirk announced that she would be away and would miss the seminar. Chairperson Keever stated that the event would be recorded and she would inquire about selling the DVD as an informative and revenue-generating tool. **Vice Chairperson Shirk moved to pre-approve up to \$500 for the purchase of the trees or shrubs, as determined Mr. Moellendorf and Supervisor Walt, and for the Parks and Recreation Department staff to select the appropriate planting locations. Member Brewer seconded the motion. The motion passed 7-0.**

3-C. DISCUSSION ONLY REGARDING THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE CARSON CITY SHADE TREE COUNCIL TO THE CARSON CITY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS THAT THE OVERHEAD POWER LINES IN CARSON BE MOVED UNDERGROUND FOR THE HEALTH AND BENEFIT OF CARSON CITY'S TREES

(5:33:24) – Chairperson Keever introduced the item and invited Brian Costello, Director, Northwest Region, NV Energy to discuss the feasibility of moving underground the overhead power lines in Carson City, for the health and benefit of Carson City's trees. She also informed the Council that Member Peermann and Mr. Moellendorf had met with City Staff to discuss this issue, and would be updating the Council.

Mr. Costello introduced himself, and stated that he would be addressing both the cost and the governing laws associated with undertaking such a project. He said that he had researched three sources of data. First were similar projects, either performed or estimated in the Reno/Sparks area. The second was the Rule 20 information, a mandatory undergrounding process by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC). And lastly, he referenced a 2006 study by the Edison Electric Institute (EEI), a consortium that serves utility companies nationwide. Mr. Costello stated that the cost of relocating existing power lines under ground would range from \$1 Million to \$3 Million per linear mile of overhead line. He went on to say that there were around 200 linear miles of overhead lines in Carson City. This, he continued, excluded services which would also be relocated under ground. He added that the Rule 20 data cited the expenditures of \$1.5 Million to \$ 4.5 Million per linear mile, based on projects completed in the last ten years. He stated that the EEI study revealed similar results, averaging between \$1 Million and \$3 Million per linear mile. Mr. Costello concluded that, based on the above-mentioned studies, a half-billion dollars would not be a surprising cost. Service, traffic control, permit, and street modification costs, were not included in this estimate, according to Mr. Costello. In response to a question from Chairperson Keever, Mr. Costello explained that based on the EEI study, the cost of the utilities would be an additional 25% per utility, to do the undergrounding. He also believed that in most cases, the heavy cables of the telephone would be replaced by fiber.

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Member Brewer wondered if the cable and phone companies could share these expenses. Mr. Costello responded that on new constructions, the utility companies share a joint trench, creating economies of scale. He also cited the ruling statute, NRS-704A which states that “the entity that is driving that activity pays 100% of the cost for those activities”, which would mean that Carson City would incur 100% of the cost of the undergrounding. According to Mr. Costello, the Public Utilities Commission of Nevada (PUCN) would forbid NV Energy from investing in the project, placing the entire burden on those making the project happen.

(5:43:02) – In response to Mr. Peermann’s question, Mr. Costello explained that once the project was installed, the ownership would go to NV Energy. Member Brewer asked how the electric bills would be affected. Mr. Costello responded that since the City would incur the expenses, possibly via a bond, the outcome would be cost-neutral to consumers. He also explained that in the case of the Roop Street improvements, the reason NV Energy was incurring part of the cost was because the company had a right of way there, not an easement, and was part of a franchise agreement with the State.

Member Horvath wanted to know the cost of pruning the trees below the power lines, and Mr. Costello was not certain of that cost, however, he believed that the entire budget for the State of California, including the Las Vegas Valley, was around \$5 Million. He also referred to an EEI study in Australia that had an 11% cost benefit. Mr. Moellendorf answered a question by Chairperson Keever, by stating that trenching was a serious issue for trees, especially the mature ones on the western side of the city. Vice Chairperson Shirk commented that there were miles of roots under the City’s streets, and she could not imagine the feasibility of the project. Mr. Costello explained that, in Florida, the problem was reversed, and that the trees would damage the power lines, especially during the hurricane season. Therefore, he added, they used the method of boring instead of trenching there, and that was very costly. Member Brewer inquired about laws regarding new construction, and Mr. Moellendorf replied that he was not aware of any laws. However, he stated that the City negotiated with new housing developments for underground utilities. Mr. Costello confirmed that Carson City did not have undergrounding ordinances. Member Peermann verified that in a conversation with the City Engineer, he had learned that all new construction in Carson City, not just new developments, was required to be “set up for being connected to underground utility lines”. Chairperson Keever believed that the Council could recommend to the Board of Supervisors that future new construction have underground power lines. However, she thought it would be “ill advised” to ask for retrofitting of existing power lines. She then solicited input from Council members.

Vice Chairperson Shirk said she would “not be supportive of either measure”, and Member Trenoweth agreed. Members Horvath and Ozawa suggested recommending that all new construction have underground power lines, and Members Brewer and Peermann stated that it be mandatory. Mr. Moellendorf suggested that he and Mr. Peermann continue dialogue with the City’s Planning Department and inquire about pursuing an ordinance. Chairperson Keever advised obtaining ordinance information from Douglas County, and the Cities of Reno and Sparks for existing language. Mr. Moellendorf stated that education on the type of trees to plant under power lines would also be an undertaking the Council could pursue. Chairperson Keever thanked Mr. Costello and suggested placing this item on the December agenda.

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3-D. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE 2011 CALIFORNIA URBAN FORESTS COUNCIL'S ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND WHETHER OR NOT THE COUNCIL SHOULD SEND A REPRESENTATIVE TO THAT CONFERENCE (6:19:01) –

Chairperson Keever introduced the item and wanted the Council's opinion on whether the \$2,000 expenditure was an appropriate expense should they send a representative to attend. Member Brewer stated that she "would rather see us plant \$2,000 worth of trees". Vice Chairperson Shirk clarified that the \$2,000 expense was for last-minute attendees, and suggested reading the website and planning ahead. Member Horvath opined that the "biggest asset would be the networking". Member Ozawa suggested inviting one of the producers or speakers to come to a future tree care seminar. Chairperson Keever contemplated offering to host such an event. It was agreed not to take action on this item, but bring similar events to the Council's attention.

3-E. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING REIMBURSING VICE CHAIR SHIRK FOR HER ATTENDANCE AT AN ISA-SPONSORED ARBORISTS WORKSHOP (6:22:34) –

Chairperson Keever introduced the item. Vice Chairperson Shirk said that this event was happening now, and wished everyone could be there. She asked the Council to reimburse her registration fee, and promised to return to the next meeting with "lots of fun details". **Member Brewer moved to reimburse Vice Chairperson Shirk for her attendance at an ISA-sponsored arborists workshop.** Chairperson Keever suggested having a policy for paying for things that had already taken place, but Council had not approved. She agreed that Vice Chairperson Shirk needed to be reimbursed due to the lack of a policy. Member Peermann suggested making decisions on a case-by-case basis. Mr. Moellendorf suggested voting on the issue at hand, and addressing the policy in a future agenda item. **Member Peermann seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-0.**

Member Horvath had briefly left the room, and was unable to vote.

3-F. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE SHADE TREE COUNCIL'S ART TREE PROJECT AND TREE INITIATIVE (6:27:05) –

Chairperson Keever introduced the item. Member Horvath asked if he could invite certain guests to the 3:30 p.m. time slot at the Fall Tree Care Seminar. Chairperson Keever confirmed that if the guests wished to attend the entire seminar, they must pay the registration fee; however, she did not see a problem with them attending at 3:30 p.m. **Member Ozawa moved to approve Mr. Horvath's request to invite various community agencies to the Fall Tree Care Seminar at 3:30 p.m. to hear his presentation on the proposed tree initiative, to plant 10,000 trees in five years, subject to Chairperson Keever's preapproval of the invitation. The motion was seconded by Vice Chairperson Shirk. The motion carried 7-0.**

4. NON-ACTION ITEMS

STATUS REPORTS AND COMMENTS FROM STAFF (6:33:45) – None.

MEMBERS' ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION (6:33:57) –

Member Horvath commented that he had received a bonsai kit and was looking forward to "learning how to bonsai trees". Vice Chairperson Shirk distributed a pamphlet on the Street Tree Program, which is incorporated into the record. She stated that these were printed by the Department of Parks

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and Recreation and that if the Council members wanted more, they could call the Department and request additional copies. Chairperson Keever said that the Department of Public Works had been in her neighborhood to cut down trees, some of which were rotting. She stated that she would inform one of her neighbors, via the Street Tree Program brochure, on how to get replacement trees. Mr. Moellendorf informed the Council that Public Works had planted 30 new trees on East 5th Street, near the Edmonds/Fairview roundabout. Member Ozawa wanted to inform the Council that the name of the park ranger supervisor in Washoe Lake State Park was Jennifer Dawson. Chairperson Keever asked the Council to stay after the meeting for a group photo for the Fall Tree Care Seminar. Member Peermann asked about the status of the scouts' project, and suggested postponing it until the spring.

5. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS (6:37:45) – Vice Chairperson Shirk wanted to agendize updating the Shade Tree Council's goals, and addressing landscape standards.

6. ACTION ON ADJOURNMENT (6:40:25) – **Member Brewer moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Member Trenoweth, and carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m.**

The Minutes of the October 6, 2010 Carson City Shade Tree Council meeting are so approved this 1st day of December, 2010.

LEE-ANN KEEVER, Chair