

CARSON CITY SHADE TREE COUNCIL
Minutes of the February 24, 2000 Meeting
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A regular meeting of the Carson City Shade Tree Council was held at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, February 24, 2000 at the City Hall Capitol Conference Room, 201 North Carson Street, Carson City, Nevada.

PRESENT: Chairperson Sally Zola
Frieda Ford
Christine Gross
Craig Hartman
Isabel Young

STAFF: Scott Fahrenbruch, Parks Superintendent
John Flansberg, Streets Operations Manager
Vern Krahn, Parks Planner
Molly Sinnott, Contract Urban Forester
Kathleen King, Recording Secretary
(STC 02/24/00; Tape 1-0001)

NOTE: Unless indicated otherwise, each item was introduced by Chairperson Zola. A tape recording of these proceedings is on file in the Clerk-Recorder's Office and is available for review and inspection during regular business hours.

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL (1-0004) - Chairperson Zola called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Roll call was taken; a quorum was present. Vice Chairperson Enright and Member Bondiett were absent; Chairperson Zola noted that their absences were excused. Member Young arrived at 5:40 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JANUARY 27, 2000 (1-0017) - Member Hartman moved to approve the minutes. Member Ford seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0-3-0.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND DISCUSSION OF NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS (1-0029) - None.

4. REVIEW AND ACTION ON GRANT-FUNDED TREE INVENTORY PROGRAM (1-0035) - Mr. Flansberg provided background information and a status report on this matter. He advised he had spent a fair amount of time researching other software packages last month as the Versaview program was not yet available. Only one other program would interface with the existing database used by the Streets Department; however, it received poor reviews. Mr. Flansberg advised that, following his software research, staff's recommendation is to pursue purchase of the Versaview program. The program will be available for purchase and set up prior to the June deadline. Chairperson Zola recommended contacting Linda Nelson to discuss the tree inventory program used by her department, and Mr. Flansberg agreed to do so. Mr. Fahrenbruch discussed the reason for continuing to work with the Versaview vendor. Mr. Flansberg advised of the cost (\$2995), and explained various applications of the software to other areas of Streets Department inventory management. No formal action was taken.

5. REVIEW AND ACTION ON PROPOSED STREET TREE PROGRAM FOR PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAY AREAS (1-0147) - Mr. Fahrenbruch discussed the Streets Department's hazardous tree removal program, and the proposed replacement/beautification program. He referred the Council members to the Question 18 materials contained in their packets, and reviewed possible allocations of Question 18

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funds, including beautification projects. He advised that Mr. Flansberg had developed a proposed street tree program which conforms to the provisions of Question 18, including replacement of hazardous trees and planting new trees. Mr. Flansberg distributed copies of the proposed program and Mr. Fahrenbruch reviewed the program's objective and concept. He advised that Donna Kuester, a past Shade Tree Council chairperson, had expressed opposition to Question 18 funds being used for tree replacement. Her opinion is that funding should also be allocated from the Public Works budgets or from the general fund. Mr. Fahrenbruch advised that staff is in agreement with Ms. Kuester's opinion, and proposed utilizing \$10,000 of Question 18 funding - \$5,000 for hazardous tree replacement and \$5,000 for new tree plantings. In addition, a capital improvement program request will be developed and submitted next fiscal year for ongoing funding from the general fund. Mr. Fahrenbruch explained staff's policy of submitting Question 18-funded projects for review and approval by the Shade Tree Council, and reviewed the status of Question 18 funding for beautification projects.

Ms. Sinnott distributed leaflets outlining the provisions of the City of Albany Fall 1998 Street Tree Program. Mr. Flansberg reviewed the concept of the proposed Street Tree Program and requested input from the Council members. He displayed a sample from a recently removed hazardous tree, and discussed the removal of other hazardous trees. He suggested that new trees could be planted to mitigate future hazardous removals once the Tree Inventory Program is running. Discussion ensued with regard to approaching property owners, advertising the program, the City of Reno's tree replacement program, the success of the 50/50 sidewalk program, the ownership and maintenance of trees within the City's rights-of-way, the specific application of Question 18 funding, the importance of "buy-in" from the homeowners, and developing educational-type advertising to promote the program.

(1-0595) Donna Kuester discussed the need for a replacement program funded by the public works budget. Mr. Flansberg explained that gas tax dollars, which are set aside for street maintenance, cannot be used for tree replacement. The request would have to be submitted through the capital improvement program process. Ms. Kuester suggested that the Council draft a letter to the Board of Supervisors advising of the programs the Council supports.

Mr. Fahrenbruch recommended implementation of the program with Question 18 funding, and development of a proposal to request general funding in the next fiscal year. Member Young expressed support for educational advertising to determine a response from the public on the proposed program. Discussion ensued with regard to advertising the program as a 50/50 cost share with the City, and Mr. Fahrenbruch explained the administrative drawbacks of 50/50 cost sharing on the tree and the planting as separate items. In response to a question, Mr. Flansberg advised that 18 hazardous trees have been removed to date. Thirty-three were originally designated as hazardous; however, the remaining 15 can be hazard-pruned and monitored. Ms. Sinnott pointed out that there are many overly mature trees in the City which have all matured at the same time without many other trees being planted in the interim. In response to a question, Mr. Fahrenbruch explained that the proposed \$5,000 for tree replacement would cover labor and administrative costs. The homeowner would be responsible for purchasing the tree. Mr. Flansberg explained the capital improvement projects process and the success in recent years of allocating funding for ongoing maintenance of City-owned asphalt parking lots. Staff, therefore, believes that the Street Tree Program has a good chance of being funded through the CIP process. He emphasized the need for involving the property owner in order that they will be motivated to provide ongoing care for the tree.

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Ms. Kuester suggested publicizing the program to inform the public of their options and waiting for a response. Chairperson Zola expressed a concern with waiting to plant new trees in place of the hazardous trees which were removed. Ms. Sinnott suggested terming the program "Street Tree Beautification Program," and educating the public about the program. Mr. Fahrenbruch discussed surveying the affected property owners to determine their interest in the program. He explained the authority of the Council to define the street tree program as provided for in the proposed projects set out by Question 18. Ms. Sinnott commented that removal of the trees has created a much safer environment. In response to discussion, Mr. Flansberg advised that the Streets Department has several pictures of the hazardous trees and decayed crowns, and that the Nevada *Appeal* printed an article on the trees removed along King Street. Discussion ensued with regard to marketing the program, the difference between a replacement program and a beautification program, changing the objective of the proposed program to indicate funding for planting new trees only, and whether or not there is a need to replace the trees which have been removed. Mr. Fahrenbruch revised the funding request to \$10,000; \$8,000 for contract labor to plant the new trees and \$2,000 for administrative costs. He emphasized the need to develop a CIP request for next year. Mr. Flansberg discussed the criteria for the sidewalk program, and the possibility of developing a master plan for the street tree beautification program. Mr. Fahrenbruch advised that he and Mr. Flansberg will develop a revised proposal for review and possible action at the next Council meeting. **Member Young moved to provide funding for a tree planting program using \$10,000 of Question 18 funding.** Following discussion, **Member Young amended her motion to reflect that the Council approves \$10,000 from Question 18 to provide for planting new trees and to initiate a street tree program in concept as proposed. Member Gross seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.** Chairperson Zola thanked Mr. Flansberg for his presentation.

6. REVIEW AND ACTION TO ASSIGN SPECIFIC TASKS AND ROLES TO MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL BY THE CHAIRPERSON (1-1556) - Chairperson Zola read the tasks from a previous year into the record. She advised that public relations has been assigned to Member Bondiett, and reviewed the remaining tasks to be assigned. Member Young volunteered to serve as the Tree City USA liaison, and Member Gross volunteered to serve as liaison to the schools. Ms. Kuester explained the responsibilities of the budgetkeeper, and Member Hartman volunteered to serve as the financial liaison. Chairperson Zola volunteered to serve as the parks budget liaison. Discussion ensued with regard to the responsibilities of the volunteer hours coordinator, and Member Ford volunteered to serve in this capacity.

Ms. Kuester advised that the annual stickers, up to and including 1999, need to be placed on the Tree City USA signs, and that the Tree City USA sign needs to be placed in the designated area along Highway 50 East. Chairperson Zola inquired as to where to obtain the stickers, and Mr. Fahrenbruch offered to search for the stickers in the Council's materials at the Parks Department. Ms. Kuester requested that the Council appoint a liaison to the Landscape Committee. Chairperson Zola will contact Community Development to determine the meeting schedule of the Landscape Committee. Discussion ensued regarding past interactions with the schools, and ideas for future contacts. No formal action was taken.

7. REVIEW AND ACTION ON TREE CARE WORKSHOPS (1-1890) - Chairperson Zola reported on the first tree care workshop held February 8, 2000. Thirty people were in attendance, and Linda Nelson provided an outstanding presentation. Thirty people have signed up for the March 14 workshop. The scheduled speaker is Dale Carlon, and Member Hartman has confirmed his attendance. Discussion ensued with regard to refreshments, and Chairperson Zola advised that she would not be in

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attendance at the workshop. Member Hartman volunteered to chair the workshop and Member Gross volunteered to purchase the refreshments. Member Ford advised she would be in attendance and offered her assistance. Mr. Fahrenbruch will draft an evaluation form for distribution at the March workshop. He received positive feedback from the Empire Ranch Golf Course staff and his Parks staff. He suggested that the coffee be started earlier, and further discussion regarding refreshments followed. Chairperson Zola will send a thank you note to Linda Nelson.

8. REVIEW AND ACTION REGARDING “TREES 2000” PROGRAM (1-2106) - Chairperson Zola referred to the article regarding the Smith Valley Trees 2000 Program included in the agenda materials. She discussed the involvement and activities of Secretary of State Dean Heller and Attorney General Frankie Sue del Papa, and suggested that a challenge, similar to that issued by Mr. Heller and Ms. del Papa, be issued at the Arbor Day Celebration. Discussion ensued with regard to locations for donated trees, and Chairperson Zola explained the challenge issued by the Mayor of Boulder City to plant a tree for every citizen during the Nevada Millennium Celebration (October 23, 1999 to Nevada Day 2000). Member Young suggested assisting GROW with the freeway landscaping, and Mr. Fahrenbruch concurred. Council consensus was to issue the challenge at the Arbor Day Celebration, and discussion regarding donations followed. Chairperson Zola explained the purpose of the Trees 2000 project, and advised that Carson City is not yet involved. Member Young suggested contacting Mayor Masayko to discuss Carson City’s involvement, and discussion ensued with regard to the brass plaque mentioned in the article, the duration of the program, and the involvement of the Shade Tree Council. Mr. Fahrenbruch advised that Mayor Masayko has contacted the Parks Department and inquired as to Carson City’s involvement in the project. He has been assured that the Shade Tree Council is addressing the matter. Member Hartman suggested that the Council have its own Trees 2000 project and additionally assist GROW in a tree planting program. Mr. Fahrenbruch provided the reasons for staff’s recommendation that the Council assist GROW: The project would be a good publicity opportunity, GROW has gained a great deal of momentum in their efforts, and the major problem with landscaping the bypass is funding. Member Young pointed out that the Council needs to request the Mayor to make a proclamation, and discussion ensued with regard to the Committee’s goal for the project. Committee consensus was to name the project “The Carson City Trees 2000 Project to landscape the freeway with trees and wild flowers.” The project will be supported by the Council and GROW. Discussion ensued with regard to allocating some of the Council’s funds to start the project. Mr. Fahrenbruch will invite GROW representatives to the next meeting and reagenda this item for discussion. Discussion followed regarding a separate account for the donations, and options for commemorating the donors. No formal action was taken.

9. REVIEW AND ACTION ON 2000 ARBOR DAY CELEBRATION (1-2790) - Chairperson Zola advised that Secretary of State Dean Heller has agreed to speak at the Arbor Day Celebration. Arbor Day is Friday, April 28, 2000. Mr. Fahrenbruch discussed staff’s suggestion of combining a memorial tree planting and the Arbor Day tree planting at the Aquatic Facility. Discussion ensued regarding inherent difficulties with multiple ceremonies, soliciting more public involvement, and other possible locations. Chairperson Zola suggested inviting the swim clubs to the celebration, and Mr. Fahrenbruch suggested providing tours of the Aquatic Facility as part of the celebration. Member Gross advised she would be thinking of ways to involve the school children, and discussion ensued regarding choirs, various science classes, transportation for the elementary school children, and the time for the celebration. **Member Ford moved to have the Arbor Day Celebration at the Aquatic Facility. Member Young seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.** Mr. Fahrenbruch advised that Recreation Supervisor Kurt Meyer has been

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responsible for collecting the funds for the memorial tree. He spoke with Mr. Meyer about planting the memorial tree during the Arbor Day Celebration, and Mr. Meyer indicated his willingness to do so.

Chairperson Zola provided background information on the George Washington Ferris Award, and the decision made by the Council last year to provide one award for a business and one award for an individual or group. She explained the award criteria for businesses, and requested that the Council members consider recipients for discussion and action at the next meeting. Member Young discussed her recommendation of Denny's Restaurant.

Chairperson Zola advised that the celebration would begin at 5:30 p.m., and discussion ensued with regard to providing activities prior to and after the ceremony, the trees distributed at last year's celebration which were donated by Dan Greytak of the U.S. Forest Service, and the possibility of an appearance by Smokey the Bear.

10. REPORTS: PARKS SUPERINTENDENT (1-3125) - Mr. Fahrenbruch referred to the roster of members, the 2000 Council meeting dates, and the bylaws included in the agenda materials. He distributed copies of the Nevada Open Meeting Law to each of the new members, and advised that the District Attorney's office staff has attended meetings to discuss the regulations in the past. He requested that the new members review the Open Meeting Law and call him with questions. He reported that Costco will be moving into the property north of Fuji Park, and explained that the Rite-Aid trees may need to be relocated again. Member Young explained her involvement in getting the trees relocated the first time and requested that the trees be planted together if they do have to be moved. Mr. Fahrenbruch advised that discussions have taken place regarding the possibility of turning the area where the trees are located into a parking lot. A meeting has been scheduled with the Fuji Park Users Coalition to solicit their input with regard to whether or not they want a parking lot in that location.

11. REPORTS: CHAIRPERSON (1-3295) - Chairperson Zola welcomed the new members to the Council. She requested that Mr. Fahrenbruch order name badges for each of them; that each of the Council members plan to attend the March 14 workshop; and that they turn in their volunteer hours forms to Member Ford.

12. ADJOURNMENT (1-3340) - Member Young moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 p.m. Member Ford seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

The Minutes of the February 24, 2000 meeting of the Carson City Shade Tree Council are so approved this _____ day of March, 2000.

SALLY ZOLA, Chairperson