

MINUTES
REEDLEY STREETSCAPE MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
September 12, 2000

The agenda for the Streetscape Maintenance Committee Meeting of September 12, 2000, was duly posted in accordance with Government Code Section 54954.2.

A regular meeting of the Streetscape Maintenance Committee was held on September 12, 2000, in the Reedley City Hall Conference Room. The meeting was called to order at 8:02 a.m.

Members Present: Richard Bedoian and Jan Minami.

Members Absent: Dale Melville.

Staff Present: Andrew Benelli, Public Works Director/City Engineer; and Kay Pierce, Administrative Assistant.

Others Present: Steve Loeffler.

Jan Minami moved, Richard Bedoian seconded, to approve the minutes from August 8, 2000, with corrections as follows: Richard Bedoian was present at the meeting of August 8, 2000; and under Maintenance Activity, the times set for irrigation were 5:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

REPORT ON MAINTENANCE ACTIVITY

A. The irrigation time clocks were originally set for at 5:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m., however the water was actually coming on at 7:30 p.m. The problem with this time in the evening is that on Wednesday evenings, the farmer's market does not end until 8:00 p.m. If the sprinklers come on at 7:30 p.m., the children play in the flower beds. It was agreed that the sprinklers still need to come on twice a day because of the heat and the addition of new flowers in the pots.

Jan Minami stated that she would like to have Sandra Cox of Loeffler Landscape Maintenance be in charge of the crew that takes care of the Streetscape District. She feels that Sandra was very careful about blowing debris off the sidewalks taking care not to blow anything back into the stores. She stated that the sidewalks are being blown off in a careless manner. Richard Bedoian added that when the blowing of the sidewalks first began, the maintenance company had to be instructed to walk along the front of the building pointing the blower out towards the streets to eliminate dust going under the doors of the businesses. This seems to be happening again. Richard Bedoian pointed this out to Steve Loeffler who agreed to be more careful when blowing the sidewalks and inlets.

Steve Loeffler asked if he could get a listing of activities that would be happening throughout the year so that he can coordinate watering the downtown area. The next

activity will be the Reedley Fiesta which begins October 6 through the 8th. Fortunately, this time of year, the watering is not as critical as during the Farmer's Market which is through the summer months, ending in September. Steve stated that he repotted many of the plants that had died from heat and it was critical to make sure they had enough water. Steve stated that if he is aware of activities ahead of time, he can really soak the plants ahead of time and then turn the system down for the day of the activity.

Richard Bedoian told Steve Loeffler that he could change the time settings for the irrigation system if he felt that would be better for the plants. Steve was concerned that if the timer is set for later in the mornings, between 7:00 a.m. and 8:00 a.m., when the system comes on, if an elderly person is sitting on one of the benches, the shock of the water coming on could scare the person and possibly bring on a heart attack. He stated that kids often remove the tops of the sprinklers and the water shoots straight up when the system comes on. He likes to have the system come on when he is downtown working so that he can see that everything is working properly. They are set at 5:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m. right now. It was suggested that maybe watering once a day would work better. Steve stated that some of the pots drain very well and some don't which is why he has the system set at three minutes, twice daily. If it was set for five minutes once a day, you get maybe half of that water running into the streets. Separating the water every 12 hours is the more ideal span for watering. Steve added that the trees also need nine to 12 minutes of watering per day due to the flowers planted around the tree well. If there were no flowers, then the watering of the trees could be cut back to possibly two to three times per week. Keeping water on the surface for the flowers is the main goal.

Jan Minami gave Steve Loeffler a schedule of events from the RDA.

Steve again stated that the irrigation system is set at 6:00 a.m. and he will move the evening time to 8:30 p.m. so that Farmer's Market will be over. Jan Minami stated that there are more people downtown at 6:00 a.m. than there are at 7:30 a.m. Steve asked if 7:00 a.m. would be OK. The Committee agreed that 7:00 a.m. would be fine. Steve said that would be more balanced then, when the water comes on again at 8:30 p.m. He does have a problem with people removing the bubbler heads, so if he is there at 7:00 a.m., he can check the system as it comes on.

Richard Bedoian asked if any new flowers would be need for Fiesta? Steve Loeffler stated that new flowers were added before Taste of the Town and he doesn't feel any more new flowers are needed. Steve will bring in the bill for these flowers within the next couple weeks.

Steve stated that the smaller pot at 11th and "G" by Manning Jewelers does not seem to have any additional holes for drainage. Andrew Benelli agreed that they probably don't because those pots were set out before all the others as a sample and most likely didn't get any additional holes drilled. Steve added that the plants in this pot seem to be holding their own, and he has them set up for an emitter drip system versus the bubblers. The large pot on the opposite corner by the insurance office has had holes drilled and new potting soil installed and this pot requires the bubblers because of the good drainage. In the next three to six months, Steve would like to change some of the soil in other pots.

Buttonwillow Nursery told Steve that the soil should be changed in the pots every three to five years. Steve feels that these particular pots could go the entire five years and possibly more before the soil needs to be changed. The Committee suggested changing the soil in two or three pots at a time during the winter months when this becomes necessary.

OLD BUSINESS - None.

NEW BUSINESS - None.

CITIZEN REMARKS - None

COMMITTEE / STAFF COMMENTS / REPORTS

A. Jan Minami stated that the new RDA Director is Manuel Alvarado. There is no longer a secretary.

B. The dedication for the rail trail was Saturday, September 9th and it went very well. Approximately 70 people attended. Many people are already using the trail including dogs. People should curb their dogs or bring something to clean up after their dogs. City of Clovis provides plastic bags on poles for this use.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 8:37 a.m. Next meeting will be October 10, 2000.

Richard Bedoian, Chairman
Streetscape Maintenance Committee

ATTEST:

Andrew Benelli, Secretary