

MINUTES
REEDLEY STREETScape MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
March 20, 2001

The agenda for the Streetscape Maintenance Committee Meeting of March 20, 2001, was duly posted in accordance with Government Code Section 54954.2.

A regular meeting of the Streetscape Maintenance Committee was held on March 20, 2001, in the Reedley City Hall Conference Room. The meeting was called to order at 8:10 a.m.

Members Present: Jan Minami and Dale Melville.

Members Absent: Richard Bedoian.

Andrew Benelli, Public Works Director/City Engineer; Jeff Viau, Public Works Superintendent; and Kay Pierce, Administrative Assistant.

Others Present: Steve Loeffler of Loeffler Landscape Maintenance; and Manuel Alvarado of R.D.A.

Dale Melville moved, Jan Minami seconded to approve the minutes from February 13, 2001, as written. Motion carried unanimously.

REPORT ON MAINTENANCE ACTIVITY

A. Steve Loeffler reported that he did checks of the irrigation system this morning and the kids are removing the sprinkler heads. Weeds coming up in the sidewalk area have been sprayed. Four new trees were planted last Saturday and the remaining four will be planted this coming Saturday. Steve ran into a problem with one of the sprinkler tees in the planter well, which he will fix this morning. Hackberry trees were planted in front of Bank of America and Chinese Pistache will be planted on the opposite side of “G” Street. The trees are being planted in accordance with the tree chart that Steve composed and will be following until all trees are replaced. The decorative pots are getting watered and after the trees are planted, the plants in the pots will be trimmed and some will need to be replanted. Jan Minami asked if lights still needed to be removed from any street trees. Steve replied that some of the merchants could leave them in the trees until next year if they wanted to, although most lights have been removed. Manuel Alvarado stated that he did find some other lights in trees. City Engineer Benelli added that if the lights are not going to be turned on, we should removed them from the trees, especially since the energy crisis, lights should not be used this year. Steve explained that with the rolling blackouts, he will have to keep an eye on the timers for the irrigation systems as they will reset themselves when the electricity comes back on. If the timer is set for 6:00 a.m. and the electricity is out for an hour, the timeclock will then come on at 7:00 a.m. It doesn't change the programming, just the time that the timers comes on. Some of the timeclocks will not reset themselves and only come on for ten minutes, which means they all have to be reset.

City Engineer Benelli stated that the sprinklers installed on the Rail Trail are Rainbirds and they are set up that if they are hard-wired to City hall, or someplace else, they can all be controlled by computer and they have that option.

Steve stated that the watering time for downtown is set up to give light waterings up to three times per day, at three minutes per watering, versus one 15 minutes watering which means the excess water will run into the gutter. This will start at 6:00 a.m. Steve added that the timers that the City has are the time that starts watering when the electricity comes back on for the original length of time set.

Getting back to the lights in the trees, Jan Minami feels that they should all be pulled down and Steve could finish up whatever pruning is left to do. Dale Melville stated that if any of the lights left up by Saturday are the RDA's, he will remove them.

Jan Minami asked if there is money in the budget to replant the ground cover. Steve Loeffler stated that the groundcover is usually planted right before Street Faire, which is held on May 6th this year. Steve is fixing all sprinklers to make sure the ground is wet before the replanting of the groundcover. It will take approximately 12 flats of groundcover at \$15.00 per flat. There is a balance of \$236 in the special supplies account in Streetscape. The Committee unanimously decided to give Steve Loeffler permission to purchase the needed flats of groundcover. Steve asked the Committee Members if they would mind if he tried planting some Calendula in the tree wells where all the groundcover is gone and added the gazania to those tree wells that have existing gazania and fill in those wells. The Committee unanimously agreed to give permission for the planting of Calendula.

CITIZEN REMARKS - None.

COMMITTEE / STAFF COMMENTS / REPORTS:

A. Public Works Superintendent, Jeff Viau, reported that the Public Works crew cleaned up all the streetscape benches to get them ready for Street Faire. While removing the magnolias, a couple were given away to citizens to see if they could transplant them rather than let them die. Regarding the trash cans, Jeff contacted the original supplier that the newer cans were purchased from and was told that style was no longer available. There are similar cans and a representative of the company was supposed to come out and meet with Jeff and show him some of the different styles they sell, however, the representative did not show up. The old style of container is still available at a cost of approximately \$530 per container. Jeff suggested obtaining different sample styles of containers and to change them over in the entire streetscape area. Jan Minami stated she has seen a style of container that has a flat top with flowers planted on the top of the trash container. Dale reminded the Committee that the budgeted money for trash containers does not come out of the Streetscape budget, but instead from a Public Works Street fund. City Engineer Benelli stated that he will include funds in the Public Works budget for additional containers, perhaps the disposal account.

B. Dale Melville reminded staff about the one-time amount of \$5,000 for the purchase of the remaining street trees. He reminded staff to include this request in the

budget for 2001-2002. He also reminded staff to try to encourage the City Council to revise the ordinance on business licenses to state that a business license could not be reissued unless the individual was current on their monthly streetscape fee. City Engineer Benelli stated that he has not determined which ordinance would be changed, but it would most likely be the Streetscape ordinance. Dale Melville thought the business license ordinance would have included something that stated that before a business license could be reissued, the Streetscape fee would need to be current on any City related invoices.

C. Dale Melville also brought up the mid-block crossing drawing that was submitted and wanted to know where that project was going. City Engineer Benelli stated that staff has not had the time to work on that project. Parlier Park is a priority project at this time.

D. Steve Loeffler brought up that there is a valve that is leaking on 10th Street near the furniture store. He cannot completely shut down the valve and some of the tree wells are puddling and running into the street. Jeff Viau stated that the Parks crew could fix this valve. Steve stated that it is an inch and half Hardy valve.

E. Jan Minami stated that the travel company that was located at Gonzalez Jewelry Store that is no longer a travel company and supposedly took down their travel sign now has posters in their window advertising tickets for trips. This information will be passed along to Sylvia Plata in Finance.

F. Andy Benelli stated that he has had several complaints about the Tri-Cell Phone Store tent being out in the street. Manuel Alvarado stated that it's a portable tent similar to the R.D.A. tent and he is placing it in the parking stalls on "G" Street. Fred Brusuelas and Andy talked to the owner of Tri-Cell and asked him not to place this tent out in the street, unless it's for a special event such as Farmer's Market when the street is closed.

G. Jan Minami reported that there is a possibility that Farmer's Market will be on the Rail Trail this summer. Jeff Viau stated there would then be a possibility of broken sprinkler heads and excessive trash on the Trail. Jan Minami suggested that Jeff talk to Manuel Alvarado because this possibility is being discussed at the R.D.A. meetings, and if there are reasons not to have Farmer's Market on the Trail, now is the time to bring it up. Manuel Alvarado explained that they were planning on parking the trucks on the dirt lot next to the horse trail. Andy Benelli stated that the City does not own that dirt lot. Manuel stated the R.D.A. was going to talk to the owners of that lot. Andy told Manuel that it was the railroad that owned that lot and they are difficult to contact. Jeff Viau stated that the City does not want any vehicle traffic on the Rail Trail. Andy Benelli stated that there is ingress and egress on 10th Street by Pioneer Equipment and Dale added there is also egress and ingress on 11th Street by the railroad tracks. Andy Benelli stated there are going to be several issues with vehicles going into a dirt area like that, because it tracks a lot of dirt out onto the street and it will be dusty in the summer. Late arrivals will cause dust to interfere with the shoppers. Dale asked if the R.D.A. wouldn't rather keep the Farmer's Market in the street where the stores are located and generate foot traffic. Manuel replied that it is great to have it on "G" Street, but there is a lot of displaced traffic from people who would normally be coming downtown, not necessarily for Farmer's

Market, but just coming downtown to see what was going on and then not be able to get down "G" Street and then they would turn around and leave because there is no place to park. Dale added that most of the stores close at 6:00 p.m, except for the restaurants. Manuel added that since the Rail Trail is close to downtown, literally at its back door, and R.D.A. thought that it would be good to incorporate the two aspects. Andy suggested having Farmer's Market in Pioneer Park. Jan Minami replied that it was tried in Pioneer Park and was very unsuccessful. Andy doesn't feel it would be very successful having it on the Rail Trail. People like to buy the fruits and vegetables, but they enjoy looking in the windows downtown as well.

H. Steve Loeffler reported that he and others are working on promoting the Electric Light Parade next December. He called Faith Sidlow with Channel 24 News and her crew is going to come down and do a story near Coffee and Candy about three weeks before the Electric Parade. Steve suggested getting some promotion for Street Faire as well. Steve stated he is trying to keep the small town atmosphere in Reedley.

8. Adjournment.

Meeting adjourned at 9:11 a.m. Next meeting will be March 13, 2001.

Richard Bedoian, Chairman
Streetscape Maintenance Committee

ATTEST:

Andrew Benelli, Secretary