

**MINUTES
REEDLEY STREETScape MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
MARCH 17, 1999**

The agenda for the Streetscape Maintenance Committee Meeting of March 17, 1999, was duly posted in accordance with Government Code Section 54954.2.

A regular meeting of the Streetscape Maintenance Committee was held March 17, 1999, in the Reedley City Hall Conference Room. The meeting was called to order at 8:03 a.m.

Members Present: Dale Melville, Richard Bedoian and Jan Minami.

Members Absent: None.

Staff Present: Michael Olmos, Community Development Director; Jeff Viau, Public Works Supervisor; Andrew Benelli, City Engineer; and Kay Pierce, Secretary.

Others Present: Steve Loeffler and Sandra Cox of Loeffler Landscape Maintenance and City Council Member, Marge Gobby.

Dale Melville moved, Jan Minami seconded to approve the minutes from the February 17, 1999 meeting after several corrections were requested by Dale Melville.. Motion carried unanimously.

REPORT ON MAINTENANCE ACTIVITY

A. Community Development Director Mike Olmos asked Public Works Superintendent, Jeff Viau if he had any information on the tree removal. Jeff Viau replied that he did go out and take a look at the trees and the biggest problem is traffic. The crews cannot bring in any large equipment to do any tree removals during the day because of the traffic. The tree removal would have to be done on a Sunday. He stated he might be better to have Purviance Tree Service remove the trees and the Public Works crew would then repair the irrigation lines. It is just too difficult to get equipment and crews downtown during the day because of traffic. Jeff Viau added that Purviance Tree Service has a better stump grinder than City crews and would be able to do the job on a Sunday. Dale Melville added that he agreed with Jeff Viau that it would be best to have Purviance remove the trees because his crew can remove them in a timely manner. Kay Pierce stated that she would contact Purviance tree service to schedule the removal of the trees.

Dale Melville asked if two blocks of trees could be removed and replanted? Staff stated there are 11 magnolia trees between 10th and 11th Street that need to be removed for replanting. Dale asked if there is enough money in the budget to remove two blocks of magnolia trees. Mike Olmos replied that the budget shows \$1,500 for tree replacement. Staff asked what size the trees are that Tree Fresno has and would they be willing to furnish the City with some trees? Dale Melville

UNOFFICIAL

stated that they are 15 gallon trees and if the City wanted to buy trees from Tree Fresno, the cost is \$35 per tree, which is close to the price of the local nursery. Steve Loeffler of Loeffler Landscape Maintenance stated that he checked out Home Base and the trees are \$35.00 there and \$41.00 through Buttonwillow Nursery. The trees at Home Base were rather small.

Staff asked if the Committee wanted two blocks of trees removed and replaced at this time. Steve Loeffler stated the problem with removing so many trees at one time is that the irrigation line is being cut off for an extended period of time which encompasses not only "G" Street, but the side street irrigation as well. As long as the weather stays cool and there is some rain, there is not problem, but timing is very critical so the remaining plants and trees don't die for lack of water. If two blocks of trees are removed, then the irrigation system needs to have caps put on the lines at each tree well so that the irrigation system can still be used.

Richard Bedoian suggested doing only one block before Street Fair.

Staff will contact Purviance tree service to remove only one block of trees and have him coordinate the tree removal with Loeffler Landscape. Steve Loeffler stated that he will shut the irrigation off several days before the tree removal so the ground can dry out. He stated that the irrigation could probably be left off for one week if the weather stays cool.

Sandra Cox mentioned that there is a bolt loose in the bench located in front of Cal Fed Bank. Public Works staff will repair this bench.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Update on Planters for the 12th and "G" Street Intersection

Before the discussion began on this subject, Council Member Gobby left the meeting. Jan Minami stated that she drove by the planters at 12th and "G" and she feels that these pots are too small. Richard Bedoian asked if the planters were available in a larger size. Council Member Gobby replied that this same planter is available in a three foot size. Dale Melville complimented Council Member Gobby on her choice of planters and for getting the Committee started on obtaining this corner treatment.

Jeff Viau stated that the City of Fresno places planters on opposite corners rather than on all four corners. Jeff stated that Buttonwillow Nursery does carry the larger planters that match the medium planters that Council Member Gobby placed at 12th and "G".

Kay Pierce suggested bringing out the larger pot and placing it with the smaller pot at 12th and "G" and having both sizes on each corner for a contrast. Richard Bedoian agreed that two pots together at each corner would look better. After some discussion, it was suggested by Steve Loeffler that he would have Chris at Buttonwillow Nursery set up a couple of different

UNOFFICIAL

arrangements at the nursery and the Committee members could stop by the nursery in the next few days and view the arrangement and get back to staff on what looked best.

A discussion of the price of the cement planter pots was carried on stating that the price of the two post in question was approximately \$200 for the small pot and approximately \$600 for the larger pot. It was suggested to place two small and two large pots on opposite corners rather than all four corners of the each intersection.

Mike Olmos suggested that the Committee members meet at the Buttonwillow Nursery to view different arrangements of planters. Staff will contact the Committee when arrangements are made. Steve Loeffler then stated that he could arrange some pots for the Committee to take a look at over the weekend at the Buttonwillow Nursery. It was decided that all the pots should be the same for uniformity.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Discussion of 11th and "G" Street intersection for banner display.

Mike Olmos asked if the Committee members remembered when the banners used to be displayed in the 11th and "G" Street intersections. He then explained that at one time, bolts used to be set into the building and the banners were then hung across the intersection. Those bolts have since loosened from the buildings. The ropes for the banners were then strung from the light poles. Approximately three years ago, staff received calls from various citizens stating that during a wind storm, the poles bent to an unsafe degrees. The City Engineer investigated the complaints and found that the footings for the poles were not structurally sound and not meant to carry that type of load. Banners have not been hung up in the intersection since that time. Staff has received several calls asking if banners can be hung up in this intersection again. Mike Olmos explained that what it would take in order to be safe is to remove the existing poles and replace them with something stronger. The foundation is not strong enough, at this time, to accommodate the poles. Mike Olmos stated that Staff is open to suggestions from the Committee on whether we should fix the poles so that banners can once again be hung in the intersection.

Richard Bedoian stated that he did not like the idea of the banners in the intersection because many of the banners looked tattered and shabby because the organizations did not keep up the banners.

Dale Melville stated that it was a hassle for the City and he couldn't see the City spending money on new poles. However, he personally liked the banners because it gave Reedley more of a small town atmosphere and made people aware of upcoming functions. He asked if there was a chance that the people who owned the buildings where the banners were originally secured into would be willing to let the City install new bolts?

Mike Olmos stated that he has seen banners in other towns strung from building to building across the street rather than in the intersections. He stated that he can contact Joy Schuman of the

UNOFFICIAL

R.D.A. and have her contact some of the merchants to see if they are interested. Public Works Superintendent, Jeff Viau, added that there is a lot of staff time involved in hanging banners. There were mixed viewpoints from the Committee members regarding hanging banners on "G" Street. It does provide a "small town" atmosphere, but should not be a great expense for the City.

B. Discussion on budget items for 1999-2000.

Community Development Director Mike Olmos handed out budget sheets to the Committee for their review. Funds for tree replacement will be used in the next 30 days for the removal and replacement of the magnolia trees. Funds for Corner Treatment will also be used before the end of the fiscal year. Mike Olmos went over the budget for the next fiscal year and asked the Committee for input. It was decided to keep Equipment Repairs at \$750, Tree Replacement at \$1,500, Corner Treatment at whatever is left in the fund after purchase and installation of the downtown pots, and reduce Street Benches to \$500. The remaining accounts will be left as recommended by staff.

Jan Minami moved, Richard Bedoian seconded to adopt the proposed budget with the changes to the Equipment Repairs account being left at \$750 and the Tree Replacement account left at \$1,500, and whatever is left in the Corner Treatment account being carried over to the next fiscal year. Motion carried unanimously.

C. Discussion on landscape maintenance contract.

Dale Melville asked if there are certain services in the contract that the Committee might want to have done more often, or less often, and perhaps get some suggestions or recommendations from Steve Loeffler on the frequency of service. Under Task A; litter pickup from planters and sidewalk, including leaves from trees and plants and removal of dust from benches; this task is performed three times weekly on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Sandra Cox stated that the sidewalks are always blown on Mondays and Fridays. Weeding and spraying Round-Up in the cracks happens more often than twice monthly, which is why no one ever sees any weeds in the sidewalks. Mondays are very critical for cleaning up, but Sandra Cox stated she is downtown three times a week. "G" Street is always cleaned before 8:00 a.m. They might be on a side street after 8:00 a.m., but they try to never be downtown working past 8:30 a.m. The crew begins working before 6:00 a.m. downtown.

Steve Loeffler asked how the new pots would be watered. Jeff Viau stated that tying in the sprinkler system and running a drip line under the pots would be the best thing. The Public Works crew will handle installing irrigation lines into the new pots as they are placed downtown. Steve Loeffler agreed that an irrigation system should be installed into the pots and tied into the irrigation system downtown for proper watering.

UNOFFICIAL

Steve Loeffler stated that due to frost damage, every planter has to have some of the groundcover replaced. He added that possibly 20 flats of flowers would have to be purchased before Street Fair to replaced those flowers killed by frost.

Richard Bedoian asked if all this work could be accomplished before Street Faire. Jan Minami asked if the magnolia trees could be pulled and the planters left with only flowers until after Street Fair? Steve Loeffler replied that there would be a problem with that because several merchants complained in the past when the trees in front of their business had not been replanted in a timely manner. The Committee decided to go ahead with the project and try to get all the work done before Street Fair since there will be approximately 10,000 people in town on Street Fair day. Steve Loeffler stated that if the work started within the next week beginning with the removal of the magnolias and repair of the irrigation system, the work could be finished before Street Fair. Kay Pierce will call Purviance Tree Service to find out when he can remove the magnolias and pass that information onto Loeffler Landscape so they can coordinate the purchasing and planting of the new trees and flowers. Steve Loeffler will flag the trees as they are planted to let the Committee know which ones are Pistache and which ones are Hackberry. Red flags for Pistache; green flags for Hackberry. That way if any of the Committee members object to the placement of the trees, they can let Steve Loeffler know right away.

directed Loeffler Landscaping not to prune
Dale Melville brought up pruning of the trees which he has already discussed with Steve Loeffler. He feels that the things discussed in the committee meetings haven't happened such as back in the fall when some of the trees were going to be marked for removal and they weren't marked; the Committee ~~talked about not pruning~~ the trees back this year because many of the magnolias were going to be removed and the crepe myrtles were going to be allowed to grow larger and they were pruned anyway. *The Committee was told* ~~He was under the impression~~ that only the tips of the crepe myrtles were going to be pruned because of freeze damage, but instead they were thoroughly pruned. *requests gets* The Committee has also asked for the dates the trees were planted for a map. He feels that there is a lack of communication between what the Committee ~~talks about getting~~ done and what is actually getting done. As far as the basic services, he feels that Loeffler Landscape is doing a great job and he is happy there, but when things are brought up to do things differently, it doesn't get done.

Steve Loeffler stated that he has questions about the magnolias. Regarding the magnolias that are not going to be removed this year, if the Committee does not want them touched again that can be done. However, there are some that pose electrical wire problems. Dale Melville agreed that some are safety issues. Steve Loeffler continued by stating that if some are left to grow the branches hang out into the street and trucks will take care of those branches if not pruned. So instead of having a large gap in the tree, he would shape it. Some of the tree branches hang in the sidewalk area and would hit a pedestrian, so those need to be removed. Dale agreed that there is some pruning that has to be done for safety, but the rest of the pruning on the magnolias should be discontinued because they are going to be removed. Steve Loeffler stated that when he did go through and prune the magnolias, he tried to match them and make them uniform. Dale Melville suggested not pruning any of the crepe myrtles, if possible, so that they could grow. Steve Loeffler explained that he tries to also train the crepe myrtles and explained the growing patterns

UNOFFICIAL

of the crepe myrtle. If you let a tree grow without type of pruning, you might get branch welding or a lopsided trees. His suggested just clearing out the twig sized branches so there is not mass network, but let the larger branches grow. The Committee unanimously agreed that would be the best way. Steve Loeffler asked the Committee if the long range plan was to train them so that they will arch and come back down or just let them stay arched and upright? He suggested allowing the trees to grow upright. The Committee agreed that is how they would like them to grow. Steve added there might be some cases when some branches would have to be removed for safety sake or to prevent people from swinging on the branches. Dale Melville added that when the trees reach a certain height, it would be best to get the branches up above cars and people and at that point, allow the trees to canopy as much as possible. The Committee agreed.

Dale Melville asked Steve Loeffler if he had any changes to his monthly fee. Steve Loeffler replied that he is here to serve the Committee and has not proposed changes in his monthly fee.

COMMITTEE/STAFF COMMENTS/REPORTS - None.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 a.m. The next meeting will be held on April 21, 1999.

Richard Bedoian, Chairman
Streetscape Maintenance Committee

ATTEST:

Michael Olmos, Secretary