

MINUTES: of the Special Planning Commission Meeting of the City of Redlands held Tuesday, November 27, 2007, at 1:00 p.m. are as follows:

PLANNING COMMISSIONERS

PRESENT:

James Macdonald, Chairman
Gary Miller, Vice Chairman
Ruth Cook, Commissioner
Carol Dyer, Commissioner
Paul Foster, Commissioner
John James, Commissioner

ADVISORY STAFF

PRESENT:

Jeff Shaw, Director
Robert Dalquest, Assistant Director
Michael Reiter, Assistant City Attorney
Gary Van Dorst, Interim Quality of Life Director
Rick Cross, Quality of Life Operations Manager

OTHERS PRESENT: Shawn T. Burch, STB Landscape Architects, Inc.
Charles Rothenberg, STB Landscape Architects, Inc.
Susan Sims, Certified Master Arborist, Sims Tree Health Specialists

A. Call Special Meeting to Order

Chairman Macdonald called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

B. Public Comments

(At this time, the Planning Commission will provide an opportunity for the public to address them on the subject, which is scheduled on this special joint meeting agenda. Please limit your comments to three (3) minutes.)

C. Workshop to discuss the landscaping requirements for development projects contained in the Redlands Municipal Code and to discuss the Planning Commission's Recommended Shade Tree List.

Assistant Director Bob Dalquest indicated that staff received a letter from Shawn Birch of STB Landscape Architects regarding concerns relative to the Recommended Shade Tree List for Parking Lots and the City's landscaping requirements in parking lots. Staff initiated a workshop/discussion with the Planning Commission relative to the landscape issues. Mr. Dalquest introduced Mr. Birch and Susan Sims from Sims Tree Health Specialists to the Commission.

Shawn Burch, STB Landscape Architects, Inc. indicated that there needed to be a better selection of acceptable trees available for the Street Tree List. He suggested that a sub-committee be created to come up with some ideas relative to the type of trees that could be added to the Street Tree List. Mr. Burch indicated that he would be available to participate on the sub-committee.

Commissioner Dyer indicated that she would participate in the sub-committee.

There was discussion relative to landscape requirements that included what type of trees should be added or removed from the Street Tree List and the appropriate placement and spacing of the trees.

Susan Sims, Certified Master Arborist, indicated that she would like to see some of the trees removed from the existing list and that a larger list of trees is needed. She spoke about the importance of knowing what kind of soil is at the site, that messy trees can cause liabilities, that some of the trees used should be slow growing and that root barriers should be avoided.

Gary Van Dorst, Interim Quality of Life Director, indicated that the West Coast Arborists of Cities Tree Contractors are currently revising the City's street tree master list and that it should be available after the first of the year for City Council adoption. He stated that the Street Tree Master List would be a useful tool in revising the Shade Tree List.

Commissioner's Dyer and Cook volunteered to participate on the sub-committee.

Commissioner Dyer stated that she would like the staff planner who will participate on the sub-committee to contact a few other cities that are using that shading percentage evaluation method to see if it is viable for the planners to use.

Commissioner Miller suggested that the sub-committee should consider having a soil analysis done on each project that would tell the landscape architect the nature of the soil they are dealing with when determining the type of tree's to be used.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Macdonald adjourned the meeting was adjourned at 1:57 p.m.

Christine Szilva
Senior Administrative Assistant

Jeffrey L. Shaw, Director
Community Development Department