

Maui County Arborist Committee

Meeting Minutes

July 30, 2014

1. Call to order 1:40 pm
2. Public testimony – none
3. Meeting Business – Past minutes unavailable; meeting not posted as needed, both due to lack of staff support.
4. Meeting Business
 - a. Viewpoint with Maui Outdoor Circle for The Maui News—Members reviewed and made comment. Richie Campas agreed to rewrite the article and will return for all to again review at the August meeting.
 - b. Costco parking lot palm trees—Elaine Malina agreed to follow up on this concern.
 - c. Staff support to the committee—Kimberly Thayer will discuss with Brianne Savage.
 - d. Keopuolani Park planting project—A date needs to be determined. The need for trees in parks is evidenced by the increase in melanoma by 300%. Shade is needed to protect the park patrons.
 - e. Transmittal of Exceptional Tree nominations to Council Member Guzman—A letter will be sent to Dudley with a copy to the Parks Department.
 - f. Award for trees of quality—There is a need for volunteers to identify trees of quality, specify location or include a map, and to understand this assistance to the committee is volunteer service. William Jacintho moved and Richie Campas seconded a motion to designate two awardees with four honorable mentions that will be sent a letter. The motion passed unanimously.
5. Old Business
 - a. Maui County Planting Plan—Jeff Ueoka of Corporation Counsel reported that there will be a meeting between him, Planning, and Public Works on August 14, 2014. He has reviewed the document according to the existing code. The plan is intended to be advisory but if a project does not follow the planting plan then it must go before the committee for approval. There is an issue with the parking lot chapter when it states “shall”. This is the language of ordinances. This document should be in the form of a recommendation. If in the future the committee chooses to make such recommendation, the County should propose new legislation for tree care. Other comments were to make the planting procedures section more general so it would be more usable by the lay person. Chapter 7 is suggested to be omitted as it creates new law regarding parking lots. The chapter on handling trees during construction should be a separate document as there is no ordinance that governs such requirements. The document should not promote the use of another’s website. The definitions should be compiled in one place rather than each chapter. This is also true for the objectives and policy as it becomes redundant to have them at the beginning of each chapter. It is suggested that these should be condensed with tighter language. The exceptional trees should be included as a list but it was questioned if the information should take a whole chapter of the planting plan.

6. Committees
 - a. Tree Concerns—The trees at the Azeka Shopping Center, Kihei have been removed from some planting spaces in the parking lot. William Jacintho made a motion which was seconded by Jeannie Pezzoli to alert the Department of Planning regarding the removal. The motion passed unanimously.
 - b. Exceptional Trees—The trees on the Yokouchi property in Wailuku are yet to be assessed for their annual review. Once the assessments are complete, David Sakoda, County Arborist, will compile the reports in a package and transmit them to committee members.
7. Arborist Report—The irrigation is being worked on at the Kihei Community Center parking lot. This needs to be accomplished before new trees can be planted.
8. Agenda Development—Next meeting's agenda on August 13, 2014 should include but not be limited to the topic of the missing trees at Azeka's.

Those present: Kimberly Thayer, Richie Campas, Jeannie Pezzoli, William Jacintho, Bill Myrter, members of the committee; Elaine Malina, Cheryl McGrath, guests; David Sakoda, Arborist.