

Maui County Arborist Committee

Meeting Minutes

June 25, 2014

1. Call to order—1:50 pm
2. Meeting business
 - a. Election of officers—Kimberly Thayer was elected chair in a unanimous vote. Richie Campas was elected vice-chair in a unanimous vote.
 - b. Meeting minutes—unavailable. Item deferred.
3. Unfinished business
 - a. Mala Restaurant exceptional tree nomination—According to Ernie Rezens, the owner did not give permission for the designation. Ernie suggested it be made a “Tree of Quality” instead to recognize the tree’s extraordinary value.
 - b. Viewpoint—The article regarding proper tree care and pruning will be authored by Richie Campas, Ernie Rezens, and Elaine Malina.
 - c. Costco parking lot palm trees—Palm trees appear to have been planted instead of shade trees. Elaine will generate a “Request for Service” to the Planning Department for a review of the shade tree count in the planting plan.
 - d. Parks department staff support—Kimberly will contact the Interim Director on the status of this request.
 - e. Keopuolani Park planting project—More follow-up is needed to coordinate the implementation with the Parks Department.
 - f. Transmittal of Exceptional Tree nominations to Council Member Guzman—As advised by Jeff Ueoka, Corporation Counsel, the transmittal should include a picture, the TMK and document confirming the property owner, and the reason for the nomination. A discussion needs to happen with Councilman Guzman for the need for a survey to prove a tree is on county or state property. Those in question are the four plus ten monkey pod trees on South Kihei Road, the Honoapiilani Highway monkey pods and the monkey pod at the Wailuku Library at High and Wells Street. The transmittal goes from the Parks Department to Jeff Ueoka at Corporation Counsel and then to the County Council before the Mayor gives final approval. The trees that need to be removed from the list should also be included in the transmittal. Those include the Wailuku Elementary School royal palms that now have a count of 19; the Morton Bay Fig that has died at the Haiku Baldwin estate; and the Lahainaluna High School kamani, one that was removed and one that was damaged.
 - g. Awards of “Trees of Quality”—The vote will be taken next meeting.
4. New business
 - a. Letter to the Editor regarding Walmart tree cutting—Jeannie Pezzoli sent a letter that was printed in the Sunday edition of The Maui News on June 22, 2014.
 - b. Review and comment on draft resolution and ordinance regarding commercial agricultural structures—The committee had no comment. However, contact should be made with Councilman Bob Carroll’s office regarding the tree care and proper pruning bill that he has been working on.
5. Old business

- a. Maui County Planting Plan—Brienne Savage, Parks Interim Director, will forward Guzman's comments and Corporation Counsel comments to the EAR committee.
6. Committees
 - a. Arbor Week sub-committee—The committee was dissolved and the work will be done by the committee of the whole.
 - b. Exceptional trees—Those that still need to be assessed are the trees in Wailuku.
7. Arborist's report—Deferred due to absence of David Sakoda.

Those present: Kimberly Thayer, Richie Campas, Jeannie Pezzoli, Bill Myrter, Chris Reynolds, members of the committee; Jeff Ueoka, Corporation Counsel; Ernie Rezens, Elaine Malina, Cheryl McGrath, members of the public.