

Maui County Arborist Committee

Meeting Minutes

January 14, 2015

1. Call to order at 1:36 pm upon determination that a quorum was present.
2. Public testimony—Elaine Malina of Maui Green and Beautiful presented pictures of trees at Kamalii Park in Kahului. These gold trees had been relocated in 2012 due to a neighbor's concern. The marker at the base of the tree identifies them as a gift from Indiana farmers to their friends on Maui and were planted in 1952. There are loose wires that need to be removed from the trunk. The irrigation is broken. The loss of leaves was apparent but some members pointed out that this is a part of their natural cycle. The concern will be forwarded to the Beautification section of the Parks Department. Information will be reported back to the Committee at the next meeting.
3. Richie Campas noted that there were minutes from August, 2014 that also needed to be reviewed. Those were not listed on the posted agenda. Jeff Ueoka of Corporation Counsel informed the committee that the agenda could be modified in a motion at the beginning of a meeting. The action requires 2/3's vote of approval by the Committee rather than a simple majority. Jeff advised that if an action has a significant impact upon the community, it is better to be done at a subsequent meeting. The public needs to be adequately informed of Committee business through its posted agenda. The process does allow for lesser modifications such as this. William Jacintho moved to change the agenda to allow the August minutes review together with the other outstanding minutes. It was seconded by Richie and passed unanimously.
4. Meeting business—William moved to accept the minutes of December 14, 2014 as circulated. It was seconded by Richie and passed unanimously.
5. Unfinished business
 - a. The Keopuolani Park planting project was presented by the subcommittee. The plan is the result of a \$10,000 grant awarded to Maui Outdoor Circle in 1999 of which there is a balance of \$4300. In 2011, a plan was formulated by then president of Maui Outdoor Circle, Warren McCord for the lower parking lot near the playground. However, after several discussions with the Parks Department, the project did not move forward, partially due to species choices and partially due to broken irrigation. The Silver Buttonwood will be planted with Akia as the ground cover instead of flax as was suggested in the response letter dated October 28, 2014 from Interim Director Brienne Savage. The Parks Department has repaired the irrigation and agreed to dig the holes. The newly revised planting plan for the area on the hill by the base yard will be presented to the Department by Chair Kimberly Thayer in a meeting with Parks administration. Jeannie Pezzoli moved to accept the revised plan and forward it for final approval. The motion was seconded by William and passed unanimously. William has contacted the County nurseryman at the advice of the Supervisor of Beautification, to determine what trees might be available from their nursery. Other contacts have been made with plant providers to purchase the appropriate trees with the remaining grant funds. As a nonprofit, Maui Green and Beautiful may also secure donated

plant material. It was stated that it is better to get a smaller tree with a vibrant root ball rather than a larger root-bound specimen which may not do as well. In addition to planting the trees, the Committee and project volunteers will need to develop a long term maintenance plan for the ongoing care of the plantings. The next steps will be to secure final approval for the plan and schedule a date for the planting.

- b. Approval of outstanding minutes—April minutes were corrected for spelling and grammar and then passed unanimously in a motion made by William and seconded by Richie. May minutes were changed to read “timely”. The guest listing was changed to members of the public to conform to the other minutes. William moved to accept the May minutes as amended. The motion was seconded by Richie and passed unanimously. The June minutes were amended to reflect members of the public present and were passed unanimously in a motion by William and seconded by Richie. William moved to accept the July minutes as circulated, seconded by Richie, and passed unanimously. The August minutes that were added to the current meeting agenda were corrected to indicate the meeting was scheduled but cancelled. The corrected August minutes were then passed unanimously in a motion by Richie and seconded by Bill Myrter. Now that all the past minutes have been approved, they will be forwarded to the web page for posting. The posted minutes and the web page are important to the certified arborists, as the International Society of Arboriculture award continuing education credits for attending the meetings.

6. New business

- a. Goal setting—The exceptional tree process is an important part of the Committee’s duties. It will be the top priority for this year’s actions. The Committee will work towards standardizing the annual assessments. Another initiative is to educate and raise awareness. To have the exceptional trees have a tag, plaque or identification marker would be an improvement in educating the public and raising awareness about the exceptional tree program. Chris Reynolds mentioned that there is a new certification for GIS available at UH-Maui College. Mapping the locations of the exceptional trees could be a great class project. Developing an annual schedule for forwarding new exceptional tree nominations to County Council may facilitate and streamline the process for approval. A second goal will be to develop a means to deliver water to public trees. New installations often fail for the lack of consistent water. To have proper care for public trees, especially those that are exceptional, is a goal. Finally, having full membership for the committee is a goal for those that currently serve. It was noted that interested candidates’ applications are on file with the County for two years. Kim will follow up with the Mayor’s representative on this need. There is always a need for better education on the do’s and don’ts of tree care as evidenced by the loss of the kamani on the campus of Lahainaluna High School. Taro planted under the tree required the soil to be tilled which damaged the surface roots of the tree causing its demise. Jeannie Pezzoli developed a brochure in 2011 that listed all the exceptional trees. Another goal for the New Year would be to document the highlights of 2014 which would create a record of the accomplishments of the Committee.

7. Old business

- a. Maui County Planting Plan—More discussion clarified the recommendation regarding the inclusion of the exceptional tree program and its form letters into the plan. Jeff Ueoka said his comments on MCPP were recommendations only. Others felt that this information

- about the exceptional tree program was important for the public to know and the committee to have in the document. It was noted that the nomination of exceptional trees originated in Hawaii Revised Statute Chapter 58 and restated in Maui County Code Chapter 12:24A.
- b. Rice Park concern—Sue has been in contact with the citizen that registered the concern about the health of the trees in Rice Park. Sue will continue to gather information from within the Parks Department and communicate it to the citizen. Monitoring will continue.
8. Committees
 - a. Tree concerns—Richie raised a concern about the pruning of a monkey pod tree in Paia near the Heritage Hall. Others knew that electrical work had been done on the private property and that is why some roots were cut. Care was taken when the tree was worked on.
 - b. Exceptional trees—The tree on the property of Harlan Hughes has not been assessed this past year. Terry Nutt will be asked to evaluate the ones at D.T. Fleming Arboretum. The level of assessment and standardized evaluation forms were discussed.
 9. Chairman’s report—The Chair reiterated the importance of setting goals for the year. Kimberly reminded members that the final reading for the recent exceptional tree nominations will be heard on Friday, January 19, 2015. Additional testimony will be heard at 9 am.
 10. Arborist report—deferred due to absence of David Sakoda, Country Arborist.
 11. Agenda development—continue work on the planting project, status of the planting plan, review tree concerns, and exceptional tree assessment reports.
 12. The next meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, February 11 at 1:30 pm in the Parks Conference Room at War Memorial Complex.**
 13. The meeting adjourned at 4:06 pm.

Those present: Kimberly Thayer, Chair, Richie Campas, Vice-chair, Jeannie Pezzoli, Bill Myrter, William Jacintho, Dennis Morihiro, Chris Reynolds, members of the committee; Elaine Malina, Cheryl McGrath, Ernest Rezens, members of the public; Jeff Ueoka, Corporation Counsel, Sue Kiang, staff support.

Respectfully submitted: Sue Kiang
1/21/15