

## Maui County Arborist Committee

### Meeting Minutes

November 19, 2014

1. Call to order 1:35 pm
2. Public testimony
  - a. Elaine Malina, Maui Green & Beautiful, provided pictures from Rice Park near Kula that showed multiple dead trees and a slope that needs to be replanted with turf.
  - b. Michael Howden had left a letter explaining the trees bordering his property in Olinda and his concerns that he had brought to the committee in December of last year. He has also contacted Corporation Counsel according to Jeff Ueoka, counsel present at today's meeting. After reviewing the letter and member comments about the property owner having the right to cut what comes on their property but also being responsible if harm comes to the tree, they were advised that this was beyond the purview of the committee. William Jacintho made a motion, seconded by Bill Myrter to have the chair write Mr. Howden a letter advising him to contact Brianne Savage, Interim Director of Parks and Recreation, with his concerns. The motion passed unanimously.
3. Meeting Business
  - a. Meeting minutes of April 23, 2014 were being carefully reviewed when Jeff pointed out the time that it was taking. It was decided that the draft would be scanned by Jeannie Pezzoli and corrected by email with input provided by those that had been present at the meeting. The same action was decided for the minutes of May 14, 2014; June 25, 2014; and August 13, 2014. The chair had located information for July 30, 2014. Sue Kiang, staff support, will create a draft and circulate that as well via email. She encouraged all to review carefully so the drafts can be adopted.
  - b. The meeting minutes of the most recent meeting in October were reviewed and corrected. William moved to approve the draft with the following corrections – names that were misspelled, changing the tree count on South Kihei Road from eleven to fourteen, clarification of the monkeypods being on the highway into Wailuku, identifying that Pat Bily was with The Nature Conservancy, and adding that the Tree Circus had visited schools as well. The motion was seconded by Jeannie Pezzoli and passed unanimously. The corrected and approved minutes will be posted on the website for the Arborist Committee within 30 days.
4. Unfinished Business
  - a. Staff support from the Parks Department is being provided by Sue Kiang.
  - b. Keopuolani Park planting project needs were defined in a letter from Brianne Savage dated October 28, 2014. Members decided to form a sub-committee to do additional planning as the purpose of the sub-committee. Jeannie as chair, Elaine, William, and Kim will meet independently to determine the funding and other requirements for the project as dictated by a motion made by Jeannie and seconded by William. The motion passed unanimously. They will report their plans at the next meeting. Counsel advised that as long as there were less than the five members needed for a quorum, the meeting could happen without posting an agenda according to the Sunshine law

- requirement. Information and recommendations from the sub-committee are brought back to the committee and then acted upon the following meeting.
- c. The exceptional tree nominations that have been at the Council EAR committee chaired by Don Guzman were heard on November 18. The trees along Honoapiilani Highway were not a part of the process as more work was needed to finalize their nomination. All the others were passed in separate motions except the ten monkey pods on South Kihei Road. This stand of trees did not receive a move for action by the Council members of the EAR committee that were present. The other nominations of trees that are being referred onto the Council as a Whole are the two on the Souder property, one at Waikamoi, and four on South Kihei Road. Work will continue to finalize the remaining nominations.
5. New Business
    - a. Arbor Week – The tree give-away at Maui Nui Botanical Garden was a success. The honorary chair, Pat Bily received a beautiful lei. He spoke of the theme that was the “Rain follows the forest”. He pointed out that the native trees that were being given away when planted are likely to grow slower but live a long time, leaving a legacy for future generations.
    - b. Volunteers in parks was deferred as no new information has been received by the Arborist Committee.
  6. Old Business
    - a. Maui County Planting Plan – Clarification regarding the two documents received by the committee stated that the large one was the work of Jeff Ueoka, Corporation Counsel. He has been concerned that some chapters may be beyond what is currently in county code. He also modified some of the language. After much discussion, it was decided that Ernest Rezens and Jeff would sit down together and try to iron out the differences and then report back to members at the next committee meeting. The parking lot chapter has been one of the ones most problematic. Bob Carroll of the County Council has told Ernest that he is working on draft legislation. Kim had shared a power point presentation about the plan at yesterday’s EAR meeting emphasizing the importance of the document.
  7. Committees
    - a. Tree Concerns – The Cooke pine removal in Hana was updated. Only the few most damaged trees were removed. From the appearance of recent pruning jobs around the island that have been seen, there is still a need for public education on proper pruning.
    - b. Exceptional trees – Don suggested that stories be compiled on why earlier trees were nominated. The form for the annual reviews will be looked at and standardized.
  8. Agenda development—Minutes to be finalized for April, May, June, July, and August. The sub-committee for Keopuolani Park planting report and progress on the planting plan will be discussed at the December meeting.
  9. Adjournment at 4:15.

Those present: Kimberly Thayer, Richie Campas, Bill Myrter, William Jacintho, Jeannie Pezzoli, Dennis Morihiro, Chris Reynolds, members of the committee; Jeff Ueoka, Sue Kiang, staff support; Barbara Fernandez, Marilyn Colvin, Elaine Malina, Ernest Rezens, Cheryl McGrath, members of the public