

Maui County Arborist Committee

Meeting Minutes

December 10, 2014

1. Call to order upon determination that a quorum was present.
2. The meeting minutes of November 19, 2014 were approved as circulated in a motion by William Jacintho; seconded by Jeanie Pezzoli; and passed unanimously.
3. A motion was made by Richie Campas to modify the agenda to allow the discussion of the changes to the Maui County Planting Plan (MCP) while Ernest Rezens was present. It was seconded by William and passed unanimously. The changes presented by Ernest were the result of a meeting between him and Jeffrey Ueoka, Corporation Counsel. Copies of handwritten changes were distributed. The newly-appointed Director of Parks, Ka'ala Buenconsejo and the Deputy Director Brienne Savage as well as Deputy Director of Planning, Michele McLean and Current Planning Division Supervisor, Ann Cua were present for the discussion. They shared their input to the changes that had been suggested in the August 2014 meeting. Many of the changes were rewording "shall" to "should" to make the document less legally binding. The tables of suggested trees in parking lots was acceptable; however there is no ordinance yet for the narrative information regarding shade coverage. The committee was asked if they wanted to wait until the legislation being drafted by Council member, Bob Carroll for parking lot shade trees and the percentage of the tree canopy coverage was passed. Recognizing that can take time, the members could eliminate the language regarding the percentage of shade required in fifteen years. Jeannie stated that the document could be the best thoughts proposed and that any provisions not currently supported by the Maui County Code (MCC) could still be included as a supplement in the appendix. Brienne offered support from the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) in the form of educational materials or brochures to convey information to the public. An overview of other changes in Chapter 6 included removing the responsibilities of various Department Directors as that is already defined by the MCC and need not be defined by the MCP. Chapter 7 includes information on the Hawaii Revised Statute that mandates exceptional trees. Jeff suggested that the information on tree valuation during construction in Chapter 8 be removed. Comparisons to MCC 12:24A, the current code that defines the Arborist Committee, were made to determine if the information is already available to the public. Michele explained that if a proposed project does not conform to MCC, then the Planning Department must issue a variance in approving a landscape plan. She suggests if it is important to the committee then new legislation should be considered. The current revision to MCP has taken fifteen years and the committee is hopeful that the document will include best practices. Richie sees MCP as an important tool for the green industry. Chris Reynolds stated his desire to see the best information referenced with a clear statement that some is by choice rather than a mandate. These guides (the MCP) could be important reference tools. Ann Cua spoke up to say that being a part of the project planning approval process over the course of many years, she has found the public now is less inclined to follow suggestions from county planners unless they know that it is a part of the current code. Jeannie suggested that the information could be written in italics to distinguish between the two or as a footnote or supplement. Planning

thought that new verbiage in the MCPP regarding proper pruning could be enforceable as they have successfully gotten businesses to improve their parking lot trees just by assuring there is the proper number of trees. The goal of the committee is to increase the shade in parking lots and this could be accomplished by listing the most appropriate trees. Not creating a need for new permits was a shared goal by both the committee and the departments. Jeannie made a motion to have Ernie finalize the document with the language agreed upon with Corporation Counsel; to modify Chapter 4 so it is clear that the information is optional unless otherwise provided for in code; to omit Chapter 7; and clarify the preface to Chapter 8 to state that the information is optional. The motion was seconded by William and passed unanimously. Everyone was thanked for their time in making this an outstanding document.

4. Arborist report—David Sakoda is working on the Tree City USA application. The requirements to earn the designation include having the tree protection ordinance and it advisory arborist committee, celebrating Arbor Day with a Mayor's proclamation, and expending tax dollars in the care of trees. The budget expenditures are always greater than what is required. He also has submitted reports to FEMA regarding damages as a result of the last two hurricanes to hit the islands. The clean-ups were \$50,000 and \$80,000 of which 85% will be reimbursed and returned to the general fund. He is also working on next year's contracts and the bid specifications.
5. Chairman's report—The next steps for the exceptional tree nominations were discussed. A hearing by Council of the Whole will be held on December 19, 2014 at 9 am. The subcommittee working on Keopuolani Park planting plan have asked for another month to review the most appropriate tree types to be used.
6. Agenda development for the January meeting included the Keopuolani planting project, an update on the Rice Park concern, exceptional tree nominations and annual assessments, and adoption of outstanding minutes.
7. The next meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, January 14, 2015 at 1:30 pm in the War Memorial Complex conference room.**
8. The meeting adjourned at 4:05 pm.

Those present: Kimberly Thayer, chair; Richie Campas, vice-chair; Chris Reynolds, Dennis Morihiro, Jeannie Pezzoli, William Jacintho, members of the committee; Betty Beggs, Janice Welsh, Ernest Rezents, Marilyn Colvin, Cheryl McGrath, Elaine Malina, guests; Sue Kiang, David Sakoda, staff support; Ka'ala Buenconsejo, Brianne Savage, Michele McLean, Ann Cua, department representatives.

Excused: Harlan Hughes and Bill Myrter, members of the committee.

Respectfully submitted: Sue Kiang 12/12/14