

Maui County Arborist Committee

Meeting Minutes

October 14, 2015

1. Call to order at 1:40 pm when it was determined that a quorum was present. Introductions were made including recognition of Alex Haller, a new member of the Committee.
2. Public testimony—Barbara Fernandez reported that a number of the rainbow shower trees along Baldwin Avenue that are on the exceptional tree list were severely pruned, presumably for line clearing. The trees are fronting the Lumeria property. Elaine Malina testified next. She felt the work done to clear the wires was excessive and the company should be held accountable. This prompted a discussion about having a certified arborist on each pruning/clearance job. Chris Reynolds helped define what an arborist utility specialist is. OSHA standards define how close to a wire a tree worker can be. The Committee requested further information from the testifiers and resolved to put it on the next meeting agenda. The final testifier was Dick Mayer who was there on behalf of the Kula Community Association to advocate for a tree planting at Kula School Park. He shared a plan that had been worked out with the District Supervisor. He asked for the support of the Committee. While he was hopeful to have trees planted during this rainy season, he was willing to wait a year if it meant a better project. The need for more trees at this 11 acre park was first proposed in 2012. The park is 21 years old and was built with state funds. However, Dick feels that the park was really never finished as the original plans included more trees. Since then the need for shade has been weighed against the concern that the roots could interfere with the playing surface. The Committee expressed interest in the project and decided to place the item on the next meeting agenda.
3. New business
 - a. A goal setting discussion was held. Kim asked members to consider what they would hope to accomplish in the next year. While each member has been asked to commit to a monthly meeting which usually lasts two to three hours, the Committee has traditionally offered much more to the County in the work that they are willing to do. The range of projects can be support of new legislation, public education and training and planting trees. This became a great introduction to Alex Haller about the history, purpose, and responsibilities of the Committee. Kim shared with him that the Maui County Planting Plan is almost complete with the approval process and the Keopuolani planting has begun. With these major projects coming to a close, the Committee can focus on new endeavors. Members were asked to return with goals and action items for discussion at the next meeting.
4. The minutes of the August meeting were approved as circulated in a unanimous vote on a motion made by Heather Heath and seconded by Chris.
5. Unfinished business
 - a. The Keopuolani planting project second phase was discussed. There will be 22 trees planted in the area near the pavilions and bathrooms at the top of the hill. Most of the trees will be coming from the County nursery with others coming from other local nurseries. The spineless hala have been difficult to secure, but promising sources have been identified. Because trees have yet to be secured, the Committee decided to push the date back from October 24 to later in November. About the first phase, it was reported that the akia planting needs attention because of rampant nut grass growth. Elaine had spent a couple hours on site trying to pull the nut grass which will be an

- ongoing problem. William volunteered to provide wood chips the next time he has any at Maui College. These could help mitigate the problem.
- b. The Maui County Planting Plan will be heard by Council of the Whole on Friday, October 16, 2015. It successfully passed out of the EAR Committee with a recommendation for approval without revisions. The EAR Committee members expressed their support for the updated plan and looked forward to its implementation. They also lauded Ernie Rezens and the Arborist Committee for their years of hard work. Once the full Council approves, then the plan goes to a public hearing.
6. Chairman's report—Kim circulated a bill from Planning that asked for members input. They were asked to read it and return with comment next month. She has been communicating with Kaeo Ah Sau of the Parks Department on the next Keopuolani Park planting date and needs.
 7. Committee Reports
 - a. Arbor Week—The sub-committee circulated their report. The recommended theme is "Investing in our future – plant a tree." A quote from Warren Buffet said, "Someone's sitting in the shade today because someone planted a tree a long time ago." A press release has been drafted to forward to the Public Information Office of the Mayor. William made a motion to accept the theme. It was seconded by Heather and passed unanimously. David Sakoda, County Arborist, will be given the information to include in the proclamation that is done annually and read at the tree give-away at Maui Nui Botanical Garden. The Mayor will be present to read the proclamation. Kim and her family will be present to represent the Committee. Her family has been at each of the Keopuolani Park plantings.
 - b. Exceptional trees—Casey Foster, a member that is a certified arborist, visited the old Maui High School campus and will report on his impressions of the trees at a future meeting. The recently passed ordinance put forth by Councilman Don Gusman codified the designations so all trees would be listed within the body of the ordinance to ease their identification. Previously the designations had been individual bills, making it difficult to find them. Now the designations will be a part of Maui County Code 12:24A.
 8. Arborist report—None was given due to his absence.
 9. Agenda development—Keopuolani Park planting, Kula School Park project, Arbor Week, public education, pruning of exceptional trees on Baldwin Avenue
 10. Announcement—next meeting is scheduled for November 4 at 1:30 pm in the parks conference room; the fifth annual Malama the Trees training put on free of charge by Maui Green & Beautiful will be held November 14 at Maui College.
 11. Meeting adjourned at 3:55 pm.

Those present: Kimberly Thayer, Chris Reynolds, Heather Heath, Alex Haller, William Jacintho, members of the committee; Elaine Malina and Barbara Fernandez, Maui Green & Beautiful; Dick Mayer, member of the public; Sue Kiang, staff support to the Committee; excused members, Bill Myrter, Jeannie Pezzoli.

Drafted by Sue Kiang 10/22/15; revised by Kimberly Thayer 11/4/15
Approved by Committee in a unanimous vote 11/5/15