

Maui County Arborist Committee

Meeting Minutes

December 9, 2015

1. Call to order at 1:40 pm when it was determined that a quorum was present.
2. Public testimony—No testimony was presented.
3. New business
 - The minutes of the November meeting were approved as circulated in a unanimous vote on a motion made by Heather Heath and seconded by Jackie Brainard.
4. Unfinished business
 - a. The GIS project by Pat Tabias has been ongoing. Pat has developed a spreadsheet of the exceptional trees that she has tagged. While at D.T. Fleming Arboretum, she also included the specimens that will be nominated in the next round to be submitted the Council. There will be a showcase of the GIS projects from Maui College. Arborist Committee members are invited. Pat will return to the February meeting with the results of her project.
 - b. The Keopuolani planting project second phase was held November 28. Twenty-two trees were planted by volunteers with the assistance of two parks employees. The trees were planted with tree wells and mulch. An initial watering happened that day. The silver buttonwood trees from the first phase are doing well. The Committee plans to prune them in April. The planting was the result of a grant written in 1999. There is still a balance of \$1500 as many of the trees that were planted were donated. The stakes can be reused for future projects. Jackie made a motion to form a subcommittee to consider future tree planting projects. The motion was seconded by Heather and passed unanimously. Kimberly Thayer, Chris Reynolds, and Heather volunteered to be on the subcommittee.
 - c. The Maui County Planting Plan—A public hearing notice was published in the Maui News for December 15. A copy of the notice was distributed and one given to Jerrie Shepherd, Corporation Counsel. [Following the meeting, she called staff support Sue Kiang to say further actions were needed before the public hearing could happen. The December meeting was postponed until a future date.]
 - d. Public education campaign plan was presented by Jackie. She is recruiting coalition members such as Maui Green & Beautiful to sponsor the effort. The expectation of coalition members would be that they would lend their name to support the information given and help distribute it to their individual networks. She asked members to submit names and contact numbers to Sue for those organizations and she will make the contact. Jackie is looking for a noteworthy chairperson to be the one to announce the results at a press conference and to have coverage by someone like Matt Thayer of Maui News. As one of the newest members of the Committee, Jackie is especially aware of how little the community knows about the Arborist Committee and the things that they accomplish. The elements of the campaign will include a PSA; brochures to distribute to groups such as homeowners' associations; perhaps a Speakers' Bureau; utilizing social media; a monthly press release on current activities; and the website. Chris reminded Jackie that Maui Electric includes information with their monthly billing. Heather moved to create "Stop the Chop" public education campaign. It was seconded by Jackie and passed unanimously. Kim and Jackie will be on the committee. They plan to invite input from Ernie Rezents.

- e. Kula School Park tree planting—No further information to report at this time.
5. Chairman’s report—Kimberly thanked the Committee for the wonderful progress made this year. She felt that progress has been made in “leaps and bounds”. She looks forward to similar success in the coming year. To complete the planting of 33 trees at Keopuolani was remarkable and to be so close to the adoption of the planting plan after many years are both reasons for pride.
6. Committee Reports
 - a. Exceptional trees—Maui Green & Beautiful will return in January with the nomination of trees at the old Maui High School campus. They plan to submit the recommendations by groups of trees. The Royal Poincianna with the cavity in it does not present a hazard. It is thriving. There are records that show it growing in 1939. It is small and an unusual variety. Jeannie Pezzoli suggested that a map with the locations be included in the submission. Alex Haller mentioned that he would like to do a site visit. He was told to contact Barbara Fernandez who would help him make the arrangements. The wili wili on Kaho’olawe is thought to be 200 years old. KIRC is working on that nomination. The concern about the pruning of the rainbow shower trees on Baldwin Avenue continues. The Committee expected a report from the County Arborist. It was suggested that a formal letter be written asking him for his evaluation. Jeannie made a motion to authorize the Chair of the Committee to write a letter requesting the information. The motion was seconded by Jackie and passed unanimously. Some of the information to be asked could include but not be limited to who owns the trees; who authorized the trimming; who contracted the work; were ISA principles followed; and was a certified arborist on site for the work. A response would be expected for the January meeting. There were no new assessments done of the exceptional trees to be reported at this meeting. The suggestion for signage on the trees was mentioned again.
7. Agenda development—potential project at Keopuolani Park, Kula School Park project, pruning of exceptional trees on Baldwin Avenue, exceptional tree nominations and assessments; MCPP; report from County Arborist on assessment of rainbow shower trees on Baldwin Av.; public education campaign.
8. Announcements—**next meeting is scheduled for January 13 at 1:30 pm in the parks conference room.**
9. Meeting adjourned at 3:30 pm.

Those present: Kimberly Thayer, Chris Reynolds, Heather Heath, Alex Haller, Jackie Brainard, Jeannie Pezzoli, Bill Myrter, members of the committee; Elaine Malina, Arine Bulkey, Maui Green & Beautiful; Pat Tratebas, GIS project coordinator; Sue Kiang, staff support to the Committee; Jerrie Shepherd Corporation Counsel; excused members, William Jacintho, Casey Foster.

Drafted by Sue Kiang 12/17/15; approved by unanimous Committee vote 1/13/16