

## Maui County Arborist Committee

### Meeting Minutes

January 13, 2016

1. Call to order at 1:32 pm when it was determined that a quorum was present.
2. Public testimony—Ernest Rezens spoke as a certified arborist and lover of trees on two topics. The first was his desire for the adoption of the revised planting plan to move more quickly. He sees large trees such as rainbow shower trees continue to be planted in too small spaces, especially in new parking lots. The fully revised plan would address this problem. He informed the Committee that in the past, nonconforming plans would be sent by Planning to be reviewed by the Committee. Since Planning was given the right to approve based on past practice modifications, plans have proceeded without additional input. One of the recent conflicts with existing trees and new developments was the result of no one seeing what was adjacent to the proposed plan. If the mature trees were taken into account, the build out may have prevented the need for removals at present. Members shared many of Ernie’s concerns such as trees being planted too close to the road or installations that do not utilize root barriers as part of the solution. Chair Kimberly stated that the Planning Department needs to be re-engaged with the Committee. Once the public hearing is accomplished, a letter will be sent to the Planning Department with an invitation to have a representative come speak to the Committee regarding the concern.  
Barbara Fernandez of Maui Green & Beautiful then spoke about the process regarding Waiko Road. She asked what will be planted to replace the trees that were lost; will the stumps be removed as well; and were the neighbors notified before the removals. The County Arborist said that the Waikapu Community Association was notified and there was a PSA announcement. He did say there was no requirement to inform the neighbors. Barbara also had concerns about removals on Hansen Road. These will be included on a future agenda which will allow full discussion and potential for action by members.
3. New business  
The minutes of the December meeting were approved as circulated in a unanimous vote on a motion made by Jackie Brainard and seconded by Heather Heath.
4. Unfinished business
  - a. The Maui County Planting Plan—A public hearing notice was published in the Maui News on January 10. The public hearing will be on the agenda for the February meeting. One of the final needs before the adoption and finalization of the document is a letter from the Mayor as an introduction to the plan. William Jacintho moved and it was seconded by Bill Myrter to have the Chair write a letter informing the Mayor that the document is forthcoming and requesting the letter. The letter from Mayor Lingle in the previous edition will be included.
  - b. Public education—Jackie has modified her plans for the public education campaign. She will work with Sue on generating press releases at the appropriate times as a means of educating the public on the activities of the Committee. She is also willing to help with the Arbor Day celebration.
  - c. The pruning of the exceptional trees on Baldwin Avenue continued as a topic of discussion. David, the Arborist spoke about the ownership of the trees which is determined by the right of way which seems to have changed over time. He also talked about the “right” of the utility to maintain the line. Chris Reynolds pointed out that the ordinance is against malicious acts that destroy trees. While the actions were not done

in the best interest of the tree, it would be difficult to prove in a court of law that it was intentionally malicious. A course of action was discussed in how to remedy the situation to make it right. Jeannie Pezzoli made a motion to have the Committee write a letter to Asplundh voicing their dismay at the quality of work done and ask for Asplundh to remedy the situation. The motion was seconded by Chris and passed unanimously.

5. Chairman's report—Kimberly thanked members for their ongoing hard work. She promised a celebration once M CPP is completed.
6. Arborist report—Due to the large clean-ups after recent Kona storms, his budget has been spent. He is currently recommending the survey of Piiholo Road as there is significant mortality of upcountry trees due to the drought of the past seven years. High winds have knocked some down, leaving even more vulnerable to future wind storms. He also is concerned about the erosion at Kanaha Beach Park and Baldwin Beach Park. These areas are impacted by hurricanes, moon cycles, and trade winds. He was asked about the trees that were lost when the photovoltaic installation happened at the Kihei Community Center. He reported that new trees were planted in the planters in front of the building.
7. Committee Reports
  - a. Exceptional trees—Kimberly and Elaine Malina of Maui Green & Beautiful, assessed the trees on the Yokouchi property. The monkey pod was recently pruned and looked very nice. There is a plaque on the West Indian locust. There is a small amount of fungus on the Autograph tree.
8. Agenda development—public hearing on Maui County Planting Plan, tree concerns inc. pruning of exceptional trees on Baldwin Avenue, removal of trees on Waiko Rd. & Hansen Road exceptional tree nominations and assessments.
9. Announcements—Maui Green & Beautiful work day on 1/17; recruiting new board members; **next meeting/public hearing of the Arborist Committee is scheduled for February 10 at 1:30 pm in the parks conference room.**
10. Meeting adjourned at 3:11 pm.

Those present: Kimberly Thayer, Chris Reynolds, Heather Heath, Alex Haller, Jackie Brainard, Jeannie Pezzoli, Bill Myrter, William Jacintho, members of the committee; Elaine Malina, Barbara Fernandez, Maui Green & Beautiful; Ernest Rezens; Sue Kiang, staff support to the Committee; David Sakoda, County Arborist; Jerrie Shepherd Corporation Counsel; excused member Casey Foster.

Drafted by Sue Kiang 1/21/16; corrected 2/3/16

Approved as circulated by unanimous vote of Committee 2/10/16