

Maui County Arborist Committee

Meeting Minutes

July 13, 2016

1. Call to order at 1:33 pm when it was determined that a quorum was present. Introductions were made to all that were at the meeting.
2. The agenda was adjusted to allow the Waiko Road, Exceptional Trees, and the Kula School Park planting discussions to be taken up first to accommodate members in the audience here for presentations. Heather Heath made the motion that was seconded by Mark Dobbertin. It passed unanimously.
3. Public Testimony—Barbara Fernandez of Maui Green & Beautiful testified with a concern about the tobacco plant that was removed from a berm at the Ka'a entrance at Kanaha Beach Park. It is home to an endangered moth. Her question to the Committee was rather it is considered a tree. Ernest Rezens, a certified arborist also present, said it was more like a “big bush”. Barbara reported that it appeared the embankment had been removed. Ernest Rezens thanked the Committee for the publicity received upon the release of the Maui County Planting Plan. He was recognized in a publication of the University of Hawaii as an “outstanding University of Hawaii graduate.” He is happy that the plan is available on the web and looks forward to the day that the new edition will be in Maui County libraries. Others present were invited to testify. Hearing none, the public testimony was closed for the meeting.
4. The agenda turned to the discussion regarding Waiko Road. Rowena Dagdag Andaya, Deputy Director of Public Works, was present at the meeting and gave an overview. The Moreton Bay Fig and monkey pod tree roots were damaging rock walls and the foundation of some homes. Public Works had referred the project to Parks but is willing to help with the discussion. The ultimate goal is to plant the appropriate trees with sufficient room to grow. She had attended the Waikapu Community Association on July 11. Three groups were identified that came up with various concerns to be addressed with different County departments. The stumps are a concern to some as they attract termites. There is a need for both a short term and long term plan to be worked together with the community. Rowena reported that the brush that was a potential fire hazard had been cut shortly after the last meeting. Kim also reported that she had attended the June meeting of the Waikapu Community Association. She identified the Committee as a resource to support both Public Works and the community. Keith Regan, the managing director was at the Association’s meeting. He was not aware of the County Arborist’s actions and how it affects the functioning of the Committee. He asked that a letter be sent to formally notify the Administration of the Committee’s concerns. Mark made a motion that was seconded by Bill Myrter stating a letter be written to the Mayor. The motion was amended to clarify that the letter is to be drafted and sent by the Committee chair prior to the next meeting. The motion passed unanimously.
While speaking before the Committee, Rowena raised another issue. She had just been given a problem to be addressed with the trees in the planters on Front Street.
5. The next agenda item to be discussed was the nomination of an exceptional tree by Kevin Gavagan and Lyman Abbott. Kevin presented a Power Point giving the history and why this wili wili tree deserves recognition as an exceptional tree. The KIRC staff calls it the wili wili kupuna or “grandfather” wili wili. It is a native tree located at LZ1 which is near the top of the island. The tree is known for its colorful seeds and its wood is used for surfboards. The gall wasp in the recent past destroyed many of the trees throughout the state, making this one even that more

important. There is evidence that the tree was there in 1858. It has survived the goats (the last goat was killed in '93), bombing, and wind erosion. Another picture of it was taken in 1939. It is actually a grove of four dwarf trees that would be over 100 years old. The goal is the restoration and preservation of heritage trees such as this. Seeds have been collected and propagated. Jerrie Sheppard of Corporation Counsel suggested a formal letter be sent requesting the nomination as exceptional trees. Elaine Malina will help Kevin get the letter to the Committee. Kim reinforced the benefit of having a tree be designated. This would be the first wili wili and the only tree designated on Kaho'olawe.

6. Kula School planting was the next topic of discussion. Dick Mayer reported that he was instrumental in having the park built 25 years ago. There are areas that need more shade. There is a need for a plan which would result in 10 to 15 new trees in the park. Mark thought this would be a good Arbor Week project. Heather and Casey have expressed an interest in working on the subcommittee to plan the project. Heather made a motion to write a letter to the Parks Department requesting an indication of the commitment by Parks to the project. The motion was seconded by Bill and passed unanimously.
7. The draft of the minutes of June 8, 2016 was reviewed by those present. A name had been misspelled. The minutes were approved with the correction by unanimous vote in a motion made by Bill and seconded by Mark.
8. Old business—
 - a. Waiko Road plan as stated.
 - b. The working relationship with the Planning Department was discussed. Maui County Code 12:24 when first written included a plan reviewer at Planning that would attend the meetings as an ad hoc member. Currently Planning does not have the capacity to have someone attend regularly. It would be counter to Planning's goal of streamlining their process. Mark made a motion to have the Chair write a letter to the Planning Department that points out the merit of the new plan as it relates to the space for planting, variety of species in a streetscape, and innovations in parking lot design. Heather seconded the motion that passed unanimously.
9. Subcommittee reports
 - a. Exceptional trees –The wili wili on Kaho'olawe will be considered once a letter is received.
 - b. Arbor Week – Mark has agreed to be chair of the subcommittee.
10. Chairman's report—There are now two vacancies on the Committee as Jackie Brainard has resigned. Kim asked for people to give thought to who would be good candidates to serve. The silver buttonwoods could use their first structural pruning. This could be a teachable moment for caretaking staff. Sue will work within the department to set a time. Mark is willing to provide the instruction. Elaine and Maui Green & Beautiful also wants to be a part of it since it was their investment that resulted in the trees being planted.
11. Arborist report—No report was given as he was not present for the meeting.
12. Agenda development—Tree concerns – Front Street trees; Waiko Road; Kula School Park planting; exceptional tree on Kaho'olawe, trees at Launiapoko; Arbor Week; ceremonial recognition of Gold Leaf award; hard copies of MCPP.
13. Announcements—**next meeting of the Arborist Committee is scheduled for August 10 at 1:30 pm in the parks conference room.**
14. Meeting adjourned at 3:32 pm.

Those present: Kimberly Thayer, Bill Myrter, Chris Reynolds, Mark Dobbertin, Heather Heath, members of the committee; Elaine Malina, Barbara Fernandez, & Arine Bulkley Maui Green & Beautiful; Dick

Mayer, Ernest & Alene Rezens, members of the public; Sue Kiang, staff support to the committee; Jerrie Sheppard, Corporation Counsel; Rowena Dagdag Andaya, Deputy Director of Public Works; excused members Casey Foster, Alex Haller.

Drafted by Sue Kiang 7/26/16

Amended and adopted by Committee 8/10/16