

Maui County Arborist Committee

Meeting Minutes October 9, 2019

1. Call to order at 1:45 pm by Chris Reynolds, Chair, when it was determined that quorum was present.
2. New Committee Business –
 - a. Approval of minutes – Approval of minutes as amended for the committee meeting of September 11, 2019: motion to approve by Lance DeSilva, seconded by Douglas McBride and unanimously approved.
 - b. Discuss New Exceptional Trees – Arine Bulkley proposes large tree along Maui Veteran’s Highway. Application not filled out at this time.
 - c. Letter to Planning Department to request for attendance at meetings –David Galazin mentions that it could be beneficial to have a representative from the Planning Department to come to all meetings. He also suggests that the Planning Department can designate a staff member to be present at all regular meetings but, if the committee feels that there is a meeting that would require the Director of the Planning Department to attend, they can request the Director’s presence specifically for that meeting. Tim Griffith suggests that if there are less meetings per year, more people may be willing to attend because there is less commitment. Chris Reynolds mentions that he is drafting a letter for staff from the Planning Department to attend meetings on a regular basis. David Galazin mentions that the committee can make a motion for the Chair to draft the letter and have the support staff assist in sending the letter. Arine Bulkley motion to approve to have the Chair write a letter on behalf of the committee to the Planning Department requesting for a representative to attend meetings on a regular basis, Lance DeSilva seconded, unanimously approved.
 - d. Notification process of dead trees and/or hazardous trees – Barbara Fernandez mentions that Maui Green and Beautiful has an action form that people can fill out to inform them of a dead or hazardous tree. Tim Griffith mentions that if a tree is in right of way, the County contracts out to have tree trimmed or removed and if the tree is on private property, the County sends a letter to the land owner. Chris Reynolds mentions that the County can be called to make the determination if the tree actually is in right of way but, if the tree and/or branches are close to powerlines, Maui Electric Company should be contacted. Chris Reynolds mentions that if someone calls the Maui Electric Company regarding a hazardous tree touching powerlines, the dispatcher writes down information, an inspector gets sent to location, the inspector reports findings and the job will be done by the inspector or Asplundh.
 - e. Discuss tree health, Rapid Ohia Death – Lance DeSilva explains that Rapid Ohia Death (ROD) is a fungal pathogen that embeds itself in the Ohia tree, preventing it from taking in nutrients and water. Aerial surveys are done twice a year for all Ohia forested areas, including areas that are only partially Ohia, for Maui, Molokai and Lanai. Leeward Haleakala aerial surveys are done once per quarter to determine if anything is coming from the Big Island through the winds. Any suspicions of a dying tree are marked on a digital sketch map and a picture of the tree is taken from the air. After an aerial survey is done, he (Lance DeSilva) reviews pictures to determine if any of the suspected trees do show signs of ROD. Any pictures that seem to show signs or ROD are then sent to the Big Island where experts will determine if the tree needs to be monitored and sampled. If a tree needs to be sampled, the land owners are

- contacted and asked for permission to test the tree on the property. After a sample is taken, it is sent to the Big Island for testing and lab results are returned in about 4 days. If the sample comes back negative, the land owner is called and informed of the negative test result. The State then asks the land owner if they have the land owner's permission to make it public information that a tree on their property was tested for ROD and the results were negative. Lance DeSilva confirmed of a case near Wailua Falls in the front yard of a resident's home where an Ohia tree was sampled and tested positive for ROD. The tree was cut down and burned in place so that no substance was left behind. Lance DeSilva mentions that the fungus can be transferred by birds, people and possibly by wind. In South Maui, there are spore collectors that collect samples which are tested to see if the fungus is being transferred through the air. Lance DeSilva mentions that there are Ohia trees dying on Molokai but, it is not due to ROD.
- f. Discuss Arbor Day Celebration – Tim Griffith mentions that Arbor Day is on November 2nd and a proclamation in writing must be submitted to the Mayor's office by October 10, 2019 declaring who will be the honorary Chairperson for this year's celebration. Barbara Fernandez nominates Jan Dapitam as honorary Chairperson as she is a past Parks Director, planted trees in old Wailuku town and is responsible for Tree City. Barbara Fernandez motion to approve Jan Dapitam as honorary Chairperson for this year's Arbor Day Celebration, Arine Bulkley seconded and unanimously approved. Barbara Fernandez suggests that a tree be planted for Arbor Day Celebrations and mentions she will call a botanical garden to inquire if they would allow for the committee to plant a tree in the garden for Arbor Day. Barbara Fernandez mentions that she and Lance DeSilva would like to meet on their own time to discuss about getting a Koa 'ia seedling for the Arbor Day Celebration. Arine Bulkley mentions that even if the tree does not get planted on Arbor Day, it can still be a part of the celebration. Tim Griffith mentions that the County will have a booth during Arbor Day celebrations and he will be doing half hour presentations for topics such as: What homeowners need to consider when selecting a tree; Pruning – Potential hazards and when you should hire a professional.

3. Continued Committee Business

- a. Review of the "Rules of Practice and Procedures for the Maui County Arborist Committee" – David Galazin passed out drafts of "Rules of Practice and Procedures for the Maui County Arborist Committee". David Galazin explains that he has highlighted areas of the document that he believes are areas of interest for discussion and has crossed out areas that he believes are no longer needed in the document. He also explains there is a process that would have to be completed in order to make any changes to the "Rules of Practice and Procedures for the Maui County Arborist Committee" such as public hearings. Barbara Fernandez asks to clarify if the committee does agree that the document needs to be cleaned up and adjusted, committee unanimously agrees. Lance DeSilva inquires what the process is to form a subcommittee. David Galazin explains that a subcommittee is less than a quorum and usually consists of 2 to 3 people. These people are given a specific task and can meet independently without needing to provide meeting minutes. On the agenda for the following Arborist Committee Meeting, there will be an item for Report from Subcommittee where they will provide their report. Discussion of the subcommittee's report will be done at the following committee meeting. David Galazin explains that any committee has the power to form a subcommittee. Lance DeSilva asks if the draft of the "Rules of Practice and Procedures for the Maui County Arborist Committee" can be taken home to review and discussed at the next meeting. Chris Reynolds approves

and instructs committee members to take document home, review it closely and be ready to discuss at the November meeting.

- b. Review of Exceptional Tree Inspections – Request of checklist/Updated lists to include numerical ID with alphabetical ID – Allison Hamai, Dept. of Parks & Recreation staff explains that the alphabetical and numerical listing of Exceptional Trees was created using the Exceptional Tree list from a previous meeting’s agenda. A few trees on the list had the same ID numbers. Chris Reynolds and Lance DeSilva confirmed that there are trees with duplicate numbers and they will be assigning new numbers. Barbara Fernandez suggests to defer this item to next meeting’s agenda. Tim Griffith mentions that they can presume that any missing tree numbers are trees that have died. Arine Bulkley suggests that the dead trees could still be listed in the Exceptional Tree List with a note of what happened to the tree. Lance DeSilva announces that he will be going to Kahoolawe on January 21, 2020 for work business and is planning to measure and take pictures of the Wiliwili trees there.
 - c. Discussion on Additional Arborist – Letter to the Director of Parks requesting the need of an additional Arborist – Chris Reynolds is in the middle of drafting a letter that he is planning on sharing with the committee at the next meeting. Tim Griffith suggests to keep the arborists together in the same department since Maui County is a small community. Chris Reynolds mentions that the most impactful trees are in right of ways so, it would make sense for the additional arborist to be in Public Works. Douglas McBride mentions that many trees are disappearing and not being replanted. Tim Griffith mentions that this code enforcement would come from the Construction and Planning Department and should be reported to them that trees are not being replanted. Chris Reynolds mentions that someone can also make a request for service on the Maui County website.
4. Chairperson’s Report – Chris Reynolds is trying to send out a letter to the County. The letter was originally going to be sent to the Director of Parks but, he feels that it would be better to send the letter to a higher authority. Chris Reynolds will bring in a copy of his letter to the next committee meeting.
 5. Agenda Development for Next Meeting –
 - Discuss New Exceptional Trees
 - Letter to Planning Department to request for attendance at meetings
 - Letter from Council Member Riki Hokama
 - Discuss County budget requests
 - Climate Change/Taking care of trees
 - Review of the “Rules of Practice and Procedures for the Maui County Arborist Committee”
 - Review of Exceptional Tree Inspections – Request of checklist/Updated lists to include numerical ID with alphabetical ID
 - Discussion on Additional Arborist – Letter requesting the need of an additional Arborist
 6. Announcements – No Announcements
 7. Next meeting to be held on Wednesday, November 13, 2019 at 1:30 pm.
 8. Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 3:35 pm.

Respectfully drafted and submitted by:
Allison Hamai

Those present: Chris Reynolds, Lance DeSilva, Arine Bulkley, Barbara Fernandez, Douglas McBride, Chris Haynes, Members of the Committee; TimGriffith, Arboriculturist; David Galazin, Corp. Counsel; Allison Hamai, Dept. of Parks and Recreation staff. Those absent: Hanna Mounce, Alison Cohan and Robert Burritt.