

Arborist Committee
Minutes
April 9, 2008

Those present: Bob Hobdy, William Jacintho, Jordan Hart, Harlan Hughes, Jeannie Pezzoli, Terry Nutt, Sue Lipp, and Monroe Bryce, members of the committee; Sue Kiang, staff support to the committee; Glenn Shishido, state forester; and David Sakoda, county arborist; ex-officio members of the committee; Richard Kempf, excused.

The meeting was called to order at 1:40 pm when it was determined that a quorum was present.

As an introduction for Monroe, the new member, people introduced themselves and said why they liked being on the committee. The reasons ranged from wanting to see more trees, a love of the green environment, feeling that we make a difference, wanting to see proper pruning, to advocating for more trees in public spaces.

The election of new leadership was conducted. Harlan nominated Jordan Hart as chair. Jeannie seconded the motion. He was elected unanimously. William nominated Monroe as vice-chair with a second by Jeannie. It passed unanimously.

Subcommittees were discussed with people indicating their interest. Some considerations for subcommittees should be a realization that these are over and above the requirements of being on the committee. A member's first priority is to attend the monthly meetings. As volunteers, all need to be mindful of their personal constraints with time. The parking lot trees subcommittee can be time consuming as visits are made to assess various parking lots. Both tree concerns and exceptional trees are on an as-needed basis, although an annual evaluation of the exceptional trees should be done. It was decided that all members should consider themselves a member of the tree concerns subcommittee. Arbor Week in the past has included a planting project. David would like to see activities be extended to Lanai and Molokai. Individuals indicated their interest and the assignments are attached. Next meeting will include time for a break-out session so members can decide on an action plan and convenient times for all to meet. Corporation Counsel has let members know that as long as the numbers of the subcommittee do not constitute a quorum then the meeting does not need to be posted.

David gave his arborist report. All December storm damage in counties other than Oahu qualified as a state disaster. Maui's total was \$194,500 with 85% of the clean-up and 3% administrative costs covered that should result in \$165,000. While the money will go into the general fund, it can be reallocated. Parks may get \$100,000 for its needs. Volunteers are always available for planting. The Urban Forestry program that gets federal funds is in line to be cut by 70%. David will send information on where members can write their congressmen. This fund has been used in Hawaii on an ongoing basis. David closed the finance cycle for palms and street tree contracts. The final topic of his report was a document detailing the urban forest on Oahu. They have a diverse and uneven age for their forest based on an extensive inventory of their trees. Maui's attempt to develop an inventory has been thwarted by the software company going out of business after the program was acquired by Maui County as well as lack of

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manpower to do the tree counts.

Terry relayed a question from Maui Nui Botanical Garden. They would like to remove an ironwood branch that is encroaching on another tree.

When the minutes were reviewed, Sue Lipp noted that it should be weed rather than week risk assessment. Terry moved and Jeannie seconded a motion to approve with the spelling correction. It passed unanimously.

The discussion regarding palms under unfinished business was deferred until Ernie returned with his information.

Harlan would like to make a visit to the homeless shelter to discuss what happened to their trees. A letter could be sent with an offer to educate. There was a concern about individual members approaching the public about poor tree care. In general, communication on a tree issue will be a formal action by the committee as a whole, by staff, or letter. Members realized that there may be budgetary limitations in how the shelter meets its needs making this a difficult message to give and to receive. The message could be softened and mutual problem-solving could happen if it were a face-to-face exchange. After much discussion, it was decided that he would draft a letter for all to review and Sue would try to contract the person in charge of the grounds to begin the discussion.

The curbs and sidewalks have been removed in front of three trees in Piilani Village I. Two seem to be destined for destruction. Members were unclear as to what they might do to assist so the subject was closed.

Jordan gave his first chairman's report by thanking everyone. He is here to advocate for trees. He realizes that the committee has influence. Based on committee field observations, we should request the assistance from the Zoning Enforcement Division (ZAED) to ensure that existing parking lots are in compliance with tree count requirements as they seek additional permits and approvals; as 1 tree per 5 stalls is an existing code requirement. In the future, with the adoption of tree pruning rules, ZAED may be able to assist further. He would also like to look at the outcomes of policies and their implications.

In developing the next meeting's agenda, the members will review the draft of the letter to the homeless shelter, discuss the back parking lot at MCC, and to break into small groups to discuss the subcommittees.

Jeannie announced that she would be conducting a workshop on the basics of pruning at MCC on April 23 from 12 pm to 2 pm. Details to be forwarded by Sue.

Earth Day will be celebrated at Maui Nui Botanical Garden on April 19.

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The meeting was adjourned at 3:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted: Sue Kiang 4/29/08

ARBOR WEEK	Jeannie Pezzoli Glenn Shishido Monroe Bryce David Sakoda			
TREE CONCERNS	ALL MEMBERS			
EXCEPTIONAL TREES	William Jacintho Terry Nutt Glenn Shishido Bob Hobdy			
PLANTING PLAN	Jeannie Pezzoli Terry Nutt Bob Hobdy David Sakoda Jordan Hart			
PARKING LOT TREES	Sue Lipp Terry Nutt Harlan Hughes David Sakoda Jordan Hart			

Mandated Committees—per 12:24A

Exceptional Tree—responsible for the designation; annual evaluation of designated trees.

Tree Concerns—respond to reports of tree abuse

Planting Plan—update current plan

To meet TreeCity USA standards

Arbor Week celebration with Mayor’s Proclamation

Ad hoc—as determined by Arborist Committee

Parking lot trees—set standards for minimum planting area; advocate for shade tree