

**Arborist Committee
Minutes
January 9, 2008**

Those present: William Jacintho, Bob Hobdy, Jordan Hart, Richard Kempf, Harlan Hughes, Jeannie Pezzoli, Sue Lipp, and Terry Nutt, 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; Ernie Rezens, volunteer to the committee; Tui Anderson, Edna Manzano, and Ellen Kraftsow, Department of Water Supply.

The meeting was called to order at 1:33 pm by Chair Bob Hobdy when it was determined that a quorum was present. The minutes were approved as circulated in a motion by William Jacintho with a second by Richard Kempf.

Chapter 2 p. 19 language regarding damage by a public tree to a privately-owned wall was forwarded to Corporation Counsel. While the lawyer understands the intent, he has not returned to Ernie Rezens with different wording. The sample of the table was acceptable. Needing a permit was verified to mean consultation with the county arborist not the committee itself. The county arborist also mentioned that when ground work is done, it is not always readily apparent if it has had a negative impact on the health of the tree.

Chapter 3 will have a park tree list that will include street trees as well rather than having a separate list for street trees and the statement that they can be used in parks. While it will increase the size of the book, it will make it more user friendly. Much time was spent discussing the requirements of new irrigation. This may become legislation for new medians and greenways. Controllers are currently required of large irrigation systems. Rain sensors are approximately \$30, so not too costly. However a smart controller would test for soil moisture, a much better calculation. One member asked if irrigation was necessary for all new installations, considering the location and annual rainfall. Even those areas can experience little rain at a given time of the year. If a new project does not plan irrigation, they would come to the committee for review. The system could be temporary. All agreed that the planting plan should complement the proposed water bill.

There were no comments regarding the proposed Chapter 12 resulting in the approval of Chapters 2, 3, and 12.

There will be a separate table for palms in Chapter 2. Terry asked if there was a place to indicate if the plant had scent or not. Terry has put the proposed table on his computer which is inoperable at this point. He will bring the information when it is available. Prior to that, he needs to review for invasiveness. He is also writing a narrative about the use of palms in the landscape.

Ernie assured members that they would see the final copy of the planting plan before it is sent to the various county departments for review.

The date for the November meeting is 11/12 not 11/11 as previously indicated on the schedule.

Jordan is compiling input for the Arborist Committee website. He asked members to send the information to Sue who will forward it to him. He will edit the information and forward it to MIS. It would be ideal to have the planting plan on the web in a searchable form. Tui mentioned that the county is putting out an RFP to re-do the county website.

Richard moved and Terry seconded a motion to forward a letter to Walmart regarding the condition of their trees after the December storm. Richard had done a site visit and developed a report on the condition of 59 trees. There were 24 that were impacted. The greatest concern is the 15 stumps that have no remaining canopy. He mentioned Maui Marketplace as being dramatically different due to the pruning. It is Ordinance 19.36 which governs parking lot trees.

Ellen of the Department of Water Supply introduced the bill that her department has been working on regarding water conservation. The county council has also created a draft bill as well. The committee had seen the council bill but the water department bill was new to them. The two forms for water conservation is either a water budget or turf restrictions. The difficulty is the lack of enforcement capability. Ellen's goal is to have one comprehensive ordinance on water conservation. Ernie reported that Chapter 8 of the planting plan is on xeriscape and water conservation. Members agreed to read both bills and return with their comments at the next meeting. This will be the first item on the agenda next month.

The Arborist reported on his activities with the storm clean-up. Kula and Kihei were the worst hit, although he didn't feel it was a "100 year event." Because Maui has experienced a drought over the past seven years, residents have forgotten what winter storms can hold. Damage was increased by new development as well as people throwing their vegetation into gulches. Edge trees have been removed and the trees that are exposed now do not have the strong anchoring roots like edge trees. Also the installation of water lines may have resulted in root pruning that is not evident until there is harm to the tree. He has spent \$100,000 of his budget on tree removals. It was asked if they would be replaced which was affirmative. Volunteers would be willing to assist in replanting.

Terry mentioned that he was taking pictures of the exceptional trees. He is concerned about dead wood in the monkeypod in front of the church on High Street. A certified arborist is needed for the pruning.

The University of Hawaii is seeking input on a new degree program in landscape management. David has the email address for anyone that would like to forward information.

Planting at PoliPoli was discussed. Members agreed to Saturday, January 26 beginning at 8 am and finishing around noon. Lunch will be provided by Maui Outdoor Circle. People can park at the pull-out area beyond the first cattle guard above the lavender farm.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:19 pm.

Respectfully submitted: Sue Kiang 1/24/08