

Monday, December 5, 2016

## LOCAC Tree and Landscape Minutes from November 14<sup>th</sup> meeting

Matt Janson, SLO County Planner, presented to LOCAC T&L committee regarding Oak Woodland Outreach. This is a native tree interim zoning/urgency ordinance adopted by the Board in July 2016. The ordinance will expire April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2017. Board of Supervisors will have an update regarding a permanent ordinance January 24<sup>th</sup>, followed by a series of hearings between February and April.

Los Osos has 7,000 acres that potentially affected. Mr. Janson suggested that Tree & Landscape make recommendations and LOCAC draft a letter prior to the January 24<sup>th</sup> update to the Board of Supervisors. A draft of the permanent ordinance can be found on [sloplanning.org](http://sloplanning.org). Under this ordinance 7,000 trees in Los Osos would be protected.

The remainder of the meeting focused mostly on our native and/or drought-tolerant planting project in 2017. Mimi Kalland from Celebrate Los Osos! pointed out the difficulty with the oaks planted at the northeast corner of LOVR and South Bay Blvd for a number of reasons. John Chesnut with the CNPS who heads the native plant propagation program at LOMS (Los Osos Middle School) said oaks are difficult to plant. Mortality rate for newly planted oaks can be as high as 75%. It was agreed our initial project would have a greater chance of success if we limit ourselves to planting only shrubs.

The discussion turned to possible locations for the project. The northwest corner of LOVR & South Bay Blvd was discussed as a “bald spot” in a noticeable part of town. Mimi suggested and it was agreed that the committee should settle on a location first. Linde Owen suggested that T&L should try to fix the “eye sores” and establish a pattern of success. David Hunter suggested that we keep the logistical, cost, and regulatory hurdles to a minimum for this project. Subsequent to the meeting, Mimi Kalland emailed a follow up to say that the county will require a permit to plant trees on northwest corner of LOVR & South Bay Blvd. It was suggested that only planting shrubs at the location in question may not trigger a permitting process. Celebrate Los Osos! definitely has experience and a proven track record for various public landscape projects in Los Osos, such as the Santa Ysabel and LOVR median projects. They know the ins and outs and Tree and Landscape would benefit greatly from their input and support.

Steve Best attended the meeting. He raised concerns with the lack of maintenance around the SBCC park, tennis courts, etc. He feels park needs some greening up. He said better coordination is needed between various community groups. Linde said it's the county park's responsibility and funding is needed. Also, CSD has responsibility for parks and recreation. Steve feels that non-profit groups should step up to fill in the gaps.