

LOCAC Tree & Landscape Minutes (October 8th, 2018)

In attendance: David Hunter (Committee Chair and LOCAC board member), Tony Salome, Sarah Halpern, Sandra Brazil, Joey Racano, Yael Korin, Paul Hershfield, Margaret Lindt, John Lindt, Cindy Roessler, Linde Owen, Betty Winholtz, Randon Pool.

To follow up the Tree Proposal made by Tony Salome at our September meeting the group reviewed and discussed the Tree Pamphlet which Tony and Paul Hershfield drafted. The committee decided to start with education and working on a tree pamphlet to be distributed to community members with a suggested tree list and helpful information about planting. We solicited support from local nurseries, landscapers and tree services. Tony said further revisions were needed. The group agreed the tree pamphlet should be a general guideline for planting trees, offering residents links to more detailed resources for further information. The group talked about how to distribute the information in Los Osos. Plant nurseries, coffee shops, New Times, The Tribune, Facebook-Save Sweet Springs were suggested. Tony thought we should do a "community roll out" to coincide with Arbor Day in mid-February and bring in a featured guest.

Los Osos residents John and Margaret Lindt spoke to the committee about \$13.5 million in grants available through CalFire to plant trees in California. It was agreed that a 501 3 (c) non-profit organization would be the best vehicle to apply for such grant programs whereas LOCAC Tree & Landscape committee, serving as a subcommittee of our community's advisory council (LOCAC) probably is not best suited to apply for grants. Other issues raised were resistance from SLO County to planting on public land such as county right of ways (ROWs) and other county easements. Proposition 68 was mentioned as well as community access to reclaimed water from our waste water treatment facility. As of right now reclaimed water is not available to residents of Los Osos.

A question was raised regarding Land Use and new construction permits as it relates to removing and planting new trees. The committee agreed we need to find out if the county has specific requirements relating to planting trees as part of the permitting process. Subsequent to our meeting, Tony Salome reached out to Margaret Mayfield who chairs the Land Use Committee for LOCAC. Tony suggested any proposed tree removal included in building permits is conditional upon replacement trees and any new home construction should include landscape plans with new trees as part of the committee review process. Margaret was supportive and invited Tony Salome or David Hunter to speak about our Tree Planting proposal at a future LUC meeting.

At the October 25th LOCAC meeting, John and Margaret Lindt addressed the LOCAC board regarding the tree planting grants mentioned above. LOCAC was supportive of the ideas presented and suggested that Tree and Landscape committee vote on a specific proposal to bring back to LOCAC. Supervisor Gibson also supported the ideas presented by Mr. Lindt. County Planner Kerry Brown responded to a question that building permit applications do have certain tree requirements. The T&L committee should research those requirements before we address Land Use Committee so everybody is on the same page.

Respectfully submitted 10/26/2018 by David Hunter