

## LOCAC Tree & Landscape Minutes (September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2018)

In attendance: David Hunter (Subcommittee Chair and LOCAC board member), John Chesnut, Steve Best, Cindy Roessler (T&L public member), Tony Salome, Yael Korin (LOCAC board member), Paul Hershfield, Lorean Canon, Lisa Denker, Linde Owen (T&L public member). Vita Miller and Mike Vella submitted comments via email.

Tony Salome made a presentation to the Tree and Landscape Committee regarding removal and replacement of trees in Los Osos. Click link here to view draft proposal: **Proposed Los Osos Tree Planting Program**. Tony also provided a copy of the SLO County ordinances pertaining to tree removal, tree removal permit requirements, and tree removal standards. It was agreed that many residents in our community are not aware of the county ordinance and trees are being removed without a permit. [Click here to view SLO County Tree Removal Ordinance](#). We discussed a regulatory approach to deal with the issue on a case by case basis, e.g. calling the county to report when we see trees being removed. The other approach would be to increase public awareness by encouraging residents to plant new trees. We talked about printing and distributing a pamphlet to educate the community about suitable trees to plant in Los Osos. LOCAC itself doesn't have a budget per se to fund a specific project. In the long run, a non-profit group would be a more suitable vehicle to implement a tree planting program. Groups like Celebrate Los Osos and Rotary of Los Osos have completed various public beautification projects in the community, including landscaping street medians along LOVR and Santa Ysabel. A non-profit group could apply for grants to help fund various projects. LOCAC Tree & Landscape would like to participate in the effort, but a separate non-profit entity that's dedicated exclusively to planting trees would ultimately be more successful. Tony reached out to various groups and programs around SLO county to see how other communities deal with tree removal and replacement and he shared that information with the group. Los Osos should seek support from SLO County and other groups. Also, the group agreed that our Los Osos Community Development Plant (CDP) should tree replacement.

Other related issues discussed were the need for water to support new trees planted on both public and private property. "Purple pipe" water from the waster water treatment facility is not available at this time and it's not certain how soon residents may have access to it. Linde Owen mentioned a purple pipe filling station on 10<sup>th</sup> Street near the Sheriff's office, but that is not yet available.

The group agreed education and awareness was the best first step. Paul Hershfield volunteered to work with Tony to develop a pamphlet of recommended trees for Los Osos and include other helpful guidelines as a reference for the residents of Los Osos. Since our last meeting Tony and Paul have come with a draft pamphlet to present to the Tree and Landscape for further comment and input. Tree and Landscape will meet Monday, October 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm at the South Bay Community Center conference room. Community members are encouraged to attend.