



**A Meeting Of The Tree Task Force
Minutes
Wednesday, , 2008
Albany Community Center
EOC Room
1229 Marin Ave.
7:30 p.m.**

- 1. Call to Order:** 7:30 p.m. Task Force Members present: Trout, Arca, Nemeth, Wilmsen, Adams, Como, Jones

Staff present: Tony Wolcott

Approval of Minutes: Jan 30, 2008:

Approval of the minutes of as corrected made by Member Jones and seconded by Member Adams.. Motion carried all in favor.

- 3. Public Comment: None**

- 4. Announcements/Communication:** Member Jones reported that he talked with Bob Lieber who said that we can communicate through email for informational purposes and not be in violation of the Brown Act. Chair Trout feels we should be strict about the Brown Act. Member Como made a concurring comment.

Tony Wolcott announced the new City website will be available in April, with announcement about task force and info about city trees in one place.

- 5. Discussion and possible action on matters related to the following items, which could include reports and/or proposed resolutions if any:**

5.1 Discussion and possible adoption of vision statement. Tony Wolcott suggested we include shrubs and bushes. Member Como questioned including the goal of having more large trees, and noted that some people preferred not having trees. Member Jones suggested we include a statement about low financial impact, and about neighborhood involvement in care of trees. Chair Trout suggested wording to include managing for ecological benefit. Motion to have Carl Wilmsen revise vision statement for 3.12 meeting by Member Jones, seconded by Member Arca, carried unanimously.

5-2. Discuss organization and prioritization of task force. Tony Wolcott felt we need to know the scope and powers of the task force from the beginning. Member Wilmsen suggested we add management of public lands to the Task Force's purview. Member Nemeth suggested adding tree removal. Tony Wolcott asked about adding heritage trees, as there is no city policy. Member Trout replied that this task force is only about public trees. Member Como suggested the task force consider maintenance policy on trees not on the approved list. Motion to adopt the framework proposed by Chair trout, with the modifications discussed. Motion by Wilmsen, second Arca, approved unanimously.

5-3. Discussion and possible action re letter to Gates and Associates regarding Ohlone Greenway. Chair Trout reported no objection by Parks and Rec Commission or staff to the proposed idea or letter proposing that all or part of the Ohlone Greenway be devoted to demonstration and experimental street trees. Member Arca moved that Chair Trout draft a letter for consideration and possible approval at next meeting, Nemeth seconded, approved unanimously.

5-4. Discussion of Tree Lists(s). Task force had a lengthy discussion re the existing tree list, it's suitability and shortcomings, and possible ways to increase the number of trees on the list. Members also discussed

various methods of appraising proposed additions to the list. Member Arca moved that Chair Trout develop a list of criteria to be used in evaluating street trees. Seconded by Wilmsen. Motion passed unanimously.

5-5. Discussion of Block Organization Issues. Tony Wolcott's memo regarding block process was discussed. Member Nemeth offered to write up ideas about possible funding mechanisms for the next meeting.

Public Comment: none

6. Future Agenda Items: Tree list, finalize vision statement, tree list template, tree funding mechanisms, letter re Ohlone Greenway, municipal tree program budget presentation by city forester, soils.

7. Adjournment: 9:30 pm