

Albany Tree Task Force meeting, June 18, 2008

1. Call to order, 7:25. Members present: Richard Trout, Bob Jones, Suzanne Arca, Carl Wilmsen

Staff present: Tony Wolcott

3. Public comment: none.

4. Announcements:

Wilmsen suggested that the task force consider recommending that the city council look at the issue of tree climbing, and possibly pass an ordinance.

Mr. Trout suggested we move agenda item 5.1b, discussion of Solano Stroll booth, to the end of the meeting.

5.1a Approval of minutes

Tabled.

5.2 Discussion of Ohlone Greenway, Gates & Associates plan

The task force needs to come up with recommendations by the city council's meeting in July.

Several questions are pertinent: 1) What to do about the demonstration gardens? The plan shows a demonstration garden of only 6 trees. This is not what the task force had envisioned. 2) Do we want to have input into demonstration garden at Solano which will not be trees? 3) Part or all of the greenway will be using recycled water. Recycled water has high concentrations of salts and metals. So the task force needs to choose plants that will thrive on reclaimed water. Ms. Arca, who is the consultant for EBMUD on the recycled water project, pointed out that the levels of Boron will be okay, and that most plant material does okay with reclaimed water. The levels of concentrates coming out of the EBMUD pipes is acceptable. The issue is actually the long-term build up. But long-term effects have not been completely studied. It will really only affects a few plants.

There is no plant list or accompanying report with Gates & Associates' plans, so the task force will have to supply them with its list of preferred plants. The task force will also need to specify what should be done with the demonstration plantings. The entire length of the greenway should be used for demonstration plantings so that a homeowner who is trying to decide what kind of tree to plant can walk along the greenway and see a number of different trees. However, to maintain aesthetics, there should be clusters (groves) of single species. The emphasis on natives should be retained. Also, trees and shrubs for wildlife habitat should be considered.

The task force should indicate areas on the plan, and provide a list of plants for each area.

The task force recommends that baseline soil testing be done.

Evergreen trees should be strategically placed to hide large apartment buildings, the middle school, and other buildings.

Also, drainage problems will need to be addressed.

There should be some raised planting areas as well, where things like ceanothus can be planted.

If possible, indicator plants (that decline if minerals get too high or conditions change) should be planted.

For the next meeting everyone should put together plant lists and any specifications they would like to have Gates include.

5.3 Discussion and possible action re Task Force budget allotment

5-4. Discussion and possible action re website

5.1b Discussion and possible action re Solano Stroll booth

6. Future agenda items.

Meeting adjourned at 9:17.