

Sustainability Report for 4-1-'19 Greater Valley Glen Council Meeting

Report by Joanne D'Antonio, Sustainability Representative, GVGC

Public Works and Gang Reduction Meeting 3-20-'19 City Hall 1:00 p.m.

Chair Blumenfeld said meeting was focused on tree-centric motions. Greg Spotts of Urban Forestry Division reports trimming is at 1,000 trees/week and they are removing dead trees at same time. Goal is to trim 25,000/year and remove 1400 dead trees/year. Cal Fire grant has been applied for – 50% chance of getting it to cover tree management software (Davey Treekeeper) and 40% of cost of tree inventory by arborists, necessary for Urban Forest Management Plan. No candidates for City Tree Coordinator position, though want to have it filled by end of fiscal year. Adel Hagekhalil, Bureau of Street Services Director wants a schedule for each tree, not just reacting as they do now. Requires pushing through budget process. Adel reports they now have 3 or 4 sample solutions for sidewalk repair without tree removal. Councilmember Buscaino acknowledged budget issues and also recognized the Neighborhood Council Sustainability Alliance and its Committee Chair Joanne D'Antonio for her tree work and co-ordination with Policy Director Dennis Gleason in his office. Councilmember Ryu brought up need for biologist at UFD and the need to note and plant vacant tree wells, some noted in old inventory from 1990s. Adel indicated *arborists* are needed to do the new tree inventory and *biologist* is needed for pest mitigation efforts. Also need to co-ordinate with Rec & Parks (RAP) and DWP, and they plan to use same software as RAP. Among the Chair's recommendations was the review of pruning policy by the Community Forest Advisory Committee, alternative sidewalk repair options, and continued efforts to move forward with the tree inventory. Ron Galperin's report was considered unnecessary and the option of a volunteer inventory not deemed viable given the problems of drought and pests faced by our City street trees. Greg Spotts of UFD reported that since the in lieu fee, fewer trees are held in the City tree nursery, which is used more as a holding for trees about to be planted. The number of trees delivered to replace removed trees with no room to replant the additional tree(s) is down 50%.

Community Forest Advisory Committee 3-7-'19 1:00 p.m. City Hall BPW conference room

Representative from LAFD brush clearance explained their procedures and also indicated that outside contractors are hired to do brush clearance when a property is no in compliance. These contractors have an arborist on staff, but the arborist was not present when protected trees were removed near Jamie Hall, who reported at the previous meeting that LAFD brush clearance is caused the removal of protected tree species. The representative from LAFD indicated that the contractor was being put on probation. No fines were imposed for the removal of protected trees. Public did not have the opportunity to speak on this item.

Beatriz Nabua Behrman, a scientist from UC, gave a detailed report on the effects of the shothole borer in Southern California. In general trees need to be removed when there are 150 holes visible in the tree trunk, though if a limb is infested but not the trunk, the limb should be removed. This infestation does not spread except in the rare occasion that a fertilized female departs the galler; and goes to another tree. She provided a formula of alcohol and bleach to disinfect tools when there is evidence of the borer. Contaminated wood should not be transported to another region. It needs to be chipped or heated to eliminate spreading.