

Committee on Public Planting

Minutes of meeting, November 7, 2012

Present: Members: Chantal Eide, E. Thomas Flynn, Kathleen Kelly, Michael Hanlon, Nancy Phillips, Florrie Wescoat, Emily Axelrod, Paula Cortes

Staff: David Lefcourt

Guests: Sep Kamuar, Gitte Venicx

The door hanger was passed around, work on it appreciated, and approval was noted.

Paula brought an article about the troubles around sustaining street plantings in other cities, especially focused on San Francisco. Dave L. will be there next week at Society of Municipal Arborists meeting. He has recently joined the Executive Board, and will be able to get us more information on these issues, and especially around how to enforce regulations. He'll also be able to get more info on Emerald Ash Borer.

Gitte is working on a project for Earthwatch, monitoring trees and change over time. She was also at our last meeting.

The majority of the meeting was devoted to discussion of goals for our group and how to be most effective. Dave L. would like to see improvement in outreach and public information. Right now CPP's charter is to review public projects but that is not happening very well. The process needs much improvement, especially around the Committee being informed of work in a timely fashion so that it can comment at a time when it will be most effective, not at the last minute. The C2B city zone is the only one where CPP has statutory influence. Tom expressed need to review Special Permit projects since these are usually large scale with much influence on neighborhoods.

Two broad areas of discussion – powers of CPP and outreach of CPP.

There was general discussion about how to have more authority. CPP ordinance states that there should be a representative from Community Development at our meetings. This has been rare. A rep would be able to give us timely updates and information on projects at CD. Need mechanism for requiring plans to come before CPP – Community

Development, DPW and private. CD is involved with about 80-85% of development work in the City. DPW projects include also private and institutional work.

Sep wondered what, historically, CPP did. Our work has been largely informal and focused on each of the neighborhoods. CPP is the eyes and ears in the City.

Strategy going forward: send a letter to CD head, Brian Murphy, stating our concerns and wishes. Emily make a motion that a draft be prepared (Kathleen and Tom volunteered to work on this), to be approved by CPP chairs David Davis and Michael Hanlon.

Arborist update:

Results from "Sandy": 467 tree issue calls, about 97% cleaned up, very few 'hangers' (branches in trees), therefore easier to deal with clean up; about 30-40 trees totally gone, another 30-40 need to be removed due to damage, especially Callery Pears and Norway Maples.

Lakeview Ave will be replanted at end of sewer separation project, approx 2 years' time line.

Fall planting is under way, to be finished in a week or so.

Spring list in process. Sandy has affected budget for tree planting and number of new trees to be planted. There may be Federal reimbursement but not clear yet.

Intern Linda Ciesielski has been busy with misc. projects. 'Allee' Chinese Elms were originally slated for front of High School and Joan Lorenz Park. There may be an alternate specie chosen and work is now scheduled for spring 2013.

Next meeting is Wednesday, December 12.

Meeting adjourned, approx. 7:00 PM

Minutes prepared by Paula Cortes