

PROGRAMMING AND PREDESIGN: MEETING NO.

DATE: 1 December 2009, 3:30-5:00 pm

SUBJECT: Landscape Subcommittee Meeting No. 3

ATTENDEES: See attached sign-in sheet

The following are the highlights of the meeting:

1. Todd Young (TY), Principal of Gates of Associates, summarized the tree mitigation approach.

Question by the Public:

When evaluating the mitigation strategy are you taking sequestration, the absorption of carbon dioxide, into account? Will the replacement of trees be equivalent to the loss of trees in terms of sequestration and the fight against global warming?

Response:

We are proposing tree species that are fast growing because they are more efficient at absorbing carbon dioxide. The replacement of trees cannot be equivalent in sequestration to the trees removed because of the difference in maturity. That is why we would be planting three trees when removing one mature tree.

2. Todd Young presented the tree study for the multi-fields. 15 trees are to be removed (14 Redwoods & 1 Sycamore).

Question by the Public:

Why are the Redwood trees being removed? Are three trees enough to replace one mature tree?

Response by TY:

To make room for the new fields and fence.

Response by Committee member (Canopy):

Canopy is not as concerned about the removal of the Redwood trees as we would be if the trees were Oaks. Redwoods require substantial irrigation and we would rather be planting drought tolerant species. Also, the Redwoods near the multi-fields are planted too close together and would eventually crowd one another out.

Comment by the Public:

It seems like the mitigation strategy is driving the design solution.

Response by Committee member Tom Hodges (TH):

The purpose of the master plan is to identify appropriate locations to plant new trees. We don't want too few trees, but we also don't want to place too many trees just to meet a number criteria. The mitigation strategy is intended to provide guidance to keep track of trees that are lost and a target for replacement trees. The master plan will tell us where it makes sense to plant more trees.

Question by the Public:

Will tree waste be processed in a sustainable way?

Response by TY:

Yes, we follow Bay Friendly and LEED practices in regards to green waste.

3. Todd Young presented the mitigation strategy for the Multi Purpose-fields project. 17 trees need to be replaced. 41 trees are proposed. That creates a surplus of 24 trees to be banked. Tree species for perimeter planting proposed – *Quercus agrifolia* & *Cercis Canadensis*. Tree species options for parking lot introduced – *Fraxinus angustifolia* ‘Raywood’, *Tilia tomentosa*, *Pyrus calleryana* ‘Holmford’, or *Acer fremanii* ‘Autumn Blaze’

Question by the Public:

It looks like you are adding a lot of trees to the parking lot between the football field and the multi-fields. How many parking spaces are we losing? That lot is full during events.

Response by Committee member:

We will be losing 4-6 spaces. The parking lot will be reconfigured to maximize space, which is currently wasted. Many people attending events also park in the North lot.

Comment by the Public:

The Raywood Ash (*Fraxinus angustifolia* ‘Raywood’) is not a suitable choice for Palo Alto. We have had a lot of disease and dieback issues with this species. They have not earned their drought tolerant reputation. They do fine for the first ten years but consistently develop problems after that.

Comment by the Public:

The Silver Linden is a great tree. It does not have the honeydew drip problem that other tiliias experience. It has a nice large canopy, adapts well to different watering conditions, and does not have uprooting problems. It may start out slow but the growth rate really picks up with time.

Comment by the Public:

The *Pyrus* is a good tree, but it does have poor branching structure. Other than that it is a well adapted tree. It is important to choose well branching trees and refuse poor branching trees from nursery stock.

Response by TY:

The ‘Holmford’ cultivar is an improved ‘New Bradford’ cultivar and is supposed to have better branching structure.

Comment by the Public:

The *Acer fremanii* is also a good tree, but may pose maintenance issues because of the large leaf size. It also burns a little in the summer.

Comment by TY:

How about using the *Tilia* and the *Pyrus* in the parking lot area, the *Tilia* in the center of the island and the *Pyrus* around the perimeter?

Response by Public:

Agreed

4. Todd Young presented the tree status of the El Camino field. 19 trees have been removed.
5. Todd Young presented the El Camino field mitigation strategy. 33 trees need to be replanted. 15 trees are proposed. That creates a deficit of 18 trees. However, there was a surplus of 24 trees at the multi-fields. Therefore we still have a surplus of 6 trees. Proposed species at the El Camino field include *Quercus agrifolia* along the west and south edges of the field and *Olea europea* 'Swan Hill' and *Cercis canadensis* at the north entry.

Comment by Public:

Cercis canadensis is not drought tolerant. Swan Hills have good root structure. You may want to consider the Persian Ironwood to replace the *Cercis canadensis*.

Comment by Public:

The Swan Hill is a good tree but does it make sense to plant it right up against the fence?

Response by Todd Young:

Perhaps you want a more columnar tree against the fence. How about the *Laurus nobilis* 'Saratoga'?

Response by Public:

The *Laurus nobilis* 'Saratoga' is an excellent choice for that location.

Todd Young asked if the committee agreed to replace the *Olea europea* 'Swan Hill' with the *Laurus nobilis* 'Saratoga' and to replace the *Cercis canadensis* with the Persian Ironwood at the El Camino Field and the multi field?

Response by Committee:

All Agreed

Question by the Public:

Is there an opportunity for planting between the El Camino field and the parking lot?

Response by Committee member:

There is no space in this location currently.

Question by the Public:

Is there a campus wide pruning effort taking place?

Response by Committee member:

The bond money does not pay for that. It will fund pruning efforts in locations where capital improvements are taking place. For example, when the El Camino field was constructed Chuck was able to assess the trees in the area and conduct a pruning and removal effort. As each new project comes up we will continue to assess the health of the trees in that location and use the bond money for pruning, removal, and replacement as necessary. Bond money does not, however, cover maintenance costs.

Question by Committee member:

Currently there is a tomato garden, about 4 plants, along the edge of the El Camino field. It is not a suitable location. Can we consider a more appropriate location for gardens?

Response by Committee member:

We should identify garden opportunities in the master plan. In the meantime we can look at a temporary location for the tomato plants.

Question by Committee member (student) :

Can we consider planting fruit trees on the campus?

Response by Committee member:

Fruit trees pose a maintenance problem, especially in the summer when students are not around to harvest the fruit.

Response by Public:

You could use trees that fruit during seasons other than the summer, like Citrus trees.

Response by committee member (Jacquie McEvoy):

It is a policy decision that will need further discussion.

6. Following are additional comments from the Public highlighted by topics.

Tree Sizes

- It is best to plant either 15 gallon or 24 inch box trees because the young trees adapt better to their surroundings.

Construction

- Construction will begin in summer of 2010. The new classroom building and media arts building are scheduled to begin spring of 2011.
- The public would be interested in participating in a walk-through prior to construction and placement of trees

Maintenance

- Maintenance should be included in the master plan goals.

Lighting

- The campus is used as a night facility and it is currently very dark. Parents actually bring flashlights.
- The campus is used as an adult school at night. Light bollards may be appropriate for the adult school. However, higher lights are recommended.

Circulation

- We must make sure we maintain clear evacuation paths to the football field and the El Camino field. These are our two evacuation sites.

Stormwater Treatment

- We have serious drainage problems which need to be fixed on this campus and we must contain as much of the water as possible because of limited capacity of the City's stormwater infrastructure.

Furnishings and Materials

- We should use continuous materials of a calming nature, mellow natural materials versus harsh reflective materials. We have to remember this is not an urban environment it is a school campus and should be calming and nurturing. We should also integrate such materials into the building architecture.

END

Please advise if you feel that any of the above items are inaccurate or need further clarification or detail.

cc: Attendees
File