

**EXCERPTED MEETING MINUTES
CITY OF MILPITAS**

Minutes of: **Joint Meeting of Milpitas City Council and the Housing Authority
Commission**
Date: **Tuesday, March 3, 2015**
Time: **7:00 PM**
Location: **Council Chambers, Milpitas City Hall,
455 East Calaveras Blvd., Milpitas**

**UNFINISHED
BUSINESS**

**3. Street Tree
Master Plan
and Our City
Forest**

Steven McHarris provided history on the street tree plan and vision of the Community Advisory Commission (CAC). A landscape architect contract was presented to City Council, and the architect from R3 Studios was present. Mr. McHarris described the Our City Forest (OCF) grant, and how that organization's work would aid in planting up to 200 trees in Milpitas. Planting of the trees in the fall was planned with CAC and OCF.

Rhonda Berry, CEO of Our City Forest, came to the podium to describe her organization and its services, serving Santa Clara County especially San Jose.

Vice Mayor Montano asked her if the infrastructure was already in place, when OCF planted trees. She wanted to know how trees would get watered and Ms. Berry said that would happen via agreement with property owners, who had to water trees planted on or in front of their property. The City would water in the right-of-way city areas, where the Milpitas trees would be planted.

Costs were discussed. The City Manager clarified the street tree plan and separately, the OCF grant for 200 trees to be planted in the southwest area of the City.

Mayor Esteves asked for a map with all city trees on it and wished to know how many trees were in the city presently (an inventory essentially). He wanted to know the long term costs for maintenance of the trees and also asked about planting of jacaranda trees in the City.

Ms. Berry commented that no one species should be more than 10% of the inventory in a City. From her experience, jacaranda trees were not recommended for city street trees because they were not capable to survive freezing weather.

Vice Mayor Montano responded to comments about ginko biloba trees, when Ms. Berry explained that it made a difference whether the male or female species was planted. The Vice Mayor also asked about Caltrans land and planting trees there in Milpitas.

Councilmember Giordano thanked the members of the Community Advisory Commission for bringing the tree issue forward. She strongly supported this effort and more trees being planted in the city.

Motion: to authorize the City Manager to execute an agreement with R3 Studio, Inc. in the amount not to exceed \$20,000 to prepare a Street Tree Master Plan; and, to authorize the City Manager to execute an agreement with the non-profit Our City Forest in the amount not to exceed \$10,000 for 200 trees

Motion/Second: Councilmember Giordano/Vice Mayor Montano

Motion carried by a vote of:

AYES: 4
NOES: 0
ABSENT: 1 (Barbadillo)