

**Rancho Bernardo Maintenance Assessment District
Committee Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, April 12, 2006**

Call to Order: After Cory explained MAD's functions to Andrea Thomas, a visiting member of the Community Council, Alethea opened the meeting at 7:13 p.m.

Attendance: Alethea Altenbern, Steve Ewart, Andrea Thomas, Diane Peters, Cory Peterson, and Joe Henderson; Myrna Reese was excused.

Approval of Minutes: Steve moved and Diane seconded a motion to accept the minutes as printed.

Staff Report: Cory Peterson

Backflows – Two backflows on Bernardo Oaks Drive were installed by Ahlee Backflow Company for a total of \$3989.26, as per quote. We will continue to replace backflows as needed and as funding allows. Since we installed the backflows, we can avoid city testing fees (\$84/backflow), and our contractors test them for much less. Since one was hit by a car, insurance should pay for it, but reimbursement may take up to 6 months.

Bike Path on West Bernardo Drive – The path clean up was completed last month and regular maintenance began on April 1st. One large illegal dump of juniper branches was also removed. Cory has to pay Goldkamp extra (\$1216.35) for this work, which required the use of their large tree chipper, pick up and sweeping. Cory is also asking City Streets Division to resurface the path.

Camino Del Norte – Weeds, trash and fallen tree limbs were removed from the medians going into 4S Ranch and Bernardo Center Drive. Sweeping of median gutters will be done at another time. There is a lot of trash in the right of ways and median gutters, which the city will not sweep. Unscheduled jobs like this are worked into the initial contract as extra hours. We currently have about 500 hours banked.

Rancho Bernardo Road Uplights – An estimate, from **Sundown Lighting & Electrical**, for running new conduit and wires for the uplighting systems on RB Road and Bernardo Center Drive came in at \$15,916.78 which includes \$6604 in materials*. Replacement of any concrete pillars will be extra. Rewiring may require pulling concrete posts over, trenching and backfill. [*Materials include PVC, copper wires, "sweeps", conduit, wire nuts, etc., though not concrete.] Steve suggested we look into replacing the concrete posts that are difficult to access for rewiring. Cory said a place in Santee that will custom build concrete items, but the initial design and prototype will be pricey.

Tree Trimming – The trees in Oaks North medians had not been trimmed in about 6-7 years for lack of funds. Carrotwood trees on Oaks North Drive, Paseo Del Verano, and Paseo Norte medians were trimmed by Atlas Environmental. Four of the largest oak trees on Pomerado Road were trimmed out of the road. The 30+ oaks will be trimmed and shaped at a later date. Cost of trimming was \$2,235. Cory would like to make up a trimming plan for our older trees, which must be trimmed in stages, since they have not been done for quite some time. First estimate for trimming the olive trees was \$16,705 by Atlas Environmental includes thinning, reshaping and safety pruning for (82) full size trees. Other bids are being sought, but Cory says this is a reasonable bid (about \$200/tree) for a good job. Much lower bids are

suspect. Pruning is recommended every 3-4 years, but ours have not been done in about 10 years! The timing is also critical depending on the type of tree: Oaks prefer summer pruning, but most trees prefer early spring. Cory would like to consult with an arborist and do some research before proceeding, but maintenance has been deferred so long, that catching up is going to be very costly.

Agenda Items:

1. Update on Rancho Bernardo Road uplights: see Staff Report above.
2. Update on Pomerado Road Median, discussing Joe Henderson's photos and grant possibilities. Alethea brought copies of the 11 photographs that were previously emailed to committee members by Joe. The beautiful medians in the photo, Joe said, were designed as an interim solution, to accommodate forthcoming construction. They use drip system with pebbles, cobble stones, palms and various plantings on a bed of DG (decomposed granite). We could use mulch or crushed brick instead. Both are cheaper and easier to maintain than rock, which is a maintenance "nightmare" according to Cory. Crushed brick is much more durable than the granite or concrete. According to Andrea Thomas, the price of concrete is sky-rocketing, apparently because of Asian market buy outs. We also have water issues that necessitate a water truck or about \$30k to run a meter out to the median to take into consideration. Since our median is mostly flat, we will need about four 2-inch meters. Joe will get us landscape estimates with three different options for next month. He thinks we're looking at about \$1.75/sqft of ornamental plantings compared to \$15/sqft of concrete. Regarding trees in to our medians, we will need to find out whether any sewer lines run down the center, because the city won't allow trees to be planted over them.
3. Update on Bernardo Center Drive and Pomerado road tree transplantation. Steve Ewart told us that the moving of the westside median may not take place. Plans for that median are at least eight months out, if at all. Steve did not have any information about the status of the eastside median work. We may want to use the free tree program, rather than wait on this project. Cory said we only need to decide what kinds of trees we want and make a request.
4. Approval of application regarding the "Conserve a Tree Project." The committee members reviewed the application, missing only one photograph which Cory will insert from pictures he has of the old olive trees. This should protect all the olive trees on Bernardo Center Drive and Rancho Bernardo, and some on Pomerado Road. Cory recommended we consider doing this for our old oak trees. Diane made a motion to approve the application as completed with the insertion of one additional photo, which Steve seconded and all were in favor.

Adjourn: 8:28 PM

Respectfully submitted by Diane Peters.