

AGENDA Campus Landscape & Tree Advisory Committee *January 29, 2020*

Attendees: Jeanne, TC, Caitlyn, Mike, Jason S., Ara Pachmayer

Absent:

1. **Review previous meeting minutes: no notes from site walk on 4/24/19.**
Reviewed topped redwood at Music A and other trees scheduled for removal over summer 2019.
2. **Updates since last meeting :**
 - a. **Campus Events Field NW area landscaping**
Funding reinstated through VP funding late summer. Landscaping area (NW slope) will happen after Commencement 2020. Fencing piece hinges on ultimate determination for use for Campus Events field, to be discussed on agenda item below.
 - b. **Community Garden**
CCAT has gone through a successful lottery to assign plots. Successful integration into CCAT operational plants. Winter plans unclear at this point. Likely some cover crops.
 - c. **Library and Theatre Arts Seismic projects landscaping impacts**
 - i. **Library**
 - ii. **Theatre Arts** - Work progressing at both Library and Theatre Arts with completion of the seismic projects. Recent work at Library. Some areas will need to be rehabilitated at NE corner of Library site due to footing and basement excavation required. Will revisit proposed landscaping plan at Spring 2020 campus walk-through. North ramp and ADA parking scheduled to be redone as part of project. SW corner of Library site - new irrigation going in, sidewalk removal between Telonicher House and Library, landscaping plan to be implemented.
SE corner of Theater Arts/B St Intersection - new walkway and ADA reamp. Associated landscaping changes to follow. New parking and landscaping at the north side of Gist Hall - landscaping has not been started yet. Should happen over the next 2.5 months.
 - iii. **Campus Events Field temporary structures** - Several trailers have been removed leaving gravel behind. More info on later agenda item.
 - d. **College Creek birch removals**
As trees matured since 2010, thinning required due to initial spacing which was overplanted. 41 birch trees removed between Spring 2019 and Fall 2019. In next 4-5 years may need to thin again but not to the same extent.
 - e. **Music A redwood removal**
Initial campus controversy upon topping of tree spring 2019. Student initiative to address. HSU procured a report from a certified arborist who recommended removal. Offered students opportunity to propose landscape restoration plan. Student group moving on to proposal for memorial bench for Josiah Lawson and indicated not working on a landscape proposal. Mike working on memorial procedures with another working group on campus (Sherie Gordon and Frank Whitlach). Removal of

redwood will occur after the end of spring semester, late spring/early summer when ground is firmer/dryer. Mike and TC to coordinate funding through the Seismic project. TC will present some broad options for this area and will bring more detailed options back to this group this spring.

f. Silver maple at Redwood Hall

Silver maple at the SE corner of Redwood Hall was removed over the Winter Break. Clean restoration by tree contractor with mulch at location. Jason said some of the root still protruding that Housing Grounds will address.

3. Winter storm damage

a. Atlas cedar at SW corner of Music A

Top 20' leader of tree snapped off and landed at stairway and back door to 2nd story classroom at Music A. Just missed the railing at the stairway. This is the 2nd piece of the tree that came off during the winter storms. A lower branch fell and landed at the same location in the first storm event. Tree adjacent to breezeway at Music A and has outgrown its location in brick planter causing major structural crack at two corners of planter. Also causing adjacent sidewalk to crack. Tree also pushing planter away from support pillar. Reviewed areas where major branches fell off last summer during calm conditions. Branches cracked and landed on breezeway. TC recommends removing the tree this summer. Will need to remove broken planter as well as front face of planter unsupported; TC submitting work request for Trades to put temporary straps in place until planter can be removed. Working on plan for stump removal and replacement landscaping.

b. Numerous redwood branches at

Storm damage at Yes House and Sunset Court - several redwood branches fell in the area. Contractor on site removing silver maple assisted with the removal of some of the major redwood branches that were in danger of falling as well.

4. New landscape design ideas for Music A (after redwood removal)

One option: redwood adjacent to mature rhododendrons and azaleas. Will leave a 15' wide area that needs new landscape plan. One proposal is to remove tree, grind stump, and infill with similar plantings: rhododendrons and azaleas and perennials with complementary colors, maintaining the existing character of the landscaping.

Another option: less infill landscaping and installation of a bench (not a memorial bench necessarily as that would be determined by a different group on campus). Could use bench design for Fulkerson or match other bench designs that exist on campus. Bench would need to be on a concrete pad. Jason likes the idea of bringing continuity of bench design from the recital hall. Would have to install an unimproved path to the bench or behind it from the existing walkway along Music A. Caitlin requested whether staylock (a soy-based alternative to asphalt) could be used in our environment or whether it is too rainy here. TC not familiar with staylock, was thinking of a mulch pathway. Caitlin says staylock is ADA compliant, installed on crushed gravel. Caitlin used in on park trails at a previous job.

Third option: fill in entire location with bee-friendly perennials and annuals.

Jeanne likes third option. Jason expressed concerns about "ugly periods" with third option and public location of space.

5. Humboldt Energy Independence fund lawn conversion project

Reviewed proposal that includes options for three locations on campus. Have funding for \$34,000. One location is at the NW corner of Library, another between HGH and Child Development

Lab, and third location is at Van Matre. Proposal includes estimated water savings and greenhouse reduction impact. Ranging between 4,700-27,000 gallons of water/yr. Proposal includes photos of locations. Proposed replacement is shade-loving, low-water groundcover and perennial plants. Consultant Grounds Nursery specialist for plant recommendations. Library location to include unimproved mulch pathway with timber border acknowledging use of area as a shortcut currently.

Van Matre - replacement recommended: Japanese forest grass, heather, thyme, and blue star creepers. Already a converted section that contains a tufted grass.

HGH & CDL - existing lawn sections and iris beds. Recommend expanding iris areas, interspersed with mulch. Jason raised concern of children trampling through iris beds; TC not too concerned about that.

6. LK Wood median lawn conversion options

Need a drought tolerant option that is more presentable (requested by President). Drought regulations in place 2013-2017 which disallowed the use of potable water on any medians. No reclaimed water available on campus commercially. Recent summers area has become weedy due to crowned profile. Soil grubs have attacked and killed some of the grass that no longer comes back during the winter time. In 2017, a large portion of temporary regulations were going to be made permanent due to recognition of climate change impacts and population increase. One that was slated to become permanent was the requirement to not use potable water on median. This lapsed in 2018 but was not widely publicized. Technically we could water the median again. Would have to spend money to rehab lawn. Anticipate future droughts so question re-investing in a lawn. Extends from 14th St. intersection to Plaza Avenue (Library intersection). Approximately 30,000 SF of median.

TC suggesting 3 options at this point.

1. Convert medians to permeable pavers. Spell out Humboldt State University in different colored pavers (costly!). Would greatly decrease maintenance. Would not be completely maintenance free due to future weed growth and blowing. Used to have to mow 2-3 times a week in summer, 1x/wk in winter and water prior to drought.
2. Low maintenance ground cover - mowable strawberry ground cover (only requires mowing 2-3 times per year). Also prevents weed growth. Intersperse with low growing plants that would not impact vehicular visibility.
3. Elements of non-grass ground cover and low growing plants with bioswale/rain garden elements to remediate hardscape run-off similar to what has been done at the Library and in some of our parking lots. Median not ideally suited along entire length due to slopes. Some sections are favorable for this based on contours.

Options 1 and 3 are the most costly. Bioswales require rehabilitation periodically. Option 3 is probably most expensive over its lifetime. 1st option minimal long term maintenance; TC anticipates that CA will eliminate the use of round-up in the future which could be problematic for weed control at that point in time. Would have to burn weeds at that point, manual burning - ceramic burner or direct flame burner.

Ara likes the paver idea but anticipates student objection to cost, "waste of money." Also likes the 3 one for the environmental impacts. Jason likes 3 but acknowledges that it is the least tidy option. TC said there used to be shrubs and trees along the entire length of the median.

Caitlin suggested planting edibles. TC advised against because of safety concerns - don't want to encourage pedestrian traffic on busy walkway.

Jason suggested #2 with some landscape accents at endcaps of median strips (last 10' of each end).

7. CEF rehabilitation or temporary use options

Mike: still have plans for future Science building at this location. Initial thoughts: retract gravel landing area. East of concrete walkway - keep the gravel, walkway, and electrical infrastructure under gravel. West of walkway - restore lawn. That would allow events to occur at location with power. Proposed fencing along the north side of site from B Street to driveway between Science D and Science B. Modularity goes away at completion of seismic project this spring.

8. Next Meeting: early April

FUTURE TOPICS

- Tree replacement strategy