

Community Planning & Design Committee Meeting, March 24, 2016

Staff began by presenting a slideshow titled “Potential Strategies for Addressing View Impairment from Trees and Vegetation.” The presentation included information regarding the process and cost of applying for view restoration, definitions of views and viewing areas, City tree maintenance, cost and staff projections, and more information on the Rolling Hills Estates ordinance. Approximately 150 residents were in attendance and there were 39 speakers. The majority of the residents spoke in favor of a view ordinance and offered suggestions on what they would like included. The following is a synopsis of comments from the meeting:

- Limit types of trees, height
- Consider temporary staff person
- Keep the vegetation ordinance separate from the Hillside Overlay Ordinance
- Involve a certified arborist
- Include bedrooms and backyards as acceptable viewing areas
- Consider those on fixed incomes

The Committee had several questions for staff regarding current landscape plan requirements for residential projects, staffing alternatives, outreach measures, and the fee study process. After staff addressed the Committee’s questions, they voted 3-0 to direct staff to return to City Council with a request to initiate a fee study based on a draft ordinance. The draft ordinance should:

- Be modeled after the Rolling Hills Estates
- reduce costs as much as possible
- include definitions of view and viewing area
- include time limits for multiple applications
- exclude a requirement for landscape plans, types and heights of trees

The ordinance should also aim to be phased in to mitigate any initial surge of applications. At this time, the Committee requested that City trees be excluded from the draft ordinance, but directed staff to return to the Committee with suggestions on how best to address street trees.