

St. Juan Diego Parish
Meeting with Arborist

July 12, 2007

Time: 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM

In attendance: Terrill Collier-Collier Arbor Care

Jane Hansen – Lango Hansen

Nancy Merryman – RMB

Amy Provost – RMB

Terrill's general site observations:

- A) The site has an intact oak forest with a closed canopy, which has narrower trees with more deadwood, providing a good natural habitat for many species. Except for a few specific trees on the site, these trees will look better and survive better if left in groups. Trees with a crown ratio that is less than 20% of the trees' height are not good candidates for individual survival. Crown ratios of over 40% are the best specimens for individual preservation.
- B) Oaks prefer soil with heavier clay content and a higher water table. (at the mid-slope of our site)
- C) Firs are typically found in dryer, better drained soil (uphill on our site along Springville Rd.)
- D) The blackberry area at the bottom of the site's slope likely has the highest water table and highest clay content and poorest soils.
- E) The site has heavy underbrush throughout of poison oak as the dominant under-story plant. Recommendation is to begin eradication measures before further investigation of the site is needed. Eradication measures can include chemicals, pygmy goats, and / or mechanical removal. Goats will eat the leaves but the stems will remain behind, which could be removed later with chemicals or mechanically / manually by a work party.

Action Item: Terrill passed along the contact info. for Wilsonville Parks dept., who has used pygmy goats successfully for unwanted plant eradication. RMB to contact for more information.

- F) Other invasive plants to remove on the site include Hawthorne and possibly the rare naturalized seedling cherries that could possibly spread throughout the site. Other native ants to keep on the site include service berry (white blooms) and choke cherries. Madrone would be a good native plant to add to the site for design accent.
- G) It would be good to plant a screen of trees along the Southern boundary of the site for privacy and aesthetics for neighbors.

Oaks:

- A) There are some large oak trees on the East edge of the site with larger, aesthetically pleasing, rounded canopies. In general, the larger the group of oaks to remain the better. If particular areas must be chosen to preserve groups of oaks while others get cleared away to make room for the project, the areas along the East edge of the side and the South edge of the site would be the best areas to preserve. (Trees along the edge of an existing group have larger canopies and a better chance of survival.)

Firs:

- A) The fir trees on the site are healthy and don't seem to have any stem rot, which is common in the species.
- B) The best areas to preserve groups of firs are along the North and West edges of the site, bordering Springville Road and the Park area to the West. The park acts a buffer

protecting the site and trees along the west edge of the site from SW storm winds.
Several particularly nice firs along the North edge of the site were identified.

General Tree Preservation overview:

- A) Preserving groups of trees along the edge boundaries of the site is the best solution for the trees as well as for the aesthetic screening and privacy of the site. For best tree survival, the group or strip of trees to be preserved has to be a minimum of 40-50 feet wide and at least 10 feet from any buildings.
- B) If the building(s) are kept to the North West corner of the site, (adjacent to preserved edges of fir trees), there would be a large group of oaks remaining at the mid-slope of the site that would provide an intimate, low-canopy setting for a nature path.
- C) Oaks probably need to have undisturbed soils under the canopy drip line since that is how they grow naturally. They do not tolerate changes in drainage and soil compaction well.
- D) Terrill will work with Lango Hansen to provide a detailed Tree Preservation Plan as part of the construction documents when the design is complete. This will include specifications for protective fencing, etc.