

**MODESTO JUNIOR COLLEGE  
HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE  
MJC East Campus, JRNL 150  
Notes**

***Date: March 20, 2014***

Present:

Becky Crow, Chair	Nicholas Stuyt, Agriculture	Araceli Baliel, Health Services
Dorothy Pimentel, Risk Management	Brian Sanders, CHO	Tim Nesmith, Facilities
Lloyd Jackson, Campus Safety	Cirilo Torres, Classified	Marsha Calbreath, Recorder
Dave Keener, Facilities	Adrian DeAngelis, Vocational Labs	

Absent: Vacant, Classified; Phillip Labrador, Faculty; Joe Caddell, Science Labs; Tara Luihn, Student; Jim Stevens, Faculty

***INFORMATION ITEMS:***

1. Introduction & Housekeeping

Araceli Baliel attended on behalf of Health Services. We have asked Rosanne Faughn to provide another classified representative for the committee. This is an informational meeting regarding the questions that the committee has had relating to the safety of the trees on campus following an incident last November when a large tree limb fell on parked vehicles and across an active sidewalk on the East campus. This discussion has been tabled until Tim Nesmith is available.

2. Discussion Item: Trees on Campus—Tim Nesmith

**East Campus:** Tim reported that a professional arborist has inspected the trees around the quad/Morris Building area and completed a full report on 45 trees. The Deodora Cedars have had limbs failing recently. Trees can get sick for many reasons, soft ground, pests, etc. and people can be emotionally tied to them. The arborist's report spells out the health of each individual tree, and makes recommendations. Of the 45 trees, most of them require some heavy pruning to be done by certified arborists. Dave said that it has been sometime since Facilities has been able to maintain the trees. The YCCD groundskeepers are not qualified for this kind of pruning. He will hire a vendor to do the work necessary to support the arborist's recommendations. Tim has established a budget, and Dave is gathering quotes right now to address the trees in the quad.

Some trees in the area posed an immediate risk and there was a recommendation to remove them. That has already happened. Trees recommended for removal near the Student Services Building are already gone. The tree near the PAC was removed due to disease and the Deodora "Higgs" tree was leaning and a hazard. The newer trees in that area are Redwood and are in good shape. There is still a tree on south side of Music building with an imminent concern. He has a quote to remove a limb over the roof.

**West Campus:** The Modesto Ash trees that run along Blue Gum are 70-80 years old and also at the end of their life cycle or diseased, etc. The arborist has recommended that 72 trees of those trees must be addressed. Most of them should be removed, some can be pruned. Facilities have already requested quotes for that purpose. Because they are located in the big grassy areas where we hold large events, they are a liability and safety hazard. Facilities is also getting reports on the trees in front

of Child Development, around the bus turnaround; around the district offices, fourth street and the corridor that runs through the campus to the Ag pavilion (also 70-80 year old Modesto Ash). No arborist reports on arboretum yet.

Brian Sanders reported that the trees that concern McInnis are at the mid-span of their life and a resource for the Ag & Botany programs. She took a dissenting position, indicating that the Deodora Cedars should live about 140 years and are now only 70-80 years. Tim says that there are recommendations for pruning to prolong the life for the health of the trees. Becky asked if there are indications of pests in the trees. Tim says that there were ants in last big limb that fell on East, but we do not know exactly what caused the limb to fail.

The faculty feel that there is value in the diversity of the trees we have and that we need to maintain that diversity. There is also inherent value in the age and stature of the trees and they want to save as many of the trees as possible. Science has planned for the outdoor education area next to the Science Community Center. The plan is to have native trees, and some may be messy, but they are an important part of ecosystem along rivers in our area and they need to teach about that. McInnis is interested in doing a digital version of the arboretum report.

The arborist identifies a plan for pruning and/or removal based on the health of the trees. Facilities now has a plan and a budget to assess the failing trees. Then vendors will be engaged to either prune or remove the trees based on the arborist's recommendations. The president is developing the plan for replacement. Tim has identified a list of trees that are appropriate to the area and require low maintenance. The hope is to identify a standard species for our new roads. Brian asked if the Loop road project might absorb the cost of the trees. Tim is more interested in using department funds if possible and to keep the project dollars related to the projects.

Tim suggested more dialog is necessary for the list of trees. Brian suggested a meeting in the Science and Community Center. Tim believes President Stearns will have a process for faculty and staff to provide input and it would be appropriate in that venue.

Tim shared that Facilities will add a weeping willow tree on April 14 as a memorial tree for a groundskeeper.

Becky asked that the representatives feel free to share with their constituent groups what we have been hearing.

3. Round Table: (Items too late for agenda or for the good of the campus)—None.
4. Next regular meeting: Friday, April 11, 2014, 11:00 AM to 12:00 Noon, on West Campus, SCC 138 conference room. Send agenda items to Becky for the next meeting. Send someone else if you cannot make the meeting.

Committee Adjourned: 11:45 AM  
3/20/14 – 3/30/14