



# City of Tigard Tree Board – Minutes

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**MEETING DATE:** August 6, 2008, 6:30-8:00 p.m.  
**MEETING LOCATION:** Tigard Public Library, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room,  
13500 SW Hall Blvd., Tigard, OR 97223

**Members Present** –Janet Gillis, Matt Clemo, Kandace Horlings, Tony Tycer

**Members Absent** –David Walsh, Dennis Sizemore, Rob Callan

**Staff Present** – John Floyd, Darren Wyss, Todd Prager

**Visitors** – Jim Bray, Caroline Merrick

1. Deliberations and Vote on Heritage Tree Nomination

At 6:35pm, heritage tree applicant, Jim Bray, began to describe why he felt the Japanese Cedar tree he nominated at 13990 SW 102<sup>nd</sup> Avenue should be a heritage tree. Caroline Merrick, the tree’s owner, also expressed her support of heritage status for the tree. Mr. Bray explained that the uniqueness of the species deserved special consideration and that if it were to become a heritage tree, perhaps Portland General Electric (PGE) would relocate the utility lines to allow for unobstructed growth.

Tony Tycer commented that he agreed with the City Arborist’s position that this particular tree did not meet the criteria needed to become a heritage tree.

Matt Clemo asked if PGE has certified arborists on staff. Todd Prager answered that PGE does have certified arborist’s on staff, but that pruning for utility clearance is extremely challenging when tall trees are growing under the lines. Mr. Bray agreed, and said that the PGE pruning he has observed is in accordance with tree industry standards.

After the Tree Board finished their questioning, Mr. Bray and Ms. Merrick thanked the Board for their consideration and left the room. Janet Gillis then asked Prager for his analysis of the tree. Prager said that he agreed that the species is relatively unique, but that this particular tree does not meet the criteria for a heritage tree due to the past utility pruning.

The Board agreed with Prager’s assessment. Tony Tycer asked if perhaps there could be an honorable mention or “trees of significance” category that could be awarded to trees such as the one nominated. Prager mentioned that he has seen this type of second tier designation for trees in other cities. Mr. Tycer made a motion to designate the Japanese Cedar as a significant tree. Kandace Horlings and Janet Gillis disagreed with this motion, noting that the Tigard Heritage Tree Code does not allow for a significant tree

designation, and that is not how the Heritage Tree Program was set up. The Board discussed looking into the possibility of creating a “significant tree” aspect of the Heritage Tree Program during the upcoming Code update.

Prager offered to assemble an article for the October issue of the CityScape about the negative effects of both topping trees and planting tall growing trees under power lines. The Board agreed that this would be a positive outcome of the nomination.

The Board then unanimously voted to deny Heritage Status to the Japanese Cedar at 13990 SW 102<sup>nd</sup> Avenue.

## 2. Review and Approval of June 4, 2008 Meeting Minutes

The Tree Board members briefly discussed the June 4, 2008 meeting minutes. Tony Tycker noted that while the Home Builder’s Association (HBA) is a key stakeholder, the organization is not a Tigard community member. The Board also generally agreed that the HBA’s main conflicts are with the density requirements imposed by Metro and the State, and that the Tree Board has no control over those issues.

At 7:08pm, Matt Clemo voted to approve the June 4, 2008 meeting minutes. Kandace Horlings seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved.

## 3. Review and Discuss Preliminary Results of the Canopy Analysis

Chairwoman Gillis then shifted the discussion to the tree canopy analysis by Metro and Tigard staff.

An informal discussion occurred with the 1996 and 2007 maps being laid out, and Board members reviewing and comparing various areas of the city, and reacting to how the canopy has changed. Tony Tycker requested that as a visual aid, staff could mark locations that lost canopy in red, and locations that gained canopy with bright green. Staff member Darren Wyss said that this could be done, and agreed that it would be a good visual aid.

Wyss also mentioned that if any Board members were interested in obtaining a map, they could let Prager know, and he would bring copies to the next meeting. Alternatively, Wyss said that arrangements for pickup could be made at the Tigard Permit Center.

Kandace Horlings requested that Prager bring the canopy maps to the next meeting for the Board members that were not present. Prager agreed that he would.

## 4. Closing Remarks and Adjournment

The Board decided that the next meeting would be held on Wednesday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Chairwoman Gillis adjourned the meeting at 8:00pm.