



City of Tigard Tree Board – Minutes

MEETING DATE: September 3, 2008, 6:30-8:00 p.m.
MEETING LOCATION: Tigard Public Library, 2nd Floor Conference Room,
13500 SW Hall Blvd., Tigard, OR 97223

Members Present –Janet Gillis, Kandace Horlings, Tony Tycer, Dennis Sizemore, Rob Callan

Members Absent –David Walsh, Matt Clemo

Staff Present – John Floyd, Todd Prager

Visitors – Harry Reid, John Frewing

1. Review and Approval of August 6, 2008 Meeting Minutes

The Tree Board members discussed the August 6, 2008 meeting minutes. Tony Tycer suggested that it may be appropriate to recognize the work of citizens such as Jim Bray, who volunteer their time nominating heritage trees even if the Board votes not to approve the nomination. Mr. Tycer suggested that some sort of certificate of appreciation be provided by the City to members of the public that volunteer their time advocating for Tigard's trees. The Board discussed this issue, and decided that the annual Arbor Day celebrations could incorporate some sort of official recognition of citizens like Mr. Bray. Todd Prager offered to develop a list of citizens that the Board would like to recognize on Arbor Day.

At 6:43pm, the Board voted to approve the August 6, 2008 meeting minutes.

2. Discuss Memo Regarding Application for Large Scale Tree Removal

Chairwoman Gillis then shifted the discussion to the memo prepared for the Board by Planning Manager, Dick Bewersdorff regarding the pending tree removal permit applications submitted by Fred Fields. The application is for the removal of 1876 trees from two parcels owned by Mr. Fields.

Chairwoman Gillis asked staff to clarify why tree removal permits were required for significant habitat areas. Prager answered that the significant habitat areas are a new overlay that was established within the past year. Prager went on to explain that permits are required because significant habitat areas are defined as sensitive lands and tree removal permits are required for sensitive lands.

The Board also raised questions to Prager and Floyd regarding the intent of the removals. Prager and Floyd answered that while the stated intent of the removals was to decrease transient activity on the parcels, the permit approval criteria do not require the applicant to state the specific reasons for the removals. Floyd noted that staff was concurrently reviewing an application for a zoning change from Mr.

Fields on the same parcels. The Board speculated that the removals may be in preparation for development, and to avoid the associated costs for mitigating trees. The Board also noted that the proposed removals represent a gap in Tigard's existing tree protection regulations that should be addressed in the upcoming code revisions.

John Frewing asked staff if Metro was aware of the pending removal permits. Mr. Floyd answered that Metro is aware of the situation and was previously in discussions with Mr. Fields regarding the removals.

Rob Callan asked staff how they were going to monitor that the removals would be done in a manner consistent with the proposal. Prager answered that staff did randomly measure some of the trees that were proposed for removal to verify that the sizes were accurately represented. He also said that the removals would be closely monitored to ensure the correct trees are removed, and the remaining trees are not damaged during the process.

3. Discuss Urban Forestry Management Master Plan

Chairwoman Gillis then moved the discussion to the Urban Forestry Management Master Plan. Prager explained that the Master Plan is a non-regulatory document that is intended to better coordinate urban forestry programs and operational issues, and provide more background data and information during the tree code writing phase. Mr. Tycer expressed concern that the development of the Master Plan would delay revising Tigard's tree code. Prager and Floyd explained that Floyd would be working on code revisions concurrently with the Master Plan development. They said the Plan should in no way delay revisions to tree related items in the Tigard code. Floyd explained that the Home Builder's Association's (HBA) notice of intent to appeal the Urban Forest section of the Comprehensive Plan, and the City Attorney's recommendation that the City enter mediation with the HBA has temporarily delayed the process of code updates. Floyd said that once staff had clearer direction from the City attorney on how to move forward, staff would begin the code revision process.

The Tree Board generally discussed the City of Vancouver, WA and City of Lake Oswego Urban Forestry Plans, and noted that they were good examples of what the Tigard Plan should look like. Prager said that he had discussed with the Chair of Lake Oswego's Natural Resources Advisory Board (NRAB) how they developed their Plan. Prager described that the Lake Oswego Plan was primarily written by City staff, with input and revisions provided by the NRAB and members of the public during a defined comment period. He said the Lake Oswego process took about a year.

Dennis Sizemore said that he felt that the Lake Oswego process was a good model presented a completed draft provides a clear target for the Tree Board and others to critique and revise. The others Board members generally agreed that the process of developing the Urban Forest Comprehensive Plan was challenging because the document was being continually revised in a piecemeal fashion, and the larger intent of the document sometimes got lost in the process. Tony Tycer also noted that the Comprehensive Plan process allowed too much influence by special interest groups even though it was clear that the community had differing values.

Prager explained that staff and Council were in favor of conducting an independent scientific survey of the community with regards to how they want to see the urban forest managed. The Tree Board was in favor of this idea so that the focus of the Plan would be on meeting the needs of the greater community.

Prager then asked the Board if they would prefer to oversee the Plan's development during its regular meetings, or if they wanted to form a subcommittee that would meet at a different time than the Tree Board. After discussion with the Board, Janet Gillis made a motion that the Tree Board oversee the Plan's development during its regular meetings. The motion was seconded by Tony Tycer, and thus the Board committed to overseeing development of the Urban Forestry Management Master Plan.

Prager noted that additional members would be invited to participate on the citizen advisory committee to oversee the Plan along with the Tree Board. He said that he was developing a list of individuals that expressed interest on serving on the advisory committee.

4. Provide Feedback to Staff on 2008 Tree Planting Project

Prager explained to the Board that the City had budgeted \$75,000 of tree mitigation funds this fiscal year for tree planting and establishment projects. He said that the Public Works Department had been allocated \$50,000 for maintaining recently planted trees in or near the City's stream corridors. In addition, Prager said that \$25,000 had been allocated to the Community Development Department for planting and maintaining trees along Tigard's streets and neighborhoods. He said staff is in the process of hiring a private contractor to help plant and maintain trees. Prager requested that the Board provide input on possible places where trees could be planted.

Dennis Sizemore suggested that there were empty planter strips along Beef Bend Road that could be planted with trees. However, Janet Gillis pointed out that many of those areas are in Washington County. Prager said that it would be a challenge to plant large swaths of trees in those areas since the City would need to get permission from each individual fronting property owner prior to planting since the fronting property owners are responsible for maintenance. Prager suggested that these locations may be able to participate in the annual free street tree giveaway program that is also funded by tree mitigation funds. He also anticipated more participation for the street tree giveaway this year since the private contractor will be delivering and planting trees for eligible citizens.

Prager went on to explain that his previous idea of planting along the 99W/217 interchange this year will not happen because the costs of maintaining trees in the ODOT right of way are more than anticipated. Tony Tycer suggested that the use of irrigation water from an underground cistern may allow for a more cost effective way of irrigating trees in that area. Prager said that he would check on that option with the City's engineering staff.

Prager then explained two other areas where trees could be planted. One was near the new America's Tire on Highway 99W, and the other was in the new concrete medians on Main Street. The Board was generally in favor of beautifying these areas with trees. Tony Tycer said the City should be conscious not to spend too much money planting in challenging locations so as not to exhaust the mitigation funds on just a few trees. Prager agreed, and explained that the tree money would be spent on planting and maintaining trees, and other costs such as concrete removal would come from other sources.

Finally, the Board mentioned that many of the school district properties were in need trees, but maintenance during the summer months was historically a challenge. Prager said that perhaps the private contractor hired by the City could assist the school district with summer watering to allow trees to get

established. The Board suggested that planting trees at Tigard High School along Durham Road, and replacing trees that were vandalized in the Alberta Ryder parking lot could be a good use of mitigation funds. Prager said that he would look into the possibility of planting in those locations.

5. Review Progress on 2008 Goals

Chairwoman Gillis then moved the conversation to the last item on the agenda. She began by saying that the Board has been making good progress on this year's goals. She noted that a couple of the goals were in need of more attention. The development of welcome materials to new citizens about Tigard's tree policies had not yet been completed. Dennis Sizemore suggested that this item may be appropriate for inclusion in the Urban Forestry Management Master Plan. Chairwoman Gillis agreed that it would be better to address that goal during development of the Plan.

The other item the Board had questions about was the joint meeting with Council in November. John Floyd explained that this would allow the Tree Board and City Council to touch base on their progress, and discuss any important issues. Floyd suggested, and the Board agreed that the joint meeting would be an appropriate time to discuss expanding the Tree Board's role to include oversight of natural resources and not just trees.

6. Closing Remarks and Adjournment

The Board decided that the next meeting would be held on Wednesday, October 1st.

Chairwoman Gillis adjourned the meeting at 8:07pm.