



City of Tigard Tree Board – Minutes

MEETING DATE: April 1, 2009, 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, David Walsh, Dennis Sizemore

Members Absent –Tony Tycer, Matt Clemo

Council/Staff Present – Councilor Marland Henderson, Todd Prager, John Floyd

Visitors – John Frewing, Karen Estrada

1. Introduction and Opening Remarks

At 6:36 p.m., Janet Gillis called the meeting to order and thanked staff for the urban forestry informational materials in Attachments 1 through 4 in the April 1, 2009 Tree Board meeting packet.

2. Review and Approval of January 28, 2009 Meeting Minutes

At 6:37 p.m., Janet Gillis made a motion to approve the January 28, 2009 Tree Board minutes (Attachment 5, April 1, 2009 Tree Board Meeting Packet). Dennis Sizemore seconded the motion, and thus the minutes were approved.

3. Tree Stewardship Award Recipient Selection

At 6:38 p.m. John Floyd described the following nominees for the 2008 Tree Stewardship Awards:

- Phil Thornburg of Tigard Friends Church has volunteered with the City on preparing flagging for native tree and shrub planting for the Healthy Streams Program. Mr. Thornburg has included people of all ages and physical abilities in preparing flags that indicate the species and location of trees and shrubs to be planted during restoration work.
- Sue Manning, science teacher at Fowler Middle School, has led students over the years in the restoration of the Fowler Forest, and recently in a rain garden installation project on the Fowler parking lot.

- Michael O’Loughlin, parent volunteer, has led projects to plant trees and gardens on Woodward Elementary campus, and restore a native tree grove on the Alberta Rider campus. He also helped design the Arbor Day tree planting at Alberta Rider and will participate in long term maintenance.

John Floyd recommended to the Tree Board that they approve all three nominations.

David Walsh asked what are the approval criteria for the awards. Mr. Floyd responded that the criteria are expansive since this is only the second year of the awards and the program is still evolving.

Dennis Sizemore said all three are worthy candidates and he likes their diversity. Mr. Sizemore said he would support approving all three nominations.

Janet Gillis commented that she liked the focus on long term tree maintenance for Michael O’Loughlin, the longevity of Sue Manning’s work, and inclusiveness and practicality of the church’s efforts.

The Tree Board voted to unanimously approve all three nominations.

Marissa Daniels reminded the Tree Board that they were invited to the Arbor Day Celebration at Alberta Rider Elementary at 10:00 a.m. on April 7, 2009.

4. Tree Code Update

At 6:50 p.m. John Floyd provided the following updates to the Tree Board regarding Tree Code Revisions:

- On March 16, 2009, Planning Commission approved the “Tree Preservation” revisions to the Tree Code.
- On April 21, 2009 Council will hold a workshop, and on May 12, 2009 Council will hold a public hearing before adopting the revisions.
- Following adoption of the Tree Preservation standards, staff will begin comprehensive tree code revisions including 18.790, 18.745, 18.350, 9.06, minimum density, and mitigation standards.
- The City Attorney is working on mediating the Home Builder’s Association Appeal of the Urban Forest section of the Comprehensive Plan. Possible mediation measures include adopting a policy stating the City will adhere to Statewide Planning Goal 5 requirements whenever applicable.

Prager added that Ron Bunch wanted to communicate to the Tree Board through his memo (Attachment 7, April 1, 2009 Tree Board Meeting Packet) that the Urban Forest Master Plan is not delaying updates to the Tree Code.

5. Urban Forestry Master Plan Stakeholder Interview

Prager then requested that the Tree Board provide responses to the Urban Forestry Master Plan stakeholder interview questions that he has been asking of other stakeholder groups. Prager said the

answers will allow for future programs and Code revisions to incorporate the needs and suggestions of major stakeholders.

The Tree Board provided the following responses (in red) to the stakeholder questions (in black).

1. What is your level of interaction with Tigard's urban forestry program?
 - The Tree Board is an oversight body for Tigard's urban forestry program.
2. What features of Tigard's urban forestry program work well?
 - The City actively works to include the greater community in developing its urban forestry program.
 - The City collects substantial fees to be used for the planting of trees.
3. What features of Tigard's urban forestry program do not work well, and why?
 - The City's departments are not well coordinated on urban forestry issues due to lack of communication.
 - Tree management provisions are scattered throughout the Code and not unified.
 - The Tree Code is too focused on development.
4. What could be done in the future to improve the programs that do not work well?
 - More communication between City departments.
 - Unify tree related provisions in Code.
 - Focus future Code on areas outside development, and fix the mitigation issue.
5. How can we work together in the future to improve Tigard's urban forest.
 - The Tree Board can help create a plan for the future management of Tigard's urban forest.
 - The Tree Board can help execute the action measures in the plan. Mitigation funds can be used to implement the plan.
 - The Tree Board can continue to reach out to stakeholders when implementing the plan.
6. What should be included/excluded from Tigard's urban forestry programs?
 - Increase communication between City departments.
 - Unify tree related Code provisions.

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- Focus future Code revisions on areas outside development.
- Make sure Code revisions can be translated into something the public can understand.
- Expand community education on urban forestry issues. Use Eastmoreland outreach materials as a model.
- Continually measure progress on canopy preservation/expansion and community attitudes.
- Plan for future annexations of tree resources in areas outside of the City limits.

Prager said he would summarize the Tree Board's responses for their review and approval in the next Tree Board meeting minutes.

Prager then asked the Tree Board what their main frustrations were with regards to current realities. David Walsh expressed a need to get moving forward on action measures and that there has been too much planning. Mr. Walsh also said there needs to be a work plan with regards to Code updates and follow-up on the Urban Forestry Master Plan.

Dennis Sizemore agreed that the Urban Forestry Master Plan needs to continue the momentum towards implementation. Mr. Sizemore said that the action items need to be specific enough that progress will be measurable.

Janet Gillis then reminded the Tree Board that the next meeting will be an Urban Forestry Master Plan meeting on May 6, 2009. Ms. Gillis then opened the meeting up to public comment.

7. Public Comment

At 7:27 p.m. Karen Estrada provided the Tree Board a copy of a letter she sent to the Planning Commission. In the letter, Ms. Estrada explained a situation in her neighborhood where a developer let a land use decision expire in order to remove approximately 20 protected trees and gain exemption from mitigation requirements. She suggested to the Tree Board that the Code be revised to require mitigation for trees removed within two years prior to development. Ms. Estrada emphasized future Code should consider infill requirements with respect to tree preservation.

David Walsh commented that closing loopholes to mitigation requirements has been an ongoing problem in Tigard. Mr. Walsh said that he would support a two year requirement, but that Council needed to hear this request. He said that in the past Council has not supported a tree removal permit system.

Dennis Sizemore agreed that Council needs to deal with this issue.

Janet Gillis said that the Tree Board has been trying to move this issue along for three years.

John Floyd said the current amendments to the Tree Code do not address mitigation requirements, but he encouraged her to submit testimony to Council on April 21, 2009 and May 12, 2009.

Prager explained that in 1983, the Tree Code required removal permits for trees over 6 inches in diameter on industrial, commercial, and undeveloped residential property. He said that in 1997 the Code was revised to its current requirements. Dennis Sizemore said that Council should be informed of these historical Code provisions and understand that tree preservation with respect to infill development needs to be seriously considered.

Councilor Marland Henderson, Tree Board Liaison to Council, suggested that Ms. Estrada voice her opinion at the fifth Tuesday Council meetings where she would be given five minutes for public comment.

8. Closing Remarks and Adjournment

Chairwoman Gillis adjourned the meeting at 7:57 p.m.