



City of Tigard Tree Board – Minutes

MEETING DATE: August 5, 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, Matt Clemo

Members Absent – David Walsh, Dennis Sizemore, Tony Tycer

Council/Staff Present – Ron Bunch, Todd Prager, John Floyd

Visitors – None

1. Introduction and Opening Remarks

At 6:36 p.m., Chairwoman Janet Gillis called the meeting to order.

2. Review and Approval of June 3, 2009 Meeting Minutes

Because there was not a quorum, the approval of the June 3, 2009 minutes was postponed until the next Tree Board meeting.

3. Tree Code Schedule and Update

Ron Bunch, Tigard Community Development Director, provided the Tree Board with a summary of past events as well as plans for the future relative to tree code revisions.

Mr. Bunch explained that Council heard the interim tree code proposal at a recent public meeting. He said the Home Builder's Association of Metropolitan Portland (HBAMP) and their attorney were in opposition to the interim code and Council decided to postpone a decision on adoption. He expected Council to either adopt the code, or pursue a more comprehensive overhaul of the entire tree code in the future through the Urban Forestry Master Plan process.

Mr. Bunch expressed to the Tree Board that he thinks it would be wise to pursue a comprehensive overhaul of the tree code according to the timeline laid out in Attachment 2 of the August 5, 2009 Tree Board Meeting Packet.

Janet Gillis agreed that a different approach would be necessary to successfully update the tree code.

Mr. Bunch encouraged the Tree Board to access Council directly if they would like to discuss these types of issues in a more informal setting. He said that staff could help facilitate those discussions between the Chair and one or two Councilors.

Matt Clemo responded that before assuming the Chair position after Janet Gillis steps down, he would like to gain more experience on the Tree Board.

Todd Prager asked Matt Clemo what the results of his meeting with Mayor Dirksen and Councilor Wilson were. Mr. Clemo said it was a positive meeting, and both he and Dennis Sizemore updated Mayor Dirksen and Councilor Wilson on the activities of the Tree Board.

Ron Bunch said that staff conveyed to Council the Tree Board's frustrations that the HBAMP continually circumvents the Tree Board's work in the "11th hour". He added that in order to balance the HBAMP's viewpoints during public hearings, a community presence would be necessary.

John Floyd added that the Mayor invited Councilor Wilson to attend the meeting with the Tree Board because he is a landscape architect and has a strong understanding of development issues.

Mr. Floyd explained that the process moving forward will involve Council accepting the recommendations in the Urban Forestry Master Plan, followed by a citizen engagement process after the corresponding details of the tree code are developed.

In response to a question by Todd Prager, Matt Clemo said that there was no indication from Mayor Dirksen or Councilor Wilson whether they are comfortable with the recommendations in the draft Urban Forestry Master Plan.

Ron Bunch reiterated the importance of face to face meetings with the Mayor and City Council to keep them informed of the Tree Board's activities.

Mr. Bunch then asked Mr. Prager if he would explain the current status of the tree mitigation issue to the Tree Board. Mr. Prager said that the City is obligated to collect approximately \$1.9 million in cash or bonds from about 15 development projects that cut down trees and have not replanted due to the downturn in the housing market. Before embarking on a major effort to collect the funds, staff will be discussing the issue with Council in the future due to the potential legal implications. Prager went on to explain that conditions of development approval set a deadline for planting or collecting funds to be used for the City's tree planting program. In order to grant extensions or amnesty, Council would need to pass an ordinance superseding the conditions of development approval. A complicating issue to granting extensions or amnesty would be the fairness issue for past developers that have either planted trees and/or paid the required amount into the City's tree fund.

Ron Bunch told the Tree Board that staff's recommendation to Council on the issue will likely be to collect the bonds just as they would for any other type of infrastructure such as roads, sidewalks, etc.

TIGARD TREE BOARD MEETING MINUTES – August 5, 2009

Janet Gillis supported collecting the funds because it would be unfair to the people that had to pay previously. Ms. Gillis added that this is the cost of doing business.

4. Urban Forestry Outreach Materials Discussion

Todd Prager briefly described his proposal for urban forestry outreach materials. He said the information could be provided on a post card and include:

- Welcoming people to Tigard, Tree City USA.
- How trees are a valuable investment and are best cared for by certified arborists.
- The City offers a free street tree program every fall for all Tigard property owners.
- “Call/Click before you cut” because in many cases permits are required for tree removal.
- Refer the people to the City website for more information.

The Tree Board members generally agreed that would be a good outreach approach. Matt Clemo and Janet Gillis added that providing information at the Library and Farmer’s Market would also be beneficial. Matt Clemo said that he would be willing to volunteer at the Farmer’s Market to provide outreach materials.

5. Closing Remarks and Adjournment

Matt Clemo reiterated his concerns about assuming the Tree Board Chair position before gaining more experience. Janet Gillis offered to help him through the transition, but she may be relocated to Bend by her employer. Todd Prager said that his understanding was that Dennis Sizemore would be Interim Chair for a year and Mr. Clemo would take over in May of 2010. Mr. Prager suggested the entire Tree Board discuss and agree on the arrangement at their next meeting.

The next Urban Forestry Master Plan Citizen Advisory Committee Meeting was set for September 2, 2009 and the next Tree Board meeting was set for October 7, 2009.

The meeting was adjourned by Chairwoman Gillis at 7:15 p.m.