



City of Tigard Tree Board – Minutes

MEETING DATE: April 12, 2010, 6:30-8:00 p.m.
MEETING LOCATION: Tigard Library, 2nd Floor Conference Room,
13500 SW Hall Blvd., Tigard, OR 97223

Members Present –Dennis Sizemore, Bret Lieuallen, Matt Clemo, Mort Ettlstein, Tony Tycer

Members Absent – David Walsh

Council/Staff Present – Councilor Marland Henderson, Todd Prager

Visitors – John Frewing

1. Introduction and Opening Remarks

At 6:28 p.m., Chairman Dennis Sizemore called the meeting to order.

Todd Prager told the Tree Board that on March 23, 2010, Council adopted bylaws for the Tree Board.

2. Review and Approval of March 8, 2010 Meeting Minutes

At 6:29 p.m., the Tree Board unanimously approved the March 8, 2010 meeting minutes (Attachment 1, April 12, 2010 Tree Board Meeting Packet) and suspended Robert’s Rules of Order for the remainder of the meeting.

3. Tree Replacement Fund Discussion

At 6:32 p.m., Dennis Sizemore asked Todd Prager to present his summary table of urban forestry funding options (Attachment 2, April 12, 2010 Tree Board Meeting Packet).

Mr. Prager explained that he summarized the urban forestry funding discussion based on David Walsh’s notes at the March 8, 2010 meeting. He then categorized the various activities that were identified as planting, preservation, or outreach. He also estimated staff resources required to run each activity as a percent FTE (full time equivalent). He estimated the financial resources required for each program which included salary for staff and additional required expenditures. He also identified funding sources and explained SWM stands for “surface water management” which is a fee collected by all utility rate payers and is used to fund stream restoration including invasive species removal and native tree planting. Finally he provided a list of policy and other considerations for each activity to aid in decision-making, and included a timeline for implementation. He said items in parenthesis represented potential funding sources or timelines, but were not currently included in a Council approved work plan.

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Tony Tycer said he recalled Ken Gertz and the Home Builders Association (HBA) were supportive of using the tree fund to purchase conservation easements. Todd Prager said his recollection during the Urban Forestry Master Plan process was that Ernie Platt and the HBA said they were opposed to using the tree fund for anything other than its stated purpose (planting trees). Dennis Sizemore agreed with Mr. Prager but said the Tree Board should clarify this point before making recommendations to Council.

Tony Tycer said he supports planting trees on private property. Mort Ettlstein agreed and said he talked with a member of the Board of Directors of Summerfield and president of the garden club. She likes the idea of partnering with the City to plant and care for trees. She will take the idea to the Summerfield Association Administrator. Tony Tycer added that the maintenance could be the responsibility of the home owners, and not add maintenance costs for the City.

Dennis Sizemore estimated that funding all of the projects on the list would cost the City approximately \$360,000 annually.

Bret Lieuallen wanted the City to explain whether they could set aside \$100,000, and use the interest on an annual basis to pay for outreach in perpetuity. Todd Prager explained he was working on getting an answer to this question, but the Finance Department has been busy with the budget process, and has not been available to respond. He said he would continue to work on this issue, and would update the Tree Board on Finance's decision.

Dennis Sizemore said he thought Mr. Lieuallen's idea was good, if it is legal.

Todd Prager asked if the proposal was to take the money out of the general fund or the tree fund. Bret Lieuallen said his proposal is to take the money out of the tree fund.

Mort Ettlstein asked how inflation would affect the viability of such a program over time. Dennis Sizemore said if the money is invested correctly, then inflation could be overcome.

Tony Tycer said he does not believe education and outreach can change behavior. Dennis Sizemore said education and outreach alone is not the solution, but a percent of the funding should go to education and outreach.

Tony Tycer said the City does a lot of education and outreach already, noting activities for children and adults such as those during Arbor Month. Dennis Sizemore said the Tree Board should first investigate if Mr. Lieuallen's proposal is viable, and then decide whether to fund education and outreach.

Mort Ettlstein said education and outreach should be targeted towards people that already have an interest in trees and gardening, because they will be more likely to act on and use information they receive.

Bret Lieuallen said repetition of message is important year after year to change behavior.

Tony Tycer said in his experience, new property owners are most likely to cut down trees, he said maybe the Tree Board should send a message not to cut down trees within the first three years after purchasing new property.

Tony Tycer asked Councilor Henderson if Council feels funding education is worthwhile. Councilor Henderson said Council relies on City Boards to determine if a problem exists, and if Council agrees, then they direct staff to implement the solutions. He said Council understands that trees are a sensitive issue, and if the Tree Board thinks education and outreach are a way to improve the issue then Council will consider funding it.

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Bret Lieuallen said he thinks the essence of government is to help direct the community in a positive direction based on the community's priorities. Councilor Henderson agreed, and added that different communities have different priorities.

Todd Prager recommended that the Tree Board consider utilizing the infrastructure of existing programs (e.g. conducting outreach through Cityscape newsletter, and planting trees along privately owned streams that connect to public streams through the Healthy Streams Program). Mr. Prager said utilizing these existing programs will be less staff and funding intensive than creating new programs.

Mort Ettlstein said it is important to focus outreach on various segments of the population such as apartment complex owners, developers, etc.

Council Henderson added that instilling pride in the community is an important motivating factor as well. He gave the example of people participating in the Heritage Tree program because they feel proud of their trees.

Dennis Sizemore said the Tree Board needs to work on figuring out what the community wants, and how to meet their needs. Mr. Sizemore also requested that Mr. Prager revise the timeline portion of the summary table to reflect a range of years rather than just the beginning of implementation. Mort Ettlstein said the range will not be very precise due to uncertainty in the future.

Councilor Henderson said if the Tree Board's recommendations make it into the Council goals, then there is more certainty that they will be implemented. He noted that one of Council's goals is sustainability, and many of the Tree Board's recommendations are consistent with that goal.

Todd Prager asked the Tree Board if they would like to have a presentation about the City's Healthy Streams Plans to see if private property stream restoration activities could be coordinated with City restoration activities. Tony Tyser said that he thinks the City does not do a better job of restoring streams than private property owners.

Mort Ettlstein asked how the code revisions process will affect the timeline. Dennis Sizemore said the Tree Board needs to take their budget proposal forward to Council, and recommend priorities. In their presentation, the Tree Board can inform Council how code revisions relate to their recommendations. Dennis said the Tree Board is advising Council, and it is Council's decision what and how they want to fund. Once Council makes a decision, they direct staff to implement their decisions.

Todd Prager summarized the follow up items for the May meeting which include refining the timeline, answering Bret Lieuallen's question about funding outreach from interest from a set aside account, and inviting the Healthy Streams program coordinator to present the relationship of her program to the Tree Board's interests.

4. Urban Forestry Code Revisions, Progress Update

Dennis Sizemore then asked Todd Prager to update the Tree Board on the Urban Forestry Code Revisions progress.

Mr. Prager said Council adopted Resolution 10-12 (Attachment 3, April 12, 2010 Tree Board Meeting Packet) specifying the membership of the Urban Forestry Code Revisions Citizen Advisory Committee. He said Council has requested up to six members of existing Boards and Committees, including up to two Tree Board representatives. Mr. Prager explained the process for updating the code will include up to 15 meetings over an 18 month period beginning at the end of May 2010 (Attachment 4, April 12, 2010 Tree Board Meeting Packet).

Dennis Sizemore asked if any of the Tree Board members were interested in volunteering for the committee. Tony Tycer and Bret Lieuallen volunteered. Due to the time commitment, Councilor Henderson asked staff to look into the possibility of having alternates available to fill in when the Tree Board members have scheduling conflicts.

Tony Tycer recommended Kandace Horlings, former Tree Board member, and Jerry Powell as citizen members of the committee. Todd Prager encouraged the Tree Board to actively encourage qualified people to apply for the committee.

At 7:45 p.m. Dennis Sizemore made a motion to select Tony Tycer and Bret Lieuallen as the Tree Board's representatives to the Urban Forestry Code Revisions, Citizen Advisory Committee. All members present voted in favor of the motion.

5. Closing Remarks and Adjournment

Mort Ettlstein asked Todd Prager what he should tell the Summerfield Board regarding tree planting on their property. Mr. Prager said they could contact him, and he could work with them on planting street trees through the annual free street tree program.

The Tree Board said their next meeting will be on May 10, 2010. The meeting was adjourned by Chairman Sizemore at 7:50 p.m.