



City of Tigard Tree Board – Minutes

MEETING DATE: May 10, 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, David Walsh, Mort Ettelstein, Tony Tycer

Members Absent – Matt Clemo

Council/Staff Present –Carla Staedter, Susan Hartnett, Todd Prager

Visitors – John Frewing

1. Introduction and Opening Remarks

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

2. Review and Approval of April 12, 2010 Meeting Minutes

At 6:29 p.m., Mort Ettelstein objected to the April 12, 2010 meeting minutes (Attachment 1, May 10, 2010 Tree Board Meeting Packet). Mort submitted the following corrections to the minutes:

(Page 5, Paragraph 2, Attachment 1, May 10, 2010 Tree Board Meeting Packet)

*Tony Tycer said he supports planting trees on private property. Mort Ettelstein agreed and said he talked with ~~the Board of Directors of Summerfield and they are very interested in partnering with the City to plant trees.~~ He said this would be efficient because they could contact individual property owners and provide the City with a consolidated list of locations. **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.*

(Page 5, Paragraph 10, Attachment 1, May 10, 2010 Tree Board Meeting Packet)

*Mort Ettelstein 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 ~~change behavior~~ **act on and use** information they receive.*

At 6:32 p.m. the Tree Board unanimously approved the minutes as amended and suspended Robert's Rules of Order for the remainder of the meeting.

Todd Prager pointed out to the Tree Board that Finance is advising against creating a trust fund for education and outreach (Page 2, May 10, 2010 Tree Board Meeting Packet) due to low interest rates and the cost of managing a

fund of less than \$10 million dollars. The Board agreed to not pursue investing the Tree Fund as part of their proposal to Council.

3. Tree Replacement Fund Discussion/Healthy Streams Plan Presentation

Todd Prager then introduced Carla Staedter, Tigard's Surface Water Quality Program Coordinator, for a presentation on the intersection of the Healthy Streams Plans and the Tree Board's programming of the Tree Fund. He reminded the Tree Board that they asked for a presentation on the topic because they were interested in tree planting opportunities along private streams that could potentially be supported by the Tree Fund.

Carla Staedter gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Healthy Streams Plan and explained that the Plan is intended in part to comply with the Clean Water Act. She said the Tualatin Basin is currently not in compliance.

Tony Tycker asked if the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) considers that we are in a mud based system and it is difficult to keep sediment levels low. Carla Staedter said DEQ does consider that fact when establishing standards.

Ms. Staedter said that while the City's built infrastructure such as water treatment plants is doing their job, the City's green infrastructure (streams, ponds, and plants) is not. She added that because salmon are a local endangered species, water quality standards are even stricter. She said the City implements programs such as tree planting, culvert replacement, and outfall retrofits to improve its green infrastructure. She showed a map of Tigard's streams that identified project areas.

Ms. Staedter then described the community tree planting program and said the goal is to reforest all the City's stream corridors. She explained that tree canopy reduces temperature (a water pollutant) and large woody debris that eventually falls in streams causes ponding which removes sediment from the water.

As an aside, Ms. Staedter described a situation on Ash Creek where beavers created a dam that was destroying trees, but said the City has recently been successful as installing a "beaver deceiver" that helps to divert water through the dam and reduce flooding. She added that beavers can be a benefit to water quality by removing sediment but their dams need to be in a location that are not a risk to people.

She said the City has an annual "Tree for All" program which uses volunteers to plant 16,000-17,000 plants, of which 3,000 are trees. She said the Tree for All is an education/outreach program and the majority of restoration work is done by contractors.

Mort Ettlstein asked where the funding for restoration contractors comes from. She said the City has a 3-year, \$350,000 contract for restoration work funded by CWS and a \$1 surcharge on utility bills. She said the contract covers site preparation, plant installation, and five years of maintenance.

She showed the Tree Board a table of Tigard's progress in comparison to other cities in the Tualatin Basin which demonstrated Tigard is 13% above the tree planting goals they submitted to DEQ.

Mort Ettlstein asked who cleans up the fallen trees. Ms. Staedter responded that they try and leave woody debris in the stream system whenever possible. She said the Parks Department deals with hazard trees that threaten people or property.

John Frewing asked if she is planting trees or plants. She responded that she is restoring ecosystems with trees and woody shrubs.

In response to a question by Bret Lieuallen, she said CWS and DEQ set the tree planting goals. In response to a question by David Walsh, she said the woody plants include redbud, dogwood, Oregon grape, etc. Ms. Staedter said the City does not track mortality, but she estimated between 80%-85% survivorship of her plantings. She said that it is sometimes necessary to physically thin areas out when they become overcrowded.

Ms. Staedter added that public relations is also an important component of the program, and she does this by installing informational signs, flyers, etc.

Tony Tycker said he once called CWS because he wanted to make a pond in the creek behind his house, and CWS said no. He asked why is it OK for a beaver to make a pond but not him.

Ms. Staedter explained that due to bank incision, local streams have a difficult time flooding and flooding helps to improve water quality. She said CWS does not want digging in streams because it further inhibits flooding. She said that beavers do not dig out streams, but instead build dams which help the flooding process.

She then explained that before 1992, development was not required to detain stormwater, and could instead dump it directly into nearby creeks. She said another part of the Healthy Streams Plan is to replace outfalls from pre-1992 development. She said another feature of the Healthy Streams Plan is culvert replacement to decrease bank incision. She then showed a before and after picture of a culvert replacement project on Hiteon Creek.

Ms. Staedter went on to say that fecal bacteria is also a major stream pollutant and tests show that the majority is from dogs and nutria. She said there is an effort to trap nutria and educate kids about cleaning up after their pets. She said studies show that educating kids in 3rd to 6th grade is very effective as increasing environmental stewardship later in life.

Tony Tycker asked if she partners with other organizations on funding her projects. Ms. Staedter described herself as a “leech” that attaches itself to other capital improvement projects to implement her program. She then showed the Tree Board her tree planting, culvert replacement, and outfall retrofit projects for FY2010-2011.

Ms. Staedter outlined possible Tree Board roles that would help support her program. First, she said street tree planting is very important. David Walsh asked how the City’s lack of street tree canopy impacts her program. She said street trees cool streets which makes for cooler water runoff into streams. She also said tree leaves capture rainfall which reduces the volume of water entering streams during storm events.

Tony Tycker asked when is stream temperature measured. Ms. Staedter said they measure year round. Tony Tycker asked what is the baseline that temperatures are measured from. Ms. Staedter said they use a reference site in an undeveloped area. Tony Tycker asked how much higher are local stream temperatures than the baseline. Ms. Staedter said she did not know because CWS does the testing. Bret Lieuallen asked how much more flow is there than the baseline. Ms. Staedter said there used to be almost no flow in the Tualatin River, but DEQ does the testing on flow rates.

Tony Tycker asked if concrete streets, because they are white and reflect heat, would be more beneficial than black asphalt streets. Ms. Staedter said concrete still does get warm, and the cost is much higher than asphalt. She said a cost/benefit analysis would need to be done to see if concrete would be better than asphalt.

TIGARD TREE BOARD MEETING MINUTES – May 10, 2010

Tony Tycer said the City needs to make sure they are not flooding properties and adding invasives as a result of their work.

John Frewing asked if trees in median strips would add value to a stream program. Carla said yes, but traffic engineers have some concerns about median trees.

Another role Ms. Staedter noted for the Tree Board that could benefit her program is to support the ecosystem around trees. She said there are some areas in the City where herbaceous plants have not regenerated and this increases erosion and heat around the roots of trees. She said a program she has thought of for this is an “Adopt a Woodland Wildflower Garden” program. She said this is a current gap in her program and she is not sure it is the Tree Board’s to fill, but it is hard to get funding for herbaceous plants.

Ms. Staedter said the last gap in her program is the restoration of stream corridors on private property. She described some areas where restoring private property would connect large contiguous areas of public property. She added that many private property owners are already restoring streams on their own, but it would be good for the City to support these efforts. Currently, the City does not do this because the Public Works Department has a policy to “get its own house in order” first.

Tony Tycer asked why the City does not plant large trees. Ms. Staedter responded that the City plants trees that become large at maturity, but they plant smaller size nursery stock because they adapted better with limited water.

Tony Tycer asked if the City plants alders. Ms. Staedter said yes but they do come in naturally on their own as well.

Tony Tycer asked if the City plants cottonwood. Ms. Staedter said yes, but only where there is lots of room and they will not become a hazard to people or property.

John Frewing asked if the City does planting in upland areas. Ms. Staedter said they do when City owned upland property is adjacent to stream corridors.

Bret Lieuallen asked if it would be cheaper to pipe streams to cool water temperature than to restore streams. Ms. Staedter said that pipes do cool water, but the public would lose recreational benefits and piping would not protect salmon. She added that piping is a regulatory nightmare and the costs of permitting would be high.

Tony Tycer added that if a private property owner is reluctant to restoration, then they should be able to reserve the right to say no.

At 7:55 p.m. Dennis Sizemore closed the discussion and asked the Tree Board to pick up the budget discussion at their next meeting.

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 briefly explained to the Tree Board that Council was set to appoint members to the Urban Forestry Code Revisions Citizen Advisory Committee (Page 3, May 10, 2010 Tree Board Meeting Packet) on May 11, 2010. He said the goal was to have the first meeting at the end of the month.

Mr. Prager said the City was also in the process of hiring a facilitator and a consultant to assist in the development of an incentive based tree grove preservation program.

He then asked Susan Hartnett, Assistant Community Development Director, to explain the implications of the recent budget reductions on the Tree Board and Urban Forestry Code Revisions process.

Ms. Hartnett said she wanted to talk to the Tree Board about the recent staff changes in the City. She said that the Community Development Department has eliminated its Code Enforcement Officer and shifted the responsibility of code enforcement to the planners. She said as a result, Todd will have more code enforcement responsibility and we need to balance Todd's workload in light of his other projects. Ms. Hartnett explained three options to the Tree Board:

- Assign another staff member as a co-liaison to the Tree Board
- Have lighter monthly Tree Board meetings that consist of updates on the Urban Forestry Code Revisions
- Go to every other month meetings

She said there are other options, but she wanted to get the Tree Board's reaction. She added that this discussion is happening with all the City's boards and committees, and the Tree Board is not being singled out.

Dennis Sizemore said he thinks it would be easiest to go to every other month meetings because it is very easy to schedule out. He said if the Tree Board thinks they are not getting enough done, they reserve the right to meet monthly.

David Walsh agreed and said that other members of the Tree Board will be tied up the Urban Forestry Code Revisions as well.

Dennis Sizemore said he would like to meet in June and August and see how it goes.

Mort Ettlstein said it would be helpful if the City gave the Tree Board more direction on what they want them to do. Susan Hartnett responded that the Tree Board has an interim charge to complete an update of the Comprehensive Plan and implementing updates to the code. The update to the Comprehensive Plan is complete, and the Tree Board established a framework for the code update through the Urban Forestry Master Plan. Now a committee comprised of half the Tree Board members will be working on completing the code update which divides the time those members and staff can now dedicate to the Tree Board.

David Walsh noted that one of the Tree Board's 2010 goals is outreach. Susan Hartnett said that there were many cuts to the proposed budget, and she would have to see if the Tree Board's outreach budget was cut.

Dennis Sizemore and Mort Ettlstein agreed that some work could be done by subcommittee members to complete specific projects such as outreach to help with workload issues.

Bret Lieuallen asked if the decision to reduce citizen involvement was a Council or staff decision. Ms. Hartnett said no one specifically made the decision, but it was more a result of budget decisions.

Ms. Hartnett said that Todd Prager has been putting a tremendous amount of work into staffing up the Urban Forestry Code Revisions project including internally, externally, and through hiring consultants.

Dennis Sizemore said the Tree Board will begin meeting every other month and then decide in August if additional meetings are necessary.

TIGARD TREE BOARD MEETING MINUTES – May 10, 2010

Tony Tycer requested that staff keep the Tree Board members that are not on the Urban Forestry Code Revisions in the loop. Todd Prager agreed he would.

5. Closing Remarks and Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Chairman Sizemore at 8:16 p.m.