



City of Tigard Tree Board – Minutes

MEETING DATE: June 14, 2010, 6:30-8:00 p.m.
MEETING LOCATION: Tigard Library, 2nd Floor Conference Room,
13500 SW Hall Blvd., Tigard, OR 97223

Members Present – Matt Clemo, Bret Lieuallen, David Walsh, Mort Ettelstein

Members Absent – Tony Tycer

Council/Staff Present – Todd Prager

Visitors – None

1. Introduction and Opening Remarks

At 6:36 p.m., Matt Clemo called the meeting to order. Todd Prager explained that Dennis Sizemore was unable to attend the meeting due to a family emergency and Matt Clemo agreed to Chair the meeting.

2. Review and Approval of May 10, 2010 Meeting Minutes

At 6:37 p.m. the Tree Board unanimously approved the May 10, 2010 Tree Board Meeting Minutes (Attachment 1, June 14, 2010 Tree Board Meeting Packet).

3. Tree Replacement Fund Discussion

At 6:38 p.m. Todd Prager explained to the Tree Board that staff was looking for them to reach consensus on the overall urban forestry funding proposal and policy recommendations in Attachments 2 and 3 of the June 14, 2010 Meeting Packet. He said these proposals are not specific to the Tree Replacement Fund, but instead are recommendations on how the City should support Tigard's urban forestry program using all available funding sources including the Surface Water Management Fund, Parks SDCs, Parks Bond (if approved), and General Fund. Mr. Prager also asked the Tree Board to achieve consensus on the funding breakdown and proposal for the Tree Replacement Fund specifically (page 2 of the June 14, 2010 Meeting Packet).

Matt Clemo asked if the budgeted amount of Tree Replacement Fund is not used, does the City "lose it". Todd Prager responded that any unspent funds are still available in the overall fund, so the City does not lose funding by not spending it.

Dave Walsh said that he thinks the Tree Board needs to run the funding proposal through the Urban Forestry Code Revisions (UFCR) Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC). Todd Prager said that he agreed but because the Tree

Board has much more familiarity with the issue, staff feels it is appropriate for the Tree Board to give the UFCR CAC a strong recommendation for them to respond to.

Bret Lieuallen said that purchasing easements seems like a good idea, but there should be some way of allowing property owners to buy themselves out of the easement in the future if they want to. Todd Prager said there is wide flexibility how easements are structured, and each one would need to be negotiated on a case by case basis.

Dave Walsh asked what staff is looking for the Tree Board to do with the funding proposals. Todd Prager said staff would like the Tree Board to achieve consensus on recommending a long term funding proposal for the urban forestry program in general, and a short term funding breakdown and proposal for the Tree Replacement Fund specifically.

Bret Lieuallen mentioned that incentives such as reduced sewer rates for planting trees are an important element as well.

Mort Ettlstein said outreach programs should build upon the efforts of other organizations such as OSU, Friends of Trees, and others to make them more cost effective, rather than developing materials from scratch. Bret Lieuallen agreed that perhaps these organizations could pool their resources together to make outreach more cost effective. Mr. Lieuallen suggested maybe Metro could play a role in that.

Mort Ettlstein also said that others in the community such as apartment owners, commercial owners, etc. should be solicited to become involved in the City's urban forestry efforts. He suggested an item be added to the list saying the City should increase outreach efforts across ownerships (apartments, condominiums, single family, commercial, industrial, etc.) to add emphasis that the City should dedicate staff time to this. The Board generally agreed to the addition to the long term urban forestry funding proposal. Todd Prager said he would add it to the proposal.

For the Tree Replacement Fund specific proposal, Dave Walsh said 10 years is a good funding timeline because it will get something significant out in the community. Bret Lieuallen said he would like to look at a longer timeline, but there is a short term need to preserve tree groves before they are lost. Mr. Lieuallen wanted to be clear that he wanted tree grove preservation to be incentive based, and not the City making people preserve trees.

Todd Prager said after the Tree Board reaches consensus, he will forward their proposal to Public Works and Community Development staff for review and comment. He said the Parks Board will also want to review some of the proposal specific to allocating parks funds to tree grove preservation. Mr. Prager said once these groups have a chance to review and comment, the Tree Board should present their final list of recommendations to Council with Public Works and Community Development staff present and in support. Mr. Prager added that the Tree Replacement Fund piece of the recommendations will inform the work of the UFCR CAC in how they address mitigation during the Code revisions process.

Bret Lieuallen said he had some hesitation on bringing departments together on funding, because he could see the Tree Replacement Fund getting absorbed to support other programs such as the Healthy Streams Plan. He said this would result in a net reduction of trees getting planted annually. Todd Prager agreed that there is that potential, but the intent is to increase coordination so the urban forestry program can function more effectively. For example, by better coordinating, current gaps in the program such as lack of long term maintenance could be identified. Bret Lieuallen agreed that finding ways to fund these less exciting, yet crucial aspects of the program is important.

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Bret Lieuallen asked if the Tree Board is going to catch flack for the funding proposal. Todd Prager and Dave Walsh said this is likely because the Homebuilder's Association has publicly stated they are opposed to using the Tree Replacement Fund for anything other than planting trees.

At 7:35 p.m. the Tree Board ended their deliberations and said they supported the recommendations for staff review and then to Council. They said they would like to work with staff on any major revisions before it gets forwarded to Council.

4. 2010 Urban Forestry Outreach Goals Update

Matt Clemo then asked Todd Prager to update the Tree Board on 2010 outreach goals progress. Mr. Prager said the Tree Board's first goal of securing an urban forestry education and outreach budget had been met, although it was cut in half to \$750.

For the second goal of developing an outreach plan, Mr. Prager said the Tree Board had come up with some ideas such as the tree related mailing for new property owners, and these needed to be pulled together in a plan. Mr. Prager added that a Public Involvement Plan for the UFCR had been approved by the Committee for Citizen Involvement, and the Tree Board could choose to fund some of these items such as tree related books for the Library or open house materials such as posters, etc.

The Tree Board discussed these and other ideas, and chose to plan on pursuing the following items given their funding allocation:

- Begin annual mailing to new property owners about the City urban forestry program.
- Pursue outreach using other available outlets such as the Cityscape newsletter.

Matt Clemo offered to write Tree Board themed articles for the Cityscape in the short run. Todd Prager said he would discuss with Cityscape staff and let the Tree Board know the parameters.

5. Urban Forestry Code Revisions Progress Update

Todd Prager then gave a brief update of the progress on the UFCR project.

- CAC members were confirmed by Council on May 11, 2010. The CAC had their first meeting on June 9, 2010 which was facilitated by JLA. The first meeting focused primarily on process issues.
- The Committee for Citizen Involvement approved the UFCR Public Involvement Plan on May 19, 2010.
- Winterbrook Planning was approved by Council to conduct an incentive based tree grove preservation program on June 8, 2010.
- The UFCR website is up and running.

6. Closing Remarks and Adjournment

Todd Prager said he would be on vacation for much of July, so he would not have much time to prepare for the August Tree Board meeting. He asked if the Tree Board wanted to cancel the meeting or just plan on a meeting that was light on materials. The Tree Board decided to hold a brief meeting to touch base.

The meeting was adjourned by Matt Clemo at 7:52 p.m.