



City of Tigard Tree Board – Minutes

MEETING DATE: October 11, 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, Dave Walsh, Mort Ettelstein, Tony Tycer

Members Absent – None

Council/Staff Present – Todd Prager

Visitors – None

1. Introduction and Opening Remarks

At 6:30 p.m., Matt Clemo called the meeting to order. He shared the “Branching Out” articles in the Cityscape with the Tree Board members.

Todd Prager told the Tree Board members that the Heritage Tree applicants for the two Oregon white oaks on Center Street have withdrawn their application. The reason was there is no guarantee of perpetual City maintenance and they were concerned the deed restriction would turn off potential buyers of their property if they chose to sell.

Bret Lieuallen clarified that the purpose of the Heritage Tree program is primarily for recognition rather than preservation. Dave Walsh suggested the code should be revised to allow property owners a way out of the deed restriction. Bret Lieuallen suggested a tiered approach to Heritage Tree recognition with the lowest tier simply for recognition and the highest tier would be for recognition and protection through a deed restriction.

Tony Tycer said he would not consider protecting trees on his property through a deed restriction because of the loss of development potential.

Mort Ettelstein asked how many street trees were being planted through the free street tree program. Todd Prager said about 39 trees would be planted on roughly 20 properties. He said the number of participants has been increasing slightly each year.

2. Review and Approval of August 9, 2010 Meeting Minutes

Matt Clemo asked if there are any objections to the August 9, 2010 meeting minutes (Attachment 1, October 13, 2010 Tree Board Meeting Packet). Hearing none, the Tree Board unanimously approved the August 9, 2010 Tree Board Meeting Minutes.

3. Preparation for Joint Meeting with Council in November

Matt Clemo then reviewed the Tree Board's progress on their five goals for 2010 and asked if there were any questions or comments. Mort Ettlstein asked what "oversight...of the Urban Forestry Master Plan" means in goal 2. Todd Prager responded that in the Urban Forestry Master Plan, it specifies that the Tree Board is to provide oversight, or hold City staff accountable, for implementation of the Plan as part of their annual work program. Dave Walsh agreed that is the Tree Board's role, but perhaps they need to formalize their oversight role by asking for quarterly reports from staff on the goals of the Urban Forestry Master Plan. Mort Ettlstein said he is unclear whether the Tree Board is advisory to Council or actually charged with administering the City's urban forestry program. Bret Lieuallen said Tree Board should clarify their mission with Council.

Tony Tycer said the Tree Board's role should be to expand the urban forest canopy on private property through preservation and planting incentives.

Matt Clemo said he is concerned the Tree Board is getting off topic, and should focus on how to approach their joint meeting with Council.

Mort Ettlstein suggested a 2011 goal should be to review their charge statement and consider focusing on outreach to private citizens. He said the administration of the urban forestry program should be left to City staff.

Bret Lieuallen agreed and said average homeowners aren't heard and the Tree Board could help improve this. He agreed the Tree Board does not need to get into the details of day to day administration of the program.

Mort Ettlstein said that involving homeowners on items such as best tree care practices is what excited him about being on the Tree Board.

Bret Lieuallen asked if City staff even needs the public involved in writing code or if they could just do it on their own. Mort Ettlstein said through the Urban Forestry Master Plan process, City staff found out what the public was interested in doing and now they need to execute it. He suggested the public did not necessarily need to be involved in the details of the execution.

Tony Tycer said the "Branching Out" series is a great project for the Tree Board and could be an example of their future role.

David Walsh said city government works best with citizen oversight and the Tree Board should seek Council's acknowledgement of that at their joint meeting.

Bret Lieuallen said the Tree Board needs to start writing down their formal requests and take action on their discussions. Mort Ettlstein said it is important to determine what the main issues are before making formal requests.

Matt Clemo said that if the Tree Board has formal requests or questions, they should forward them to him and he could work with staff to get answers. He said the Tree Board needs to focus on their approach to their joint meeting with Council.

Todd Prager said the Tree Board's interim charge (Resolution 07-30) says that after the adoption of the Comprehensive Plan policies and corresponding regulations, the Tree Board should revisit their mission. He said it would be appropriate to remind Council of this and ask to put it in their work plan for 2011.

Bret Lieuallen said his goal is to increase education and decrease regulation.

Todd Prager asked if the Tree Board still wants to work on developing a comprehensive urban forestry funding proposal for Council's consideration in 2011.

Matt Clemo said they do want to still work on a funding proposal and they would discuss this with Council during their joint meeting. Todd Prager said he would brief Council in advance of the joint meeting about the urban forestry funding discussion and explain the relationship between ongoing discussions about the use of existing mitigation funds and developing a comprehensive urban forestry funding proposal.

Tony Tycker said matt Clemo should tell Council that privatized plantings are cheaper than public plantings.

4. Urban Forestry Code Revisions Progress Update

Todd Prager then briefly summarized progress on the Urban Forestry Code Revisions project. He said the Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) and Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) have been meeting regularly to advise staff on the issues of hazard trees and street trees during non-development scenarios. He said the CAC will be discussing the issue of use of current mitigation funds, but the TAC would not be discussing the topic in detail because it is a political decision rather than a technical item.

He said the consultants have completed their inventory of trees groves, and identified 69 groves. They have ranked the quality of each grove based on a number of criteria including public benefits, connectivity, and wildlife benefits. The next steps include determining which groves are of citywide significance, completing the required ESEE analysis, and developing an incentive based protection program with the CAC based on public input.

Bret Lieuallen asked if funding for grove preservation will be budgeted. Todd Prager said that is something the Tree Board can work with Council on during their funding discussion. He said it will also depend on the results of the CAC discussion about use of current mitigation funds.

Matt Clemo asked for an update on Fred Field's tree grove on Hunziker. Todd Prager said a stop work order has been placed on the project due to potential water quality impacts from clearing. He did not know when the stop work order would be released.

Matt Clemo asked the Tree Board if there were any other messages they wanted him to pass along to Council. The Tree Board generally agreed they worked well together and had a good relationship with their staff liaison. They wanted that message to get passed along to Council.

5. Scheduling, Closing Remarks, and Adjournment

Matt Clemo adjourned the meeting at 8:01 p.m.