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**COOS BAY  
TREE BOARD MINUTES  
JANUARY 29, 2021**

The minutes of the proceedings of a regular meeting of the Tree Board of the City of Coos Bay, Coos County, Oregon, held at 12:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers, 500 Central Avenue, Coos Bay, Oregon.

**Those Attending**

Those present attending in person were city staff: Randy Dixon, Operations Administrator; Jon Eck, Parks Superintendent; Kelli Burnette; board members Blair Holman; Brian Allen, Catherine Walworth; and Rex Miller. Attending remotely were board members Cora Vandervelden and Meredith Childs.

**Approval of the September 24, 2020 Meeting Minutes**

Chair Vandervelden called for a motion to approve the Minutes.

*Board Member Miller moved and Board Member Walworth seconded the motion to approve the September 24, 2020, minutes as presented. Motion carried by unanimous vote.*

**Citizen Input/Public Comment**

Staff Member Eck provided input prior to the public comment regarding the tree removal request at 1705 Kingwood Avenue stating he met with the applicant and visited the site a few months back and the tree at hand is a large Redwood adjacent the property on the curb line and has grown into the utility lines, is causing damage to the asphalt, the applicant's driveway and landscaping. Staff Member Eck stated the tree is healthy, but in a bad location.

Tom Clark, resident, 1705 Kingwood Avenue came forward stating he has lived at this location for 24 years and the tree has grown at least a foot if not two in diameter since he has lived there and is currently 5 feet in diameter. Mr. Clark stated he believes it needs to be removed as it is going to continue to create problems for both the City and the homeowners. Mr. Clark stated he has already had to remove his fence because of the tree, it is breaking up his driveway and it was a poor choice to plant the tree there.

Staff Member Dixon stated he agreed with Mr. Clark and reported making a site visit noting there is a 3-inch split between the asphalt and upheaving as shown in the picture. Staff Member Dixon further stated it's a huge tree and if it is removed he would like it milled to recoup some of the wood for other uses. Staff Member Dixon stated it is in a bad location and is causing damage to the infrastructure, both private and city and stated he is in support of the removal.

Board Member Childs stated he saw the tree about a year ago and it was a problem then and it's only going to increase as a problem and supports the removal.

Chair Vandervelden stated she believes it needs to be removed especially since it has that old power pole going up through it that is no longer in use, but it is still inside the tree cavity and could cause a problem later on, not including the uplifting and damage to the infrastructure. Chair Vandervelden stated she is in favor of taking it out.

Board Member Miller asked the applicant if he thought the tree could be taken down safely. Mr. Clark stated it could, the powerlines would have to come down, but it can be removed safely.

42 Staff Member Dixon stated this will likely be a partnership with Pacific Power and if the motion  
43 is to remove it, he recommends communicating with Pacific Power and use 50/50 sources for the  
44 removal, and sectionalize it as it comes down.

45 Mr. Clark requested the City provide them advance notice of the scheduled tree removal.

46 Chair Vandervelden called for a motion.

47 *Board Member Walworth moved and Board Member Childs seconded the motion to remove the*  
48 *Redwood. There were no objections. Motion carried by unanimous vote.*

49 **Tree Removal Request**

50 **1141 N. 10<sup>th</sup> Street**

51 Staff Member Eck reported he was contacted by Patrick Myers on behalf of the homeowner who  
52 would like to remove the tree for view enhancement. Staff Member Eck stated Patrick Myers stated  
53 the trees are healthy and that his recommendation is to not remove the trees.

54 Chair Vandervelden commented the Board doesn't typically allow removal of trees for view  
55 enhancement and noted the ivy needs to be removed.

56 The Board and Staff discussed the condition of the hillside, that it appears to be sliding, and the  
57 fact there should be a retaining wall, which maybe the city could address in an upcoming budget  
58 cycle, but the issue at hand is the tree.

59 Chair Vandervelden asked if the Board could request Patrick Myers evaluate the tree to see if it  
60 could be saved. Staff Member Dixon commented he believes that would be a good idea to have it  
61 evaluated.

62 Board Member Childs commented he has seen that area, the tree is not a hazard or a danger, it has  
63 ivy on it, and it is normal sluff off of that steep bank.

64 Staff Member Eck reported some of the sluffing issues are a result of some work a prior owner of  
65 the property did incorrectly. It was noted the property owner needs to be contacted and advised  
66 that they need to fix the issue on their private property and that the city should look at remedying  
67 the issue on that hillside in an upcoming budget year.

68 Staff Member Dixon stated staff will look into the sluffing issue in that area and recommends  
69 having an arborist evaluate the trees in question. Board Member Childs stated this is common in  
70 that 2-block area and reported there are several retaining walls some of which are failing.

71 Board Member Miller reminded the Commission that the request is to remove the tree for view  
72 enhancement and we can't do that, and that if the property owner wants some one to clean up the  
73 ivy and limb it up, it wouldn't hurt the tree and would provide view enhancement.

74 The Board and Staff further discussed that cleaning up the ivy and liming the tree could satisfy the  
75 property owner's request, the fact that the other trees in that area do have ivy maintenance, and the  
76 fact that maybe in the future when the City addresses the sluffing issue, the tree can be removed  
77 at that time, which would have to be addressed in a design plan.

78 It was noted the sluffing is natural, the area has been developed for a long time and overtime it is  
79 bound to fail.

80 *Board Member Childs moved and Board Member Miller seconded the motion to talk to the*  
81 *landowner about maintenance of the tree but not removal. There were no objections. Motion*  
82 *carried by unanimous vote.*

83 It was noted the city will send a letter to the property owner.

84 **1705 Kingwood Avenue – See Public Comment above.**

85 **8<sup>th</sup> Street at 8<sup>th</sup> Terrace – After the Fact**

86 Chair Vandervelden explained the issue of the tree leaning into another tree and ivy growing at the  
87 bottom. The Board and Staff discussed the tree is top heavy and the wind is likely the cause. Board  
88 Member Childs stated he would like to take a look at it with Board Member Miller and maybe  
89 have it assessed by Patrick Myers.

90 Staff Member Eck reported being contacted by a homeowner about the tree leaning and made a  
91 site visit and noted the tree had a big split up the center of the trunk, was leaning into some other  
92 trees and was very close to powerlines. Staff Member Eck reported after conferring with Pacific  
93 Power, he gave Pacific Power permission to have their contractor remove the tree.

94 Board Member Childs stated he supported Jon’s decision based on the crack in the base of the tree.

95 **1005 Hemlock Street**

96 Staff Member Eck stated he was contacted by Steve Holmes who is doing some work for the  
97 abutting property owner and this cedar tree has been dead for some time, it had no pine needles on  
98 it and needs to be cut down.

99 *Board Member Childs moved and Board Member Walworth seconded the motion to remove the*  
100 *tree as needed. There were no objections. Motion carried by unanimous vote.*

101 **F Street – After the Fact**

102 Staff Member Eck reported the tree was discovered by staff with a dead top which he determined  
103 to be a safety hazard should it come down in the direction of the abutting houses, one of which  
104 appears to be a daycare, so he decided to pull it down. Staff Member Eck further reported there  
105 was a neighbor concerned about the city taking that tree down so he had Patrick Myers, a certified  
106 arborist, take a look and he agreed with his decision to remove the tree.

107 Staff Member Dixon commented it would have been a threat and needed to come down. Staff  
108 Member Dixon further commented that both Steve Holmes and Patrick Myers agreed the tree  
109 needed to come down and their written reports are included in the agenda packet.

110 **John Topits Park – After the Fact**

111 Staff Member Eck reported the two trees were identified earlier this week by staff with some  
112 serious splitting at the trunks and removed.

113 Staff and the Board discussed the damage was likely caused by wind and once the trees start to  
114 twist they will continue to do so and break apart.

115 **6<sup>th</sup> Avenue Tree Planting Update – Eastside SRTS Project**

116 Staff Member Dixon reported the SRTS project is ending and the last part is to plant the corridor  
117 to enhance its beautification and asked Board Member Rex update the Board on the planting.

118 Board Member Miller explained two problems in the corridor which consisted of low power and  
119 utility lines and a steep slope near the Billeter property. Board Member Miller stated the did some  
120 engineering and ordered 25 Norway/Red Maple cross trees which will top out at 22/25 feet and  
121 not interfere with the utility lines and be a nice ornamental. Board Member Miller reported the  
122 slope issue was addressed by using a 36” culvert that will be cut at a slant and set at a slope, so  
123 there will be a 36” in-well to plant and the roots will go into the soil from there. Board Member  
124 Miller reported the trees are approximately 52’ apart, will make a very uniform corridor, will fill  
125 in the space and make it look nice.

126 Board Member Allen asked if the city had discussed the planting plan with any environmental  
127 agencies. Staff Member Dixon explained the City has wetland delineation and environmental  
128 approval for the planting.

#### 129 **4<sup>th</sup> Street Tree Planting Update – 4<sup>th</sup> Street Pedestrian Safety Project**

130 Staff Member Dixon reported that sidewalks and ADA ramps on the west side from Commercial  
131 to Anderson is about to wrap up probably in the next couple of weeks, then they will be focusing  
132 on the east side sidewalks in March. Staff Member Dixon reported Board Member Miller has been  
133 planting trees already on the west side and tree wells have been put in.

134 Board Member Miller encouraged the Board to go out to 4<sup>th</sup> Street and take a look at the grates  
135 and stated they are really nice and the holes are much bigger than the City has had in the past.

#### 136 **Hall Street Removal Update**

137 Staff Member Dixon reported the trees in this area have been there a long time and the tree board  
138 has directed removal in the past, but the bigger issue is the cost to replace sidewalks, curb and  
139 gutters which is between \$115,000 to \$125,000. Staff Member Dixon stated the City will be  
140 removing the trees that have already been identified this spring and the sidewalk repairs will be  
141 done later. Staff Member Dixon reported the majority of surrounding property owners appear to  
142 be supportive of the request, but the City will notify the neighborhood and release a PSA and let  
143 the Board know if there are any complaints. Staff Member Dixon also reported one of the trees  
144 identified does have a honey bee hive and the City will be working with someone to coordinate  
145 the smoke out of these bees before the removal.

#### 146 **Board Member/Staff Closing Comments**

147 Chair Vandervelden lead a discussion on the tree inventory notes that provided by Board Member  
148 Childs. The Board thanked Board Member Childs for his hard work and stated the Board will need  
149 to address the ones that have issues. Chair Vandervelden commented specifically on the ones by  
150 the Al Pierce building that are in bad shape and that a plan should be made to address those. Board  
151 Member Childs stated the property owner advised him that they were told by the City that the trees  
152 could not be removed because they were historic. Chair Vandervelden concurred they are historic  
153 but does not believe they were told they could not do anything with them. Board Member Childs  
154 stated they are rotten and something needs to be done with them. Staff Member Dixon requested  
155 the Board review the list and the Board can discuss and prioritize those issues at the upcoming  
156 meeting.

157 Board Member Childs stated the Board needs to be proactive about managing trees and specifically  
158 noted the trees on Curtis. Staff Member Dixon stated there is some unknown infrastructure on  
159 Curtis that needs to be looked into, it is on the horizon to address in the next couple of years and  
160 there is design that is going to be very crucial.

161 Board Member Child's stated the Board should look at trees when they get to a size where they  
162 can cause too much damage.

163 **Adjourn**

164 There being no further business to come before the Tree Board, by consensus of the Tree Board,  
165 Chair Vandervelden adjourned the meeting at 12:50 p.m.

166 **APPROVED BY THE PARKS COMMISSION ON THE 31<sup>st</sup> DAY OF MARCH 2021.**

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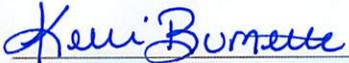
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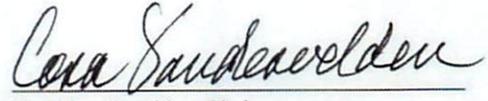
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Attest:

  
Kelli Burnette, Staff

  
Cora Vandervelden, Chair