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**COOS BAY  
TREE BOARD MINUTES  
MARCH 31, 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: Brian Allen, Meredith Childs, Catherine Walworth, and Rex Miller. Attending remotely were board members Cora Vandervelden and Haley Lagasse. Also attending in person was guest Margie Ryan, Coos Head Food Co-Op.

**Approval of the January 29, 2021 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 January 29, 2021, minutes as presented. Motion carried by unanimous vote.*

**Citizen Input/Public Comment**

There was none.

Randy thanked Rex for all his hard work on SRTS planting and donations.

**Tree Donation/Planting Location Request**

Staff Member Dixon advised the Board the City has received a request to plant apple, plum or pear trees in City right of way and explained the gentleman would like to donate a few trees for the planting and is requesting approved locations.

The Board discussed flowering trees vs. fruit bearing trees, the fact the proposed trees seem more like backyard trees vs. street trees, and that they might be appropriate for residential streets and parks. The Board also discussed giving the trees to interested residents for planting in their yard.

A discussion commenced regarding Arbor Day. Staff commented the Board/City can report the planting at SRTS and 4<sup>th</sup> Street and that Arbor Day is April 30<sup>th</sup>.

The Board directed Staff to obtain more information such as species and size. Staff will obtain more information and report back to the Board via email.

**Coos Head Food Co-Op Tree Planting Request**

Margie Ryan came forward and presented the tree planting request for Coos Head Food Co-Op. Margie stated they would like to plant Crabapple trees in the right of way in front of their business.

The Board discussed the specific species, which is on the City's approved list, other plantings in the right of way along S. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, potential litter/debris from Crabapple trees, and resulting hazards, the difference between regular fruit trees and Crabapple trees, and maintenance of the trees and the debris from the trees.

Margie indicated they currently landscape and maintain the greenspace in the right of way abutting their property and that they would continue to do so.

40 Chair Vandervelden commented that she has a large Crabapple tree in her yard and it is not an  
41 issue cleaning up the droppings.

42 Staff and the Applicant discussed calling for locates at the approved planting site, coordinating  
43 with City Staff prior to planting, and obtaining a work within city right of way permit.

44 *Board Member Childs moved and Board Member Lagasse seconded the motion to allow Coos  
45 Head Food Co-Op to plant Crabapple trees in the greenspace as requested. Motion carried by  
46 unanimous vote.*

47 City Staff to send applicants an approval letter.

#### 48 **4<sup>th</sup> Street Planting Abutting Old City Hall**

49 Staff Member Dixon advised the Board the City has received a request from the architect working  
50 on Old City Hall to plant lower lying bushes as opposed to the planned trees outside of the building  
51 as the property owner would like to provide outside seating on the sidewalk and install an awning.

52 The Board and Staff discussed sidewalk width and asked if there was more information Staff could  
53 provide regarding the proposal and directed Staff to contact the applicant to obtain a site plan and  
54 proposed species and specifications. Staff will reach out to the applicant for more information and  
55 provide to the Board.

56 Board Member Miller stated he is concerned with permitting the request because 4<sup>th</sup> Street is a  
57 main corridor and the Board and Staff have been working hard to keep trees/plantings consistent.  
58 It was noted trees trunks would take up more space than bushes and that 40- 50-foot trees are not  
59 appropriate for the location.

#### 60 **Tree Removal Request**

##### 61 **366 S. Marple**

62 Staff Member Eck reported the property is a manufactured home site and the property owner would  
63 like to remove two trees on the site, one in the right of way and one on private property. Staff  
64 Member Eck reported visiting the site, noting a lot of rot and determined the tree in the right of  
65 way to be a safety issue and authorized its removal. Staff Member Eck reported he did not know  
66 if the tree had been removed.

67 *Board Member Walworth moved and Board Member Child's seconded the motion to approve  
68 removal of the tree at the homeowner's expense. Motion carried by unanimous vote.*

##### 69 **570 S. Wall**

70 Staff Member Eck reported that he inspected two Alder trees in the rights of way adjacent 570 S.  
71 Wall that have uprooted and fallen into other trees. Staff Member Eck stated they are dangerous  
72 and pose a safety hazard.

73 A discussion commenced regarding work being done in the same area a few years ago, the invasive  
74 ivy, wind issues, sluffing drainage issues, and age of Alder trees. The Board and Staff discussed  
75 removing all of the trees in the area as they all appear to be a safety issue. Staff Member Dixon  
76 proposed Staff make a site visit to investigate all of the trees to determine if they are diseased and  
77 dying and will report all issues to the board to determine if all of the trees need to be removed. It  
78 was noted Staff has analyzed the two trees in question and has determined they are diseased, dying  
79 and need to be removed.

80 **John Topits Park**

81 Staff Member Eck reported two trees were removed in John Topits Park to mitigate life safety  
82 concerns and stated the trees were discovered during routine maintenance of the park.

83 Board Member Childs asked if the Board had any authority/influence over what staff does in the  
84 park. Staff Member Dixon reported yes, the Board has all kinds of influence and the Parks  
85 Commission and Tree Board should interface and work together. Staff Member Dixon suggested  
86 the Parks Commission and Tree Board have a joint work session, especially in the planning stage  
87 of the upcoming Mingus Park project.

88 Board Member Childs stated he feels if a tree is a life safety issue in a park, it should be removed  
89 and not have to come before the Tree Board. Staff Member Dixon stated if it is an emergency/life  
90 safety issue, Staff might get a professional to assess the tree to support the removal and it will be  
91 removed, but Staff wants the Board to be aware of the removal.

92 **Arbor Day**

93 Staff Member Dixon reported City Council will be considering a proclamation to deem April 30<sup>th</sup>  
94 as Arbor Day and stated the activities have already been done. Staff Member Dixon stated Staff  
95 will put together an inventory and provide pictures of the work completed to the Board, which will  
96 include work completed since January 1<sup>st</sup>.

97 **Eastside SRTS**

98 Board Member Miller reported 26 Norway Maple trees were planted in the 6<sup>th</sup> Street corridor, 7 of  
99 which had to be relocated due to waterlines and one has been temporarily removed. Board Member  
100 Miller further stated the species is short enough that they will stay under the power lines, but will  
101 probably need the very tips topped off in approximately two years. Board Member Miller stated  
102 the Norway Maples are nothing like the Red Maples downtown that have created the problems and  
103 that the Norway Maples are well suited for Eastside, will withstand the wind, and are a well-  
104 mannered, shrubby tight tree. Board Member Miller stated the trees that had to be relocated on the  
105 north end were planted on the other side of the ditch, which changed the corridor a little bit, but it  
106 will all come together and since the tree wells were already in the sidewalk, they planted New  
107 Zealand Flax in the trees wells for a buffer.

108 Staff Member Dixon stated it looks wonderful and praised Board Member Miller for his work.

109 Chair Vandervelden stated she is a fan of flax as it has its purpose in gardening and fills in well.  
110 Board Member Miller stated this species is rainbow, which will have a nice color to the leaves, it  
111 is near the edge of the sidewalk and will have to be trimmed, but the whole idea is to flank it so  
112 nothing will be over the sidewalk. Board Member Miller stated it will be the same with the trees  
113 and you should be able to walk down that sidewalk and not touch a limb.

114 Staff Member Dixon stated Staff will send the Board a copy of the SRTS flyover video.

115 **Board Member/Staff Closing Comments**

116 Board Member Childs commented that he has some concerns regarding his inventory, including  
117 the plum trees near Al Pierce, the Birch trees around the Fire Department and on Hall Street. The  
118 Commission and Staff discussed the history surrounding the Al Pierce trees, the fact they are rotten  
119 and need to be removed. It was noted a plan should be made for their removal.

120 The Board and Staff discussed the Birch trees near the Fire Department and Hall Street noting they  
121 are rotten, have outgrown the tree wells and are causing sidewalk damage. Board Member Childs  
122 commented Birch trees are not good long-term street trees.

123 Staff Member Dixon discussed the complications of removing the trees on Hall Street, noting the  
124 extensive damage to the sidewalk, curb and gutter that will need to be replaced once the trees are  
125 removed. Staff Member Dixon stated it is the City's responsibility, and the consensus of abutting  
126 property owners is to have them removed, but the removal is dependent on the City's budget. Staff  
127 Member Dixon further stated he has provided a cost to the City Administration Department and  
128 hopefully if the budget is good, we can get funding for it in the next fiscal year. Staff Member  
129 Dixon further stated if the availability of funds is confirmed before July 1<sup>st</sup>, he would like to  
130 remove the Hall Street trees and then move forward with the repairs.

131 Board Member Childs encouraged the Board to use the GIS link tree inventory he created, which  
132 shows tree locations, pictures, and tree specifications, including height, diameter, sidewalk  
133 damage, etc. Staff Member Dixon praised Board Member Childs for his work.

134 Board Member Miller encouraged the Board to take a look at the new trees wells on 4<sup>th</sup> Street. A  
135 discussion commenced regarding their size and the fact they are "knock out" wells.

136 A discussion commenced regarding the size of the Oak tree near Jenny's shoes, the sidewalk  
137 damage it is creating, the damage on Curtis Avenue as a result of trees, and the fact that these  
138 issues are a result of planting in the 1970s.

139 Board Member Child's asked Board Member Miller for input on information in GIS data base.  
140 Board Member Miller advised he will set a date to do that.

141 **Adjourn**

142 There being no further business to come before the Tree Board, by consensus of the Tree Board,  
143 Chair Vandervelden adjourned the meeting at 12:57 p.m.

144 **APPROVED BY THE TREE BOARD ON THE 23<sup>rd</sup> DAY OF JUNE 2021.**

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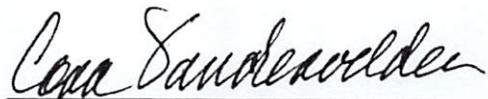
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Attest:

  
Kefli Burnette, Staff

  
Cora Vandervelden, Chair