

**CITY OF COOS BAY  
TREE BOARD MINUTES  
JANUARY 23, 2020**

**Members Present:** Cora Vandervelden, Meredith Childs, Catherine Walworth, Rex Miller, and Haley Lagasse

**Members Absent:** Ariann Lyons, Blair Holman and Brian Allen

**City Staff Present:** Randy Dixon, Operations Administrator; Jon Eck, Operations Superintendent; and Kelli Burnette

**Guests Present:** Jim Behrends

**Location:** City Hall Conference Room

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**CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL**

Chair Vandervelden called the meeting to order at 12:08 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 21, 2019 MINUTES**

Chair Vandervelden asked if there were any changes or corrections to the minutes. There were none.

*Board Member Miller moved and Board Member Lagasse seconded the motion to approve the November 21, 2019, minutes as presented. Motion carried by unanimous vote.*

**REQUESTS FOR REMOVAL**

- 2.1 After the fact - 422 S. Wall.** Staff Member Eck reported the tree is a big old Fir that sheds branches all of the time and that it interferes with the addition the property owner is putting on his house. Staff Member Eck reported the owner is removing the tree at his own expense.
- 2.2 Gould Law Offices Update.** Staff Member Eck reported Staff has removed the trees in the City parking lot next to the Gould Law Offices on Commercial Ave., as approved at the October 17, 2019 Tree Board Meeting. Staff Member Eck stated they will be going back to grind the stumps below grade.

A discussion commenced regarding City owned parking lots. Staff Member Dixon reported he will get a map for the Board to review and explained the City has a landscaping plan for City parking lots, which he will share with the Board as well.

Staff Member Dixon updated the Board on the Eastside SRTS project on 6<sup>th</sup> and D Streets reporting crews are clearing the right of way on 6<sup>th</sup> Ave., where new sidewalks and retaining walls will be put in place. Staff Member Dixon reported Staff is working with Pacific Power in regard to their utility poles, the project should be in full swing by early March, and he will likely be asking the Board to review a site plan for the replanting of trees in April.

A discussion commenced regarding the recent waterline replacement in that area and the overgrowth of pampas grass and the invasive Holly tree on City property. The Board and Staff discussed that both the pampas grass and Holly tree are considered invasive species in the City ordinance and can be removed.

A discussion commenced regarding the recent beautification project/program and the overgrowth of invasive species in those areas. Staff Member Dixon reported he will reach out to ODOT as they are supposed to take care of that maintenance.

Staff and the Board discussed contracting with an herbicide spraying agency like they had in the past for maintenance of invasive species.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **3.1 Urban Renewal Forestry Plan and Street Tree Plan.**

Staff Member Dixon led a discussion regarding the Urban Forestry Plan and Street Tree Plan. Staff Member Dixon reported that the components for the Urban Renewal Forestry Plan are ready to go, but that there is an issue with funding. Staff reported that they discussed developing a street tree plan as discussed by the board with the City Manager and it was determined that creating a street tree plan/inventory could open potential litigation because of the lack of maintenance funding. Staff explained that the Tree Board does not have its own budget, stated he has requested \$20,000 to create a plan, discussed various city programs and priorities, the fact that the Parks Department is lacking funding, and reiterated that he has requested funding to move forward- as money is needed to put staff in the field to do the inventory. Board Member Miller commented that the block area he did on 4<sup>th</sup> Street took about an hour.

A discussion commenced regarding the 4<sup>th</sup> Street and Eastside SRTS projects being funded mostly by grants.

A discussion commenced about obtaining volunteers to inventory the City trees. Board Member Walworth stated she would reach out to the Key Club to see if they would be interested and Board Member Miller commented that it would take about a half a day to walk around and complete the inventory in the downtown area.

The Board and Staff discussed various coding options for a map, such as dots, shapes, color coding and legends.

Board Member Miller and Board Member Childs volunteered to inventory the existing species in the downtown area.

The Board discussed different kinds of maps showing as-built and then something changes, update the map, and having a master map and sectional maps.

Board Member Miller and Childs requested that several 11x17 street maps be printed for their use in conducting the inventory, showing just the streets and buildings and City owned property.

Another discussion commenced regarding map design and what type would be best for importing into GIS and possibly using a GPS system.

## **CITIZEN INPUT/COMMENT**

Guest Jim Behrends asked the Board about the recent Empire rehab and if trees were going to be replanted in the sidewalks on Newmark and what the cost would be. Staff Member Dixon stated the Board decided to put low-laying bushes in those areas due to the power line infrastructure. Mr. Behrends requested to be on the agenda when this is discussed again on the next agenda.

Mr. Behrends then asked the Board about the new bumpouts in Empire and what will be going in there. Staff Member Dixon stated the City is working with Coos Watershed and a plan is being put together to put in native material, which should be ready by the end of February.

Mr. Behrends suggest the Board complete their tree inventory using aerial photos. The Board explained that would be hard to do because of outdated imagery and the difficulty in identifying the exact type of species.

A discussion commenced regarding the Empire bumpouts being native with a mix of heathers that are already in there and using the existing irrigation.

Staff Member Eck suggested making the maps for the inventory on waterproof paper.

A discussion commenced regarding the neck-down pattern of the roads in the empire area and the potential issues in the event of a natural disaster.

#### **BOARD MEMBER/STAFF COMMENTS**

The next meeting will be February 27, 2020, in the City Hall Conference Room commencing at 12:00 p.m.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

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

APPROVED BY THE TREE BOARD ON THE 27<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2020.



Cora Vandervelden, Chair

Attest:   
Kelli Burnette, City Staff