

CITY OF COOS BAY TREE BOARD MINUTES SEPTEMBER 24, 2020

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 were City Staff, Randy Dixon, Operations Administrator, and Kelli Burnette, Board Members, Catherine Walworth, Brian Allen, and Blair Holman. Attending remotely by teleconference, was Staff Member, Jon Eck, Operations Superintendent, and Board Members Ariann Lyons and Haley Lagasse

Approval of the February 27, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Board Member Lagasse asked for a correction to the spelling of her name in the minutes. The correction was noted.

Staff Member Dixon asked for a motion to approve the minutes as corrected.

Board Member Walworth moved and Board Member Holman seconded the motion to approve the February 27, 2020, minutes as corrected. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Citizen Input

There was none.

Tree Removal Requests

- 4.1 810 Newmark - Staff Member Dixon and Staff Member Eck explained the tree at 810 Newmark had to be removed due to the new pedestrian signal crossing, noting the tree was too close to the intersection and caused visibility safety issues.
- 4.2 12th Street – 1222 Minnesota - Staff Member Eck reported the owner of 1222 Minnesota contacted the city about removing a large willow tree abutting his property at the corner of Minnesota and S. 12th Street due to concerns of the tree falling on his home. Staff Member Eck reported evaluating the tree and advising the homeowner that he would need to hire a certified arborist to assess the tree and remove it at this own expense. Staff Member Eck reported he does not believe the tree has been removed at this time. Staff Member Dixon stated an arborist report needs to be provided to the City and the issue possibly referred to code enforcement.
- 4.3 SW Corner of 6th and Commercial – Staff Member Eck reported the flowering plum tree was a safety hazard, hanging over roadway, and had to be removed. Patrick Myers Tree Service assessed the tree and recommended removal.
- 4.4 1106 Hemlock – Staff Member Eck reported the trees abutting 1106 Hemlock are dead and are a safety concern. It was noted the trees had not yet been removed. Staff Member Dixon stated the property owner would need to obtain arborist report.

Board Member Walworth moved and Board Member Holman seconded the motion for the property owner to proceed with removal of the trees. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

- 4.5 SE Corner of City Hall - Noble Fir – Staff Member Dixon read Staff Member Eck’s email regarding the history of the tree, how it was donated, that it has been unhealthy for years and is dying. Staff Member Eck reported he has been working with Board Member Miller to maintain the tree, but the board should begin to consider the removal of the tree as it will be necessary at some point.

The Board and Staff discussed evaluating the soils and replanting.

Board Member Walworth moved and Board Member Holman seconded the motion to approve removal of the tree. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Staff and the Board discussed putting together a planting diagram and master plan for landscaping at City Hall.

- 4.6 Dangerous Tree in Mingus Park – Staff Member Dixon provided the Board with a recap of the dying Monterey Pine in Mingus Park near the picnic shelter. A discussion commenced about the tree deteriorating prior to the sewer repair work a few years ago and the fact the trees health has continued to deteriorate. Board Member Holman commented the tree should be removed as soon as possible.

Board Member Holman moved and Board Member Allen seconded the motion to approve removal of the tree. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Staff Member Dixon explained Staff has taken the initiative and the City has hired Patrick Myers Tree Service to remove the tree which is scheduled for Tuesday, September 29. Staff Member Dixon explained equipment will be necessary for the removal and Pacific Power also has to assist due to power lines. It was noted a public service announcement will be released on the 25th to notify the public.

- 4.7 2550 Koosbay Blvd. – Staff Member Eck reported the property owner would like to remove a maple leaf tree behind his property. The Board agreed the tree should be completely removed as opposed to topping the tree. It was noted in the property owner’s request for removal that he would plant other maple trees in other locations to mitigate the loss of this tree. Staff and the Board discussed locations for planting new trees, including the location in Eastside where the new sidewalks are going in.

Board Member Walworth moved and Board Member Lagasse seconded the motion to approve the removal of the tree.

Staff Member Dixon reported City staff will issue a letter to the property owner advising of the Board’s approval to remove the tree and the acceptance of his offer to plant more trees at another location. Staff Member Eck reiterated the property owner wants to remove the tree, not top it, and is aware that it is at his own expense.

Update on Tree Maps

Staff Member Dixon reported the City GIS Coordinator had been working on maps with Board Member Miller. Further discussion was tabled until December.

Board Member/Staff Comments

Staff and the Board discussed the dangerous trees on Hall Avenue between 6th and 7th Streets that were identified before the coronavirus pandemic. Staff Member Dixon stated the trees need to be removed and the sidewalks replaced, but the cost of doing so is expensive, potentially between \$70,000-\$100,000.00. Staff Member Eck commented at least one tree near 3rd Street also needs to be removed. Staff Member Dixon stated this is a project he will be putting into the upcoming City budget. Board Member Walworth asked if the trees posed any danger other than the lifting sidewalks. Staff Member Dixon reported there is not. Staff Member Dixon stated the trees in discussion on Hall Avenue are clearly City trees and not the responsibility of the abutting homeowners.

Board Member Holman commented on the lack of maintenance of the landscape at the Visitor's Information Center and asked if the City could take better care of it or hire someone to, as it does not look good for visitors. Member Holman commented that the planted trees still have labels on them, some of the trees and shrubs are dead and leaves are everywhere. Board Member Walworth commented that it should be taken care of and that it sounds like the trees were not planted properly to begin with. Staff Member Dixon commented that it comes down to funding and getting approval from the budget committee. Staff and the Board discussed volunteers and establishing the landscaping vs. maintenance.

Adjourn

There being no other business to come before the Tree Board, by consensus of the Tree Board, Staff Member Dixon adjourned the meeting at 12:46 p.m.

APPROVED BY THE TREE BOARD ON THE 29th DAY OF JANUARY, 2021.


Cora Vandervelden, Chair

Attest: 
Kelli Burnette, City Staff