

**CITY OF COOS BAY
TREE BOARD MINUTES
May 9, 2019**

Members Present: Chair, Cora Vandervelden, Ariann Lyons, Blair Holman, and Brian Allen
Members Absent: Catherine Walworth, Meredith Childs, Grant Walding and Rex Miller
City Staff Present: Randy Dixon, Operations Administrator; Jon Eck, Operations Superintendent; and Pam Patton
Guests Present: Bev Meyers, Choshi Gardens Volunteer & Parks Commissioner
Location: City Hall

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

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

CITIZEN INPUT/PUBLIC COMMENT

2.1 Bev Meyers discussed her concern regarding a Willow tree on the hill between 5th & 6th in Eastside leaning over the street so much so that you cannot walk or drive under it any anymore. Bev indicated the Neighborhood Watch volunteers have offered to take care of the curb section. Randy advised that any questions or safety concerns need to be addressed to the City so the tree can be evaluated. An arborist has to determine whether or not it is a safety issue.

2.2 Bev Meyers requested City Staff to take care of the Laurel hedge over the maintenance gate as she and Sonny can no longer do it. Bev also advised Staff of the Laurel at the drainage ditch, and Laurel over the sidewalk near the Choshi Gardens sign at 10th and Commercial as well as a leaning tree in that area. Staff indicated they would look into those areas.

2.3 Bev Meyers asked Staff about trees hanging over into parking lanes and corners/vision clearance areas. Staff advised in residential areas it is the abutting property owner's responsibility to maintain. Staff and Bev discussed that as a neighbor she could advise the property owner that it is their responsibility to maintain those areas.

NEW BUSINESS

3.1 Tree Removal Requests. Staff advised the Board that in the future Staff will present a PowerPoint Presentation regarding tree removal requests to reduce paper usage.

3.1.1 942 S. 5th (4/29). The Board and Staff discussed the Cherry Tree removed from this location by the power company, due to the trunk splitting, the remnants of the stump, and the remaining Cherry Tree that appears to be in poor shape. Staff advised that Staff would grind the existing stump because the property owner was not properly advised of the requirements. Further discussion was held regarding the original request being approximately one to two years old, authorization was granted for the removal of the one tree but not the other, and that the property owner would be financially responsible for the removal of the remaining tree.

Staff and the Board discussed clarification of removing the tree to include grinding the stump and the fact that it needs to be very specific. It was decided for purposes of this Tree Board that when

tree removal is discussed it includes removing the tree and the grinding/removal of the stump, unless otherwise stated. A discussion commenced regarding policy and ordinance language.

The Board and Staff tabled the issue and will request the property owner resubmit a request for the removal of the second tree, which would include an arborist report.

3.1.2 229 N. Main – After the Fact (4/24) – Hazardous tree. Roots were separating from the ground. Pacific Power agreed to have their tree contractor remove the top to make it safe. City hired Patrick Myers to remove the remainder of the tree. Staff advised that Wrights Tree service completed the tree removal as they were on site.

3.1.3 375 N. Wasson (4/15) – Tree in alleyway has limbs that are snapping and it is leaning toward the house. Steve Holmes Tree Service has looked at this tree and determined that it needs to have some branches removed. Overall, the tree is still healthy and will be left in place. A Discussion commenced that this tree is looked at every two to three years.

3.1.4 608 S. Wasson (3/27) – Homeowner didn't want to wait for the Tree Board because he had access to a chipper that Saturday, 3/30. Staff did a site visit and permitted the dangerous Alder at the corner of Webster & Wasson to be removed. Staff reported that all of the other trees looked pretty healthy, they just needed to have the ivy removed and brush cut back.

3.1.5 2395 N. 10th (abutting N. 10th at Underwood) - After the Fact (1/11) – Dangerous trees. One had already fallen; another tree was leaning toward the house and remaining trees have rotten centers. The trees were authorized for removal for safety and the work was completed by the property owner.

3.1.6 350 S. Cammann After the Fact (12/31) The tree roots have destroyed the sidewalk and the tree had a lot of rot. The tree was removed as part of sidewalk repair, was rotting and was unsafe.

OLD BUSINESS

4.1 4th and Anderson by US Bank – Staff reported that the tree removal was scheduled for April 29th, but the tree service forgot, so it is now scheduled for removal on May 10th.

Randy advised the Board that several of the trees in the downtown area have been removed because they were the wrong species, there are many more to go, many of which will be taken care of during the sidewalk/ADA ramp project, and the correct species will be replanted.

4.2 John Topits Park – 1.) Leaning tree was dangerous and removed to protect public. The Board and Staff discussed the exact location and the fact that there are two more dead trees over by Crocker. Chair Vandervelden will send Staff pictures. Staff reported that he will be having a crew out there assessing other trees as it appears there are few issues in that area. 2) Tree has split and is a danger to public, dangerous tree is next to pathway and was removed immediately (picture shown). 3) Lower Lake of John Topits Park, Marker #17, hazardous tree leaning into another tree across trail. Tree removed to make safe for public. 4) Hazardous tree in danger of falling on the trail and removed to eliminate danger to public. A discussion commenced regarding the likelihood that the damage was caused by the storm in January/February.

4.3 Frisbee Golf Course-Mingus Park (7/17) – Top broke out of the tree and was still in the air. Tree was removed for safety to the public.

BOARD MEMBER/STAFF COMMENTS

Board Member Lyons moved and Board Member Allen seconded the motion to approve the November 8, 2018, minutes as presented. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Board Member Lyons moved and Board Member Allen seconded the motion to approve the April 5, 2018, minutes as corrected. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Staff asked Jon to add 321 S. 5th Street to his list of tree inspections.

Staff stated there are four board terms expiring in June. Staff further stated Cora Vandervelden and Blair Holman agreed to continue serving on the Board, that she has not heard from Rex Miller or Meredith Childs, and that Grant Walding has resigned his position. The Board and Staff discussed requirements necessary to serve on the Board.

There being no further business to come before the Tree Board, by consensus of the Tree Board, Chair Vandervelden adjourned the meeting at 1:00 p.m.

APPROVED BY THE TREE BOARD ON THE 17th DAY OF OCTOBER, 2019


Cora Vandervelden, Chair

Attest: 
City Staff