

**CITY OF COOS BAY
TREE BOARD MINUTES
October 17, 2019**

Members Present: Cora Vandervelden, Blair Holman, Catherine Walworth, Rex Miller, Brian Allen, and Haley Lagesse

Members Absent: Ariann Lyons and Meredith Childs

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

Guests Present: None

Location: City Hall Conference Room

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Chair Vandervelden called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MAY 9, 2019 MINUTES

Chair Vandervelden asked for a motion to approve the minutes.

Board Member Miller moved and Board Member Walworth seconded the motion to approve the May 9, 2019, minutes as presented. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

APPOINTMENT/RE-APPOINTMENT OF BOARD MEMBERS UPDATE

Staff Member Kelli Burnette reported City Council, on June 18, 2019, re-appointed Rex Miller, Meredith Childs and Blair Holman and appointed Haley Lagesse to the Board.

CITIZEN INPUT/PUBLIC COMMENT

There was none.

NEW BUSINESS

5.1 Tree Removal Requests.

5.1.1 **178 Commercial Street (10/1/19).** Staff Member Jon Eck reported the property owner is concerned with the tree affecting the foundation of the structure. Jon stated staff will be removing the tree. A discussion commenced regarding the tree being an original sunset maple and the fact there is a cherry tree down the road that is a problem as well.

Staff Member Randy Dixon gave a brief synopsis of the tree board goals and commented that there should not be any fruit producing trees in the ROW for safety and litter concerns. Randy advised the Board he would send them a list of trees approved for the ROW.

The Board and Staff discussed bigger wells, wider sidewalks, meeting ADA requirements, and metal grates.

Board Member Miller gave a brief history of when and why sunset maples were planted in the downtown area. It was noted that all sunset maples need be replaced

with something standard, like an Armstrong Maple, and that is it important to continue with the same species down commercial.

Randy advised the board that the City has a sidewalk program where the City will demo the part of the sidewalk that needs fixed if the owner will replace it. Randy also stated that at this point in time there is nothing that can be done about the widths of the sidewalks and all the City can do is make them safe.

Board Member Walworth commented that there should not be a tree at this location given the location of the eaves on the building. A discussion commenced regarding planter boxes and bushes.

The Board decided that the tree at 178 Commercial should be removed and no tree should be replanted in that location.

5.1.2 570 S. Wall Street (8/9/19). Jon Eck advised the property owner has a ROW permit for a fence in the ROW, that the dead tree is in the ROW and Staff has advised the property owners that they can proceed with removal of the tree. Kelli will call the owner to follow up and see if the tree has been removed.

5.1.3 7th & Ingersoll (after the fact). Jon Eck advised the tree had broken and was deemed dangerous. Staff removed the broken limb and advised the property owner that the tree needed to be removed, which the property owner has done.

5.1.4 S. 6th Near Bennett (after the fact). Jon Eck reported this was an emergency call, the limbs had gone into the utility lines and the utility company was on site and removed the hazard. Jon further explained that all three trees were dangerous and had to be removed.

5.1.5 Webster Between Marple & Wall (after the fact). Jon Eck reported this was a safety issue as well, lots of ivy in the Alder tree, and staff, along with one of the tree contractors the City works with removed as needed.

5.1.6 243 W. Commercial (10/16/19). Jon Eck reported the owner is concerned with the trees right next to the building. The property owner has asked that the trees be removed and replaced with something that does not encroach on the building. Staff commented that the City owns the parking lot, but not the building and that these trees have been limbed/removed in the past. Randy asked the Board for a recommendation. The Board agreed the trees should be removed. Jon reported they would be taken down in the next few weeks.

Board Member Miller moved and Board Member Walworth seconded the motion to allow the city to remove the trees in that area. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Staff and the Board discussed that once the trees are removed, they will assess the situation and decide what should be replanted in that area.

5.2 Discussion regarding Urban Forestry Plan. Randy advised the tree board that staff is ready to move forward on the Urban Forestry Plan, that the research has been completed, all the components are ready to go, and they just need to be put together and approved. Randy advised the Board that several meetings, once or twice a month, will likely be required to get it drafted and ready for review and approval by Council. The Board agreed that Thursdays at the end of the month would work well, no first or second Thursdays. Randy explained the plan will be to prepare the Plan in sections and will probably take four to five months. The Board asked that Staff send

out draft language for review prior to the scheduled meetings. Staff agreed. Staff will also put together a proposed meeting schedule.

OLD BUSINESS

6.1 Progress of downtown tree removal near Wells Fargo Bank. Staff reported that most trees have been removed and the stumps will be ground as sidewalk projects proceed.

Board Member Walworth asked if the stumps near the art museum will be ground as part of the sidewalk project as well. Staff advised that they will and stated the City has purchased new equipment that can grind below the surface so stumps will not longer be left once the tree has been removed.

Staff commented that most of the downtown trees are not approved species.

Jon Eck advised the Board that there will be sidewalk replacement work near Banner Bank that will affect two trees. Randy further explained that the project at Banner Bank has taken priority over the stumps and trees at the Art Museum and 2nd Street due to ODOT involvement and ADA ramp requirements.

Randy further explained that the ADA ramps are a challenge and there will be several discussions and meetings about ADA ramps coming into compliance with current standards. It was noted that ODOT is current investigating and fining jurisdictions if they are not in compliance with current codes.

BOARD MEMBER/STAFF COMMENTS

There was none.

There being no further business to come before the Tree Board, by consensus of the Tree Board, Chair Vandervelden adjourned the meeting at 12:45 p.m.

APPROVED BY THE TREE BOARD ON THE 21 DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2019.



Cora Vandervelden, Chair

Attest: 
Kelli Burnette, City Staff