

**CITY OF COOS BAY
TREE BOARD MINUTES
NOVEMBER 21, 2019**

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

Members Absent: Ariann Lyons and Blair Holman

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 OCTOBER 17, 2019 MINUTES

Chair Vandervelden asked if there were any changes or corrections to the minutes. Board Member Lagasse requested the minutes be corrected to reflect the correct spelling of her name. Chair Vandervelden then asked for a motion to approve the minutes.

Board Member Lagasse moved and Board Member Walworth seconded the motion to approve the October 17, 2019, minutes as corrected. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

CITIZEN INPUT/COMMENT

There was none.

REQUESTS FOR REMOVAL

- 2.1 After the fact - 7th and Fir – Staff Member Dixon reported the tree limbs were broken and in utility lines. Both Staff and Charter responded and the tree was removed. A discussion commenced regard Board Member Childs assistance in the removal and clean up.
- 2.2 After the fact - 212 S. 5th Banner Bank – Staff Member Dixon reported the trees were removed as part of a sidewalk replacement project and new trees will be planted to City standards.
- 2.3 1835 Ocean Blvd. – property owner states roots are encroaching on sidewalks and building, leaves are clogging gutters and the shade caused rot on the roof. Would like tree removed.

The Board and Staff discussed the condition of the sidewalk, whether or not the tree is in the right of way, and abutting property owner responsibility vs. City responsibility. Staff will review address files to see if there is a right of way permit issued for the tree, and conduct a survey to determine if the tree is in the right of way or on private property.

A discussion commenced regarding the shallow tree roots, the damage it's causing to the sidewalk, and educating property owners on watering their trees.

Chair Vandervelden moved and Board Member Lagesse seconded the motion that Staff validate the tree is a street tree in the right of way, and if it is, authorized Staff to remove the tree because of the damage it is doing to the sidewalk. Motion passed unanimous vote.

- 2.4 After the fact - South side of Thompson, one block east of Woodland (not Broadway) - Staff Member Dixon reported there was a dead roadside tree hazard about thirty-feet tall, decomposing fir or cedar in a clump of hardwood.

Chair Vandervelden requested the description of the tree location be changed from Broadway to Woodland, as Broadway Street is in North Bend.

NEW BUSINESS

- 3.1 Urban Renewal Forestry Plan.

Staff Member Dixon showed the Board the Downtown, Empire District and Newmark Avenue area maps which contain legends of approved tree species, but does not specifically call out what species are allowed in each corridor.

The Board and Staff discussed expanding the Downtown area boundaries to include the library. It was decided the core area should be Market Avenue to the north, Hall Avenue to the south, Broadway Street to the east, and 10th Street to the west. It was noted that the location of the new library would need to be subject to the City's tree standards regardless of its location.

The Board and Staff discussed preparing maps which will show existing trees, their exact location and species, and another map which will show what species will be approved in specific locations. It was noted that existing trees will not be pulled out, but faded out/replaced over time.

Staff Member Dixon suggested that staff print and provide 11 x 17 maps to the Board so they can identify what species they would like in specific locations.

Board Member Miller presented a sample map he has been working on showing specific species and their locations. Board Member Miller explained the color dots on the map identified different types of trees in approximate locations. Board Member Miller explained this is the type of map needed to create uniformity of species in different areas.

Board Member Walworth expressed her concerns about creating monocultures and the spread of disease. The Board and Staff discussed identifying potential issues and having a corrective action in place to mitigate any issues, the fact that maple trees are not prone to disease, and that there should be continuity and consistency especially in the downtown corridor.

Chair Vandervelden suggested researching different species and choosing ones that are typically disease resistant.

A discussion commenced regarding new maps being color coded and containing alpha-numerical and color-coding legends.

The Board and Staff agreed that there should be more stringent requirements for continuity in the downtown area, with more flexibility in the residential and outlying areas, and that the City and Tree Board should enforce the standards imposed. It was noted that

applicants applying to plant trees should be required to notify the City of what species they planted so the maps can be updated.

Staff Member Dixon stated that once the Urban Forestry Plan and maps are adopted, it will all be available online and to the public for easy access. The Board and Staff discussed how the information should be presented to the public including instructions and explanations. Staff Member Dixon stated he would like to mirror what the City of Ashland has done on their website.

Board Member Childs commented that he would prefer that the maps developed be photomaps.

A discussion commenced regarding new development submittal requirements. Staff Member Dixon explained that when it is in planning review, that planning will inform him if it needs to be brought before the Tree Board.

A discussion commenced regarding landscaping for parking lots, including heat islands, wind tunnels and State and Federal regulations. Board Member Miller stated the City landscaping ordinance was recently rewritten and addresses parking lot landscaping requirements.

A Discussion commenced regarding developing more greenery at the City entrances, the tree scape program recently adopted by City Council, support from ODOT and the new Bay Village development by the Coos History Museum.

Staff Member Dixon stated he will bring a proposed alphanumerical, color-coded map of the downtown area to the next meeting which will contain identified species for each of the streets.

3.2 Oak trees near art museum.

Board Member Miller reported the oak trees in front of the art museum are not growing, their roots are slowly dying, they will eventually just fall over, and could be a big concern in the next 15 years or so. Board Member Miller stated the trees look good on the outside, but when he was trimming the trees most if not all of the limbs showed signs of rot on the inside. Board Member Miller passed around a piece of one of the limbs trimmed which show a dark circle which is an indication of rot. Board Member Miller stated the trees do not need to come down right away, and Staff Member Dixon stated he would need to evaluate the situation and would report back to the Board.

3.3 Street tree plan. See 3.1 above.

OLD BUSINESS

4.1 Staff Member Eck commented on Board Member Miller's recent tree work in the downtown corridor, stating the trees have been pruned and should look good for a while.

4.2 Staff Member Dixon asked about the status of the parking lot on Commercial Ave. and N. 3rd St. Staff Member Eck reported the trees have not been removed and that he has advised the building owner the trees will be removed after Christmas. Staff Member Dixon reminded the Board that the parking lot is owned by the City and is open to landscaping options.

4.3 Staff Member Eck commented on the firefighter memorial in the downtown corridor stating that those trees need to be looked at and that he has asked Board Member Miller to come up with a plan to maintain them. It was noted that all of the 11 trees are memorial trees and a cannot just be removed.

BOARD MEMBER/STAFF COMMENTS

The next meeting will be January 23, 2020, in the City Hall Conference Room commencing at 12:00 p.m. Staff will prepare and send a draft map of the downtown area to the board prior to the meeting.

A discussion commenced Board Member Miller's old tree map being used as a base map to get start, which will then be updated.

A discussion commenced regarding the new maps containing to-scale information as to tree size, alpha-numerical and color coding.

ADJOURNMENT

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 23rd DAY OF JANUARY, 2020.



Cora Vandervelden
Cora Vandervelden, Chair

Attest: 
Kelli Burnette, City Staff