

CITY OF COOS BAY TREE BOARD MINUTES

Meeting of April 23, 2015

Tree Board members present: Chair, Rex Miller; Ariann Lyons; Cora Vandervelden and Sarah Crawford

Tree Board members absent: Jake Robinson submitted resignation letter; Kim Singh

Staff Present: Randy Dixon, Jon Eck, Pam Patton

Guest(s): James Hillar

Approval of Minutes: Rex Miller brought the meeting to order and roll call was taken. Rex asked for a motion to accept the minutes of February 4, 2015 as written.

MOTION: Ariann Lyons motioned to accept
SECOND: Cora Vandervelden
DISCUSSION: No
VOTE: Ayes were unanimous. Motion carried

Citizen Input/Public Comment: James Hillar came to support his request for removal at 515 N Wasson. Rex asked that we move Mr. Hillar's request to be first on the agenda.

Old Business: None

New Business:

-- 515 N Wasson -- James Hillar stated trees were leaning towards his fence and house. Jon's site visit notes that the trees were two shore pines and confirmed that they were leaning and the roots were starting to pull up from the ground. His recommendation was for the property owner to remove both trees.

MOTION: Cora Vandervelden agreed with staff's recommendation for both trees to be removed at the owner's expense.
SECOND: Ariann Lyons
DISCUSSION: No
VOTE: Ayes were unanimous. Motion carried for tree removal. Rex requested a follow-up letter be sent to Mr. Hillar.

-- 1171 Elrod -- Daniel & Kristin Rodrigues -- Location of trees is east of 1171 Elrod at vacant lot of 1137 Elrod. The trees were in the alley ROW in between two properties on a steep bank. The trees were ivy laden. New owner agreed to replant trees but not in ROW. It was asked if the alley ROW was heavily used and Jon said that it was not. No further discussion and Rex asked for a motion to remove.

MOTION: Cora Vandervelden motioned to allow property owner to remove trees in the ROW with the property owner re-planting trees.
SECOND: Sarah Crawford
DISCUSSION: No
VOTE: Ayes were unanimous. Motion carried for removal. Rex requested a letter be sent to the property owner.

-- 1913 N 8th – Approximately 60 feet west of N 8th in the Nutwood ROW, property owner feels trees are dangerous. Jon's site investigation stated that there is 1 dead cedar tree at this time and will be removed by the City as time and budget allows. Remaining trees appeared to be healthy. Ariann brought the boards' attention that a few years back a neighbor down the road had made a similar request and was denied. She felt the board needed to remain consistent. Rex asked for a motion.

MOTION: Ariann Lyons motioned to leave the trees with the exception of the dead cedar to be removed by the City when time and budget allowed.
SECOND: Cora Vandervelden
DISCUSSION: No
VOTE: Ayes were unanimous. Motion carried to deny. Rex requested a letter be sent to the property owner.

-- 1562 Lakeshore Dr. – Charles Henson. Request to remove trees in abutting ROW and were up in the power lines. Jon was asked to share his site investigation with the board. The trees were up in the lines but after contacting Skip with Trees Inc., the contractor for PP&L, the lines were not power lines but guide lines supporting service drops and were non-conducting. Skip was familiar with the property and was not concerned that the trees were in the lines and saw no need for the trees to be removed. Jon also stated that the trees were safe and advised that the trees should not be removed. There was discussion among the board about the possible intentions of another home being built. Both Randy and Rex reminded them that this was speculation and the request was to clean and to site prep, which is allowed under the CBMC. There was no further discussion and the chair asked for a motion.

MOTION: Cora Vandervelden motioned, in agreement with staff's advisement, the trees should not be removed at this time.
SECOND: Ariann Lyons
DISCUSSION: No
VOTE: Ayes were unanimous. Motion carried to deny. Rex requested a letter be sent to property owner.

--342 S Marple – Lisa Fischer. Jon brought this situation to the board since the streets department was called out early in the morning as a large limb had broken out of a tree and fell across the road. The tree itself appeared to be in the ROW on an unimproved gravel road and on the street side of the curb return. This is a very large shore pine tree. Jon mentioned that it had been topped previously and now diseased and he would recommend removal due to disease. Randy questioned if it was actually in the ROW. We need to verify that it is in the ROW. Randy will make contact with the property owner before the recommendation to remove. It will at the property owner's expense to remove the tree should it be found in the ROW. At that time, it could develop into the involvement of code enforcement and possibly liening the property.

Randy also mentioned as a general rule, if a tree is 50 percent in ROW it will be City and if 60 percent in ROW, the cost to be that of the property owner. Rex asked for a motion.

MOTION: Ariann Lyons motioned to approve removal of the tree when the City completes its due diligence.

SECOND: Cora Vandervelden

DISCUSSION: No

VOTE: Ayes were unanimous. Motion carried.

-- 1191 Michigan – Guadalupe Cervera. Property owner came to the counter to request to trim/cut branches that are touching her roof. Rex questioned what "trim/cut" meant in reference to the branches. It was decided that staff would coordinate a meeting with owner and an arborist to decide how much to cut for the health of the tree. Rule of thumb is up to 30 percent removal. Rex asked for a motion.

MOTION: Cora Vandervelden motioned to approve upon staff's meeting with an arborist and owner.

SECOND: Ariann Lyons

DISCUSSION: No

VOTE: Ayes were unanimous. Motion carried. Rex requested a letter to be sent to the property owners.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:

Rex brought to the board he was upset with what had been done to the street trees on the corner of 4th & Anderson located at Gami Property Management and Springleaf Financial. Obviously the columnar Maples had been topped purposely so their signs could be seen. He asked that a letter be sent to the property owner. Randy asked that they hold off with the letter to allow him to do a PSA on the Horticultural Practices & Proper Tree Trimming Methods. Allow a couple of weeks following the PSA and then follow up with the letter.

Sarah asked if the city trimmed the Laurel up on N 10th & Hemlock. He responded that they had not gotten there yet. Sarah stated that it appeared that about 30 percent had been trimmed.

Randy told the board that restitution had been received regarding the tree removal located near the WWTP #1. He mentioned again, that if you see trees being cut to give him a call to investigate.

Ariann was pleased to bring kudos to the board. She had an out-of-state couple visiting and viewing property and they had commented that we had a beautiful city and enjoyed all our trees.

Randy reminded the board that Arbor Day was April 28th. Come out to plant at 10am. Trees had been donated.

It was brought to Rex's attention that with Jake's resignation and the non-attendance by Kim Singh, that we could have a difficult time in obtaining a quorum. Rex asked that a letter be prepared and sent to Kim asking what her intentions were and her position with the Tree Board. Depending on Kim's response, Randy will send a notice to Rodger that there are two positions open since we had yet to have a council representative. With Kim's position in question, there could be possibly three positions open.

STAFF COMMENTS


None

MEETING ADJOURNED: 5:08 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Pamela Patton

APPROVED BY THE TREE BOARD ON THE 9th DAY OF July, 2015.

Attest: 
Pamela Patton, Staff


Rex Miller, Chair

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