

**GRANTS PASS URBAN TREE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**Meeting Minutes – February 11, 2019 at 6:30 PM**  
**Courtyard Conference Room**

**Committee Members:**

James Love, Chair  
Stormy Ballenger, Vice Chair  
Michael Holzinger  
Aaron Macpherson - Absent  
Dan McBerty  
Ross Roe - Absent  
Jeff Soash - Absent  
Doug Tripp

**City/Staff/Council Liaisons:**

Joel King (City Council)  
Chad Westbrook (City Parks)  
Jon Brandt – GIS Coordinator

**Guests:**

Roy Lindsay (Mayor)

**AGENDA:**

1. **Roll Call** – Chair Love took roll and started the meeting.
2. **Items from Public:** (opportunity for citizens to share information with the Committee regarding items that are not on the agenda).
  - a. Jason Maki
3. **Minutes**
  - a. **Approval of Minutes:**

**MOTION/VOTE**

**Member Holzinger moved and Member Ballenger seconded the motion to approve the minutes as presented. The vote resulted as follows: “AYES”: Chair Love, Vice Chair Ballenger, Members Holzinger, McBerty, and Tripp. “NAYS”: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Members Macpherson, Roe and Soash.**

**The motion passed.**

4. **Work Session Items:**
  - a. Muni Code research – Committee discussed the Municipal Code in relation to vehicle damage. If a vehicle damages a tree, the driver’s insurance would pay for the damage. This could be put into the Code. There was question on if insurance companies will cover damage to trees. Chad said there have been some instances in the past such as a couple of oaks that got knocked over on Rogue River Highway. There was payment on that case. Perhaps police officers can make note of damaged trees in their report, so the Parks department can follow up. Since they are an investment for the City to maintain, people should be responsible for the damage. Member Holzinger went through the Codes listed with the League of Oregon Cities and Portland has an Urban Forest Fund for trees that are damaged, and they have an Urban Forester on staff. There is also a city in California that has a City Council Resolution for their tree code. Cannon Beach has tree removal without a permit. Eugene has a Code with rules that are very confusing. Councilor King will send an email to the City Attorney copying Chad Westbrook and James Love. They also talked about tree appraisals in urban settings. There is a book that was authored by arborists. The values can be astronomical and are based on psychological value, the neighborhood they are in, etc. Member McBerty asked if there is a tree in Grants Pass that has been damaged by a car that we can’t get replaced? Is it a matter of we have a Code for it but no one has complained about it to make it happen? Is that what

has to happen to get the owner responsible for the tree. Can we get Code to go in there and have a tree planted? Chad explained there was the case in front of Oregon Books where someone took out a Norway Maple and scared up the other one. We weren't notified because there is nothing in the Ordinance that says it has to be replaced so PD doesn't notify us. Oregon Books is responsible for maintaining the trees in the right of way but not responsible for the damage from that accident. There was also a maple at Mycorrhizal that got turned into toothpicks. If the police don't know to notify us, or we don't have a process in place, how will it ever get fixed. If a tree is destroyed what is the process for replacement and who pays for it? If the insurance company pays for it, then what? Is Oregon Books going to maintain that new tree? Do we educate the people that own property in the right of way that they need to maintain them, or do we bring in a City Arborist on the payroll and the City will have to undergo the responsibility? Councilor King suggested making a draft policy. The Mayor stated it would need to become an ordinance. Member Ballenger noted in Los Angeles, if you damage a tree its \$1,000 unless it's a heritage tree and then its \$15,000. She will forward that information to this committee.

- b. Planting a tree for the fall – Jason Maki (Blue Zones Project) had some funds to contribute to a tree planting. Between now and the March committee meeting, members will look at areas for some plantings for trees in rights of way. Preference could be given to trees for single family residences rather than multifamily since it will be that resident that would be responsible for maintenance. A good target area might be the southeast section of town. Committee will keep their eyes open for good locations.
- c. Survey for trees and property values – Committee discussed doing a survey of the tree canopy. Councilor King said the Forest Service does canopy survey's like this for the whole region. They do canopy cover from satellite. It might be available to us for free. Jon Brandt spoke about a tree canopy layer that he has done. It is based on 2004 data and a lot has changed. The next time they do the aerial photography they will see what the company can do for us for a canopy layer. We do new aerials every two years. Dan McBerty mentioned it would be great if we could physically show that between the 2005 or 2010 to know that the canopy is being reduced. Is that available to us? Jon mentioned it would be a lot of work and he doesn't have the best software for Lidar. They could come up with about 5 questions and the City could do Survey Monkey. The Mayor suggested contacting Karen Frerk. He mentioned in the next few months the City will be doing a Citywide survey. It hasn't been done for two years. It's a statistical survey done via phone. He suggested submitting the questions in advance to one person. This will be added to the next agenda.

## **5. Information Sharing:**

### a. Items from Staff –

- Chad handed out Article 23 information and the Scenic Resource Study. Lora is working with a planning consultant that can assist in completing amendments to Article 23. She also got a technical memo from Keller and Associates regarding potential conflicts between Articles 23 and the new storm water management manual, dated December 17, 2018 but she just got it last week. He noted a misprint on the second page under

required space and the tree planting BNPs. It notes 80-ft length but should be 8-ft length.

- Chad mentioned the planting of the tree canopy program trees. He will get most of them planted by end of the week. There are 13 trees. He was asked about the Arbor Day and Chad will be updating his information.
- Chad will also have all the tree signs done for Reinhart Park along the walking trail. There are about 13 of them.

b. Items from Committee Members –

- Member McBerty mentioned technical memo on Article 23 & 25. They discussed conflicts between the storm water Code and the changes to Article 23.
- Jon Brandt (CITY GIS Coordinator) showed the committee how to access the Grants Pass Tree Walk map on the City website. They are also working on a phone app that is point and shoot technology. They discussed the map and technology data. Data is available for Riverside and Reinhart Parks and downloadable from the City website. There is also ArcExplorer as a free, downloadable app through an app store.
- Member McBerty said he talked about trees to the City Council at Strategic Planning. He also mentioned the commercial trees, or lack thereof. Mayor Lindsay stated that item made the list at Strategic Planning and noted that City Council is open to making it better. Our big push is to change Article 23 & 25.

c. Items from City Council Liaison –

- Councilor King talked about the River Road Reserve. There will be a workshop for that on March 18. There is Parks deferred maintenance coming up on April 1. The City is focused on structures, but landscaping and trees could be included. The trees are old and should have to be looked at for maintenance on a sustained basis. Dollar Mountain, if there are legacy trees, it would be worth thinning around them to keep them for the future. We would want to identify any before they start building trails.
- Chad noted that Cathedral Hills has the Nation's largest Knobcone Pine.
- Councilor King went on to say there is an opening for the Parks Committee.
- The Mayor noted there is an opening on Urban Area Planning Commission too.

d. Calendar Events for 2019

- Arbor Day celebration on Saturday, April 1 at Reinhart Park. If they can get trees they would like to hand them out to the kids.
- Growers Market booth. Joel worked on getting trees. BLM may be able to help. It's in process.

**6. Future Agenda Building for Next Meeting**

- a. Damaged tree issue and potential fines.
- b. Small projects for Blue Zones.
- c. Five questions for Tree Survey.

**7. Adjournment**

- a. Member McBerty moved and Member Ballenger seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:06 PM. All approved.

Next Meeting: March 11, 2019

Minutes prepared by Donna Anderson, City Administration.