

GRANTS PASS URBAN TREE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes – May 10, 2021 6:30 PM
Council Chambers Room

Committee Members:

Doug Tripp, Chair
Dan McBerty, Vice Chair
Michael Holzinger - Telephone
James Love
Jeff Soash
Logan Werner
Tami McBerty
Chris Rudd - Absent

City/Staff/Council Liaisons:

Joel King (City Councilor)
Tony Mecum (Parks)
Chad Westbrook (Parks)

Guests:

Eric DeBold, City of Eugene – Microsoft Teams

AGENDA:

1. Roll Call:

- a. Chair Tripp took roll and started the meeting at 6:30pm.

2. Introductions:

- a. None

3. City of Eugene Forestry Presentation and Discussion

- a. Eric DeBold of the City of Eugene discussed urban densification, canopy loss, and tree protection measures used by his city.
 - 1. Eugene is losing 1% of its canopy each year.
 - 2. Eugene receives over \$5 million in stormwater benefits from their public trees, annually.
- b. Trees and Sidewalks
 - 1. Eugene repairs the sidewalk and determines if tree retention is possible. Will prune roots if necessary to preserve the tree. Sidewalk panel is removed and the City determines if roots can be pruned or shaved before new panel is installed.
 - 2. Tripstop is used in new sidewalk installations to lower the likelihood of future trip hazards. This device is installed between panels and it raises both panels if roots push up on sidewalk, which maintains a continuous surface.
 - 3. City of Eugene has an infrastructure conflict manual.
 - 4. 20 years ago, the City had little motivation to retain trees over sidewalks.
- c. Watering trees
 - 1. City of Eugene has a watering truck and part time staff member who waters all new tree plantings during establishment.
 - 2. Approximately \$400 per tree for planting and watering in-house.
 - 3. Watering is funded through a street tree contract with the developer.

4. Items from Public:

- a. None.

5. Approval of Minutes:

- a. Approval of Minutes from April 12, 2021.

MOTION/VOTE

Member Soash moved and Member Holzinger seconded the motion to approve the minutes as submitted. The vote resulted as follows: “AYES”: Chair Tripp, Members Holzinger, Soash, Werner, and Love. “NAYS”: None. Abstain: Vice Chair McBerty and Member T. McBerty. Absent: Member Rudd.

The motion passed.

6. Action Items:

- a. Landscape Plan for Washington Boulevard Islands
 1. Council approved the replacement of cherries in all Washington BLVD islands and the Committee discussed alternative species to Black Tupelos for the additional two islands.
 2. Committee discussed keeping Black Tupelos for the most southern island since the northern island was already assigned Black Tupelos.
 3. Committee discussed repositioning the Black Tupelos over the water line. Urban forest explained that Council already approved the position of the trees to be on the west side of the islands to maintain 10-foot distance from water and sewer lines. Public Works requires trees to be 10 feet from utility lines. Committee requested urban forester ask if the tree positions can be over the water line.
 4. Committee discussed multiple species for "island 3." There exists one red maple along with the cherries in this island. The committee focused on Tulip Trees (*Liriodendron tulipifera*) for the cherry replacements in "island 3," as proposed by Member Love.

MOTION/VOTE

Member Soash moved and Vice Chair McBerty seconded the motion to recommend that the replacement tree species for median "island 3" of NW Washington Boulevard be Tuliptrees (*Liriodendron tulipifera*) and all other replacement trees be Black Tupelos (*Nyssa sylvatica*). The vote resulted as follows: "AYES": Chair Tripp, Vice Chair McBerty, Members Holzinger, Love, Soash, Werner, and T. McBerty. "NAYS": None. Abstain: None. Absent: Member Rudd.

- b. South Island (Paved) of Washington Boulevard
 1. Committee discussed the current condition of this paved island, which is seen as being cracked and of deteriorated quality.
 2. Committee discussed the limited space for any new tree plantings, including the presence of underground utilities and the narrow width of the island's southern half.
- c. Tree Protection Policies – Subcommittee
 1. Chairman Tripp expressed interest in heading the subcommittee.
 2. No other member volunteered to join him.
 3. The subcommittee will report back at the next meeting.
- d. Tree Planting Locations – Subcommittee
 1. Member Werner proposed the Desert Willow for the planting strip along the E street side of the CenturyLink building.
 2. Member T. McBerty and Vice Chair McBerty volunteered to be on the subcommittee and requested 90 days to report back.
 3. Committee reviewed the rendering from Member Love for the E street planting strip near the CenturyLink building.
 4. Councilor King recommended that the subcommittee should list possible species for the locations they identify for new trees.
- e. Update on Workshop for Xeric Landscaping
 1. Urban forester updated the Committee on the May 3 Council workshop that included a presentation by the Community Development Director on the landscape amendment progress.
 2. Council requested a list of updates for the next presentation.

3. Councilor King stated that he will ask for the amendment to be back on the Council's agenda.
4. Member Love requested a copy of the documents shared from staff with Council on the amendments.

7. Matters from Committee Members and Staff:

- a. Council received a presentation from the Oregon Department of Forestry on its 2020 award for Oregon Tree City of the Year. The presentation was given on May 5, 2021 at the beginning of the meeting.
- b. Councilor King recognized the recent tree accomplishments of the Committee, including the Heritage Trees, Washington Boulevard, Hiroshima Peace Tree, and more.

8. Future Agenda Building for Next Meeting

- a. Update on Landscape Amendments
- b. Fall Arbor Day Planning
- c. Update on Tree Protection Policies from the Tree Protection Subcommittee

9. Adjournment

- a. Chair Tripp moved and Member Holzinger seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at approximately 8:36 PM. All present approved.

Next Meeting: June 14, 2021 at 6:30 PM

Minutes prepared by Tony Mecum, Urban Forester, Community Development & Public Works