

**GRANTS PASS URBAN TREE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**Meeting Minutes – June 14, 2021 6:30 PM**  
**Council Chambers Room**

**Committee Members:**

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

**City/Staff/Council Liaisons:**

Joel King (City Councilor) - Absent  
Tony Mecum (Parks)

**Guests:**

Steve Nelson

**AGENDA:**

**1. Roll Call:**

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

**2. Introductions:**

- a. None

**3. Items from Public:**

- a. Steve Nelson spoke about a grove of trees removed during a recent development. Stated that the trees should have been preserved and that the City has a bad track record when it comes to protecting trees. Steve requested that the Committee recommend a law that will protect green zones in the city. He mentioned California as an example where green zones are started to be protected.
- b. Committee discussed the location of the development mentioned by Steve Nelson. Committee requested information on current tree protection regulations from the urban forester.

**4. Approval of Minutes:**

- a. Approval of Minutes from May 10, 2021.

**MOTION/VOTE**

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

**5. Action Items:**

- a. Update on Landscape Amendments
  - 1. Urban forester informed the Committee that there were no new updates but that the urban forester will be meeting with the Director of Community Development to go over next steps for staff.
  - 2. Chair Tripp requested another update next month.
- b. Fall Arbor Day Planning
  - 1. Urban forester requested the Committee’s preference on a fall Arbor Day celebration, including the date, location, and type of tree to plant. Urban forester asked if the date should align with a peace-related date to honor the Hiroshima Peace Tree.

2. Vice Chair McBerty asked if the event would be separate from a fall tree walk. Urban forester confirmed that it would be different.
3. Chair Tripp asked if last year's location at Croxton (which was cancelled due to the pandemic) would work.
4. Committee discussed how it might coordinate with one of the schools.
5. Member Werner suggested Gilbert Creek Park so that North Middle School and Highland Elementary School could participate.
6. Committee discussed October as the potential month for the celebration.
7. Vice Chair McBerty stated that he could talk to the school(s) for participation as he's done in years past.
8. Committee agreed on Monday, October 4 for the celebration at Gilbert Creek Park.
9. Committee agreed on two trees to plant: American Beech and Pacific Yew.

#### **MOTION/VOTE**

**Chair Tripp requested a vote for the American Beech and Pacific Yew for the Arbor Day Fall Celebration. The vote resulted as follows: "AYES": Chair Tripp, Vice Chair McBerty, Members Holzinger, Soash, and Werner. "NAYS": None. Abstain: none. Absent: Members Love, T. McBerty, and Rudd.  
The motion passed.**

- c. Update on Tree Protection Policies from the Tree Protection Subcommittee
  1. Chair Tripp explained his initial research into tree protection policies. He explained how it was difficult to compare our City's policies with other municipalities. Chair Tripp explained that Ashland was of worthy comparison. He mentioned that there are protection for private tree and those protections might be something Grants Pass could explore adopting, including code that protects trees on slopes for erosion control.
  2. Urban forester asked the Committee if they would like to speak with a member of the Ashland Tree Commission at their next meeting. Chair Tripp said he would find it helpful. The Committee agreed to speaking with a member of the Ashland Tree Commission for 30 minutes. Urban forester stated that he would coordinate with Ashland to see if they would like to participate.

#### **6. Matters from Committee Members and Staff:**

- a. Chair Tripp updated the Committee on the City Council's approval of the tulip trees for the Washington Boulevard median island replanting project.
- b. Urban forester briefly reviewed his tree comment template that he uses for site plan reviews of developments in town. The template lists tree-related codes in the City's Development and Municipal Codes and allows for comments on whether the site plan sufficiently meets the requirements.
  1. Chair Tripp requested that the list of tree codes be sent to the Committee.
  2. Member Holzinger brought up a zoning in the City that has certain tree removal regulations. He said he would send the relevant code to the urban forester.
- c. Member Soash mentioned a dying tree at the intersection of Candy Ln and D St.
- d. Urban forester informed the Committee of the upcoming tree inventory days – every Tuesdays for two hours.
- e. Member Werner asked what had infested so many ashes in town. Urban forester explained that the Oregon Department of Forestry could not identify the insect

species, but informed the urban forester over email that the insects would likely only defoliate and not kill the trees.

- f. Chair Tripp asked what happened with the trees at Debo Park recently. Branches were seen snapped off trees. Urban forester explained that the trees were vandalized. Chair Tripp requested that the Parks maintenance staff be thanked for their work fixing the situation.
- g. Member Soash thanked Steve for attending the meeting and expressing his concerns.

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

- a. Ashland Tree Commission Discussion
- b. Update on Landscape Amendments
- c. Tree Protection Policies
- d. Preserving trees in green strips and during development – update on policies/codes from staff.

**8. Adjournment**

- a. Member Soash moved and Vice Chair McBerty seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at approximately 7:40 PM. All present approved.

**Next Meeting: July 12, 2021 at 6:30 PM**

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