

GRANTS PASS URBAN TREE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes – February 8, 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

City/Staff/Council Liaisons:

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

Guests:

None

AGENDA:

- 1. Roll Call:**
 - a. Chair Tripp took roll and started the meeting at 6:30pm.
- 2. Introductions:**
 - a. None
- 3. Items from Public:** (Opportunity for citizens to share information with the Committee regarding items that are not on the agenda).
 - a. None.
- 4. Approval of Minutes:**
 - a. Approval of Minutes from January 11, 2021.
 1. Member Holzinger identified a correction needed: remove “3.” from Action Items section (b).

MOTION/VOTE

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

- 5. Action Items:**
 - a. Committee Chairperson Elections

MOTION/VOTE

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

- b. Landscape Awards
 1. Oak Court Apartments on A street.
 - i. Chair Tripp and Member Love discussed the merits of this location.
 - ii. The Committee discussed having the urban forester evaluate the location. It was determined that committee members should see each proposed location for themselves.

- iii. The Committee discussed criteria on which to evaluate proposed Landscape Awards. Member Love stated that the historical precedent of such criteria does not exist, though awards have traditionally gone to properties that exceeded the City’s minimum landscaping requirements.
- 2. Cascade Self Storage on Vine Street - Vice Chair McBerty proposed this location for its improved appearance, especially from the interstate.
- 3. Property at or near 545 NE E Street (Ginkgoes) - Chair Tripp proposed this location.
- 4. Grocery Outlet Parking Lot - Councilor King discussed the previous mention of the parking lot at Grocery Outlet.
- 5. Crater Car Wash - Member Love proposed the car wash for an award.
- 6. Storage Units at SE N Street and Gladiola – Member Werner proposed this location.
- 7. Chair Tripp recapped the five locations and requested that committee members visit these locations before the next meeting.
- 8. Councilor King requested that the urban forester send the list of proposed locations to the committee via email. Urban forester agreed.
- c. Heritage Trees
 - 1. Cork oak (*Quercus suber*) at the Water Treatment Plant

MOTION/VOTE

Member Love moved and Member Soash seconded the motion to recommend that the City Council designate the Cork oak (*Quercus suber*) at the Water Treatment Plant as a Heritage Tree. The vote resulted as follows: “AYES”: Chair Tripp, Vice Chair McBerty, Members Holzinger, Soash, Werner, Love, T. McBerty and Rudd. “NAYS”: None. Abstain: None. Absent: None. The motion passed.

- 2. Coast redwoods (*Sequoia sempervirens*) at Robert C. Martin Park

MOTION/VOTE

Chair Tripp moved and Member Werner seconded the motion to recommend that the City Council designate the four Coast redwoods (*Sequoia sempervirens*) Robert C. Martin Park as Heritage Trees. The vote resulted as follows: “AYES”: Chair Tripp, Vice Chair McBerty, Members Holzinger, Soash, Werner, Love, T. McBerty and Rudd. “NAYS”: None. Abstain: None. Absent: None. The motion passed.

- d. Budget Update
 - 1. Councilor King explained that the Committee’s strategic goal of new tree plantings was ranked as a one-star item by the City Council. He recommended that the Committee wait until after the Public Safety Levy vote to request funding from the Council.
 - 2. Urban forester Mecum discussed the various ways in which the City currently pays for tree work:
 - i. Hazardous Tree Program (also known as the 50/50 program)
 - ii. Memorial Tree Program
 - iii. Tree Canopy Program
 - iv. Park tree maintenance
 - v. Tree Refund Program from Development Fees

- vi. Restitution funds from tree damage and car accidents
- vii. No dedicated funding for maintenance of right-of-way trees
- 3. Chair Tripp requested that the Committee begin compiling a list of locations that could use new trees.
- 4. Councilor King commended Chair Tripp on his presentation to Council during their strategic planning meeting.
- 5. Chair Tripp tabled, with no objection, the discussion of tree planting locations until the next Committee meeting.
- 6. Member Love requested that the urban forester send the Committee the current list of proposed planting locations. The urban forester agreed.
- 7. Vice Chair McBerty asked how many locations the Committee will likely be able to plant. Chair Tripp said it would be difficult to assess without knowing the site conditions of the locations.
- 8. The Committee agreed to generate a list of tree planting locations

6. Matters from Committee Members and Staff:

- a. Vice Chair McBerty requested an update on the Article 23 amendments that are before the Council.
 - 1. Urban forester said it is in the text editing phase, with City Planning.
 - 2. Councilor King stated he may request an update during a Council meeting.
- b. Member Love proposed a Memorial Tree to honor former Committee member Stormy's newborn baby.
 - 1. Committee will contribute to the fee.
 - 2. Member Love will fill out the Memorial Tree Application
- c. Urban forester shared the following:
 - 1. Grants Pass received its Tree City USA status for the 33rd year. It also received its 10th Growth Award, making it a Sterling Tree City USA!
 - 2. A Hiroshima Peace Tree will be planted at the Water Restoration Plant, next to the Greenwood River Trail. This tree is the child of one of the Ginkgoes that survived the atom bombing of Hiroshima in 1945. A filmmaker from Portland will film the planting and stated he would like to have his documentary shown locally.
 - 3. Surveys are out for the Washington BLVD median island project. Neighbors were given two trees from which to choose (Swamp white oak or Black tupelo), per City Council direction. The survey closes on Friday, February 12, 2021.
- d. Member Holzinger mentioned the NASA Moon Trees anniversary of the Apollo 14 mission, 50 years ago.
- e. Chair Tripp requested that the urban forester provide the Committee with information on tree protection policies from other cities. Urban forester agreed.

7. Future Agenda Building for Next Meeting

- a. Planting Locations
- b. Landscape Awards
- c. Tree Protection Policies
- d. Stormy's Memorial Tree
- e. Washington Boulevard Survey Results

8. Adjournment

- a. Member Holzinger moved and Member Werner seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at approximately 7:45 PM. All present approved.

Next Meeting: March 8, 2021 at 6:30 PM

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