

**GRANTS PASS URBAN TREE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**Meeting Minutes – March 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  
Jeff Soash  
Doug Tripp  
Vacant

**City/Staff/Council Liaisons:**

Joel King – City Councilor  
Chad Westbrook - Parks

**Guests:**

Jason Maki

**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).
3. **Minutes**
  - a. **Approval of Minutes:**
    - Jeff Soash noted that he was not the one to second the motion to adjourn the meeting last month. It was actually Member Ballenger.
    - Councilor Eames was mentioned in Section 4a and 4c, but it was actually Councilor King.

**MOTION/VOTE**

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

**The motion passed.**

4. **Work Session Items:**
  - a. Municipal Code research –
    - This concerns looking at codes that other cities have regarding damage to trees in the right of way. Councilor King mentioned he sent a note to the City Manager asking if we can collect on this or have we ever collected in the past. The answer was yes on both. Unsure if it is an awareness issue on the part of the police officer. He has not spoken to the Police Chief on this issue yet. He will get back to the committee on this.
    - Chad added that sometimes they are made aware and sometimes not.
    - They further discussed codes for other cities such as Cannon Beach, Portland and Eugene. Member Holzinger did some research that he shared with the committee. They feel further information needs be collected and see what the exact wording is in the Code. They would like to utilize the language from one of these city codes to model. Giving a monetary amount is a detail they are focused on.
    - Chad noted there are rates for damaged trees.

- b. Targeting one planting for fall –
- This will be in conjunction with the Blue Zones project. Members noted some locations for tree plantings.
  - Chad noted that there have been some people that have turned down plantings.
  - Member Soash noted potential for the north side of Foundry along several blocks between the street and the railroad. They do need assistance from residents to help water these trees or irrigation would have to be used and monitored.
  - Member Ballenger asked Mr. Maki about Blue Zones having a membership database for people interested in participating with this type of thing.
  - Mr. Maki informed the committee he will be taking a job with the City of Grants Pass with the planning department. He mentioned a team member with Blue Zones that could potentially take this on. He indicated they do have an email list and can do some outreach. A park may be an option for 6 trees, for example.
  - Councilor King mentioned that he has done a lot of tree planting. It takes a lot of planning to time out the plantings correctly during the seasons. Prime property is right by the water treatment plant down by the river. Two species could be planted that do well during drought conditions and plant more than will survive. Incense Cedar and Ponderosa Pine are very adaptive to drought. He can envision a nice urban forest in that location that wouldn't block any views and would be nice for the path along the river.
  - Mr. Maki noted he wants to be sensitive to committing to a project that he can't complete. Tree planting is doable but need coordination of some volunteers. He asked if this group could coordinate that?
  - Members discussed doing the area Councilor King mentioned at the Water Treatment Plant. They talked about the City parking lot on the south side of Napa Auto Parts. This is the Salmon Lot. Member Holzinger brought up there will be two large salmon sculptures in this lot in the near future, plus the irrigation lines.
  - Mr. Maki asked if this could possibly happen in the spring or fall? The committee can make a decision on that. He asked if there was money or volunteers needed?

#### **MOTION/VOTE**

**Member McBerty moved and Member Tripp seconded the motion to get permission to add a tree to the Salmon Parking Lot. The vote resulted as follows: "AYES": Chair Love, Vice Chair Ballenger, Members Holzinger, McBerty, Soash and Tripp. "NAYS": None. Abstain: None. Absent: Members Macpherson.**  
**The motion passed.**

- They further discussed this motion. Member Love noting it would hinge on the salmon sculptures.
- Someone asked the location of the Arbor Day tree. Chad answered it will be in Reinhart Volunteer Park on the border of park and Parkside School. He noted it is changes yearly.
- Mr. Maki asked about the logistics of getting the tree planted in the parking lot?

- Chad indicated it depends on species of tree. He is having trouble getting some types of trees. They talked about a shade tree such as Red Oak or Elm. Something that won't drop acorns. Chad will discuss all of this with Wendy Giordano, Park Superintendent.
  - Mr. Maki suggested something similar to the memorial tree plantings next to the Arbor Day tree and plant it on Arbor Day. Chad said there are only 3 weeks to coordinate so this may not be possible.
  - Member Ballenger brought up a possibility of doing a memorial tree for Ross Roe. Chad asked the committee to provide a species of tree for this. The Tree Committee can also fund this tree. They discussed locations, and noted they are expanding their car lot. For this location they would need to get it in the plan, make sure the spot is large enough and be sure the species is right for that location.
  - Member Soash mentioned maybe doing a little park in honor of Ross Roe. They discussed potential of doing it at the Water Treatment Plant.
  - Mr. Maki suggested perhaps this group could identify the parking lot as a no go because of the salmon are going there and it's not going to work.
  - Chad said it will just take a bit of time. It will be at least the next meeting before he can have an answer for these questions.
  - Member Holzinger brought up the wetness issue at that location. They further discussed species for that type of situation. Bald Cypress and Dawn Redwood were mentioned.
  - Mr. Maki said he had an ambitious vision when he came to this committee. Some glitches have put this on the back burner and a fall planting might be better even though he won't be a part of Blue Zones. It might happen more naturally that way. He will mention this to the person taking over his spot. She can be invited to a meeting. He can still get some interest going via email as well within the next two weeks.
- c. Survey – (Survey Monkey Questions).
- Chad talked about emailing members about questions he had gotten already. He hasn't added Member Ballenger's questions yet however. He suggested having it ready to go in time for the Grower's Market Booth. Limiting it to 5 questions would keep it simple for people so they fill it out.
  - Questions from member Ballenger:
    1. In a typical year how often to you visit a park, city reserve or other designated natural area located near you in the City limits or in the County?
    2. Please rate your preference of a shady parking spot for when you are shopping?
    3. Please rate how well you feel urban forests in your city are currently providing this service by circling 1-6 on the scale. Clean water quality, less storm runoff, flood damage, less heat in the city, mitigate or lessen changes in climate, block ultraviolet radiation, less noise, wildlife habitat.
  - They discussed other questions and the wording for them. They talked about keeping it short for attention span. They want to make the questions positive and open-ended. The questions they compiled are:
    1. How often do you find yourself enjoying the shade of a tree? Quite often, often, seldom.

2. How important is the health of trees to the City of Grants Pass?  
Very important, somewhat important, not important?
  3. How important is it to the community to increase our tree canopy coverage? Very important, somewhat important, not important?
  4. Which of the following tree most benefits the community?
  5. What is your favorite tree?
- Chad compiled this list of the questions for the survey and will have this ready for the Growers Market.

d. Significant Tree & Landscape Awards Voting –

- It was noted that they already voted last month on this topic. They discussed the significant tree (a Japanese Maple) mentioned in an email from Wendy. Members haven't had a chance to see the tree and the tree hasn't been nominated. They will hold on this topic/tree for next year.

**5. Information Sharing:**

a. Items from Staff –

- Chad mentioned two trees that had fallen in Riverside Park. One was a Black Oak the other was a Mulberry that was heaving. They also lost a Black Oak at Croxton Park that also did some sidewalk damage.
- Chad asked about the study that was handed out last meeting. They briefly talked about the tree canopy over Manzanita and the canopy over D Street. Life expectancy is increased with trees which goes along with Blue Zones.

b. Items from Committee Members –

- Member Holzinger talked about a magazine he had for street management and the cover story was about the hardest working tree on the street. Article talks about trees that are used for flood control. Member Soash thought this might be a good idea to take to the City for problem areas.
- Member McBerty noted the ad in the paper and thanked Chad for it.

c. Items from City Council Liaison –

- Councilor King talked to the US Forest Service about passing out seedlings at the Grower's Market. They have seedlings but not ones for the right elevation. They will coordinate with the BLM if they will have any for that day. He also talked about deferred maintenance at a City Council meeting. There wasn't any talk about maintenance of the existing tree canopy. Perhaps we could start planting replacement trees that would enhance the beauty of the park. He brought members information about the park maintenance back-log. He noted that the Active Club was looking at the pavilion at Riverside Park and noted they are going to pay for some minor changes to it. He also brought them information on the gas tax and explained a bit about it. He mentioned the property on Lower River Road (River Road Reserve) and is on the agenda at an upcoming Council meeting.

d. Calendar Events for 2019

- Arbor Day celebration on Saturday, April 1 which will occur before the next meeting of this committee. *Typist note: There was some cross-conversation occurring and details could not be heard.*
- Chad is targeting the Grower's Market on March 30<sup>th</sup> for having the booth ready. Two members volunteered to help. They talked about what they need for the booth as well.

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

- a. Memorial for Ross Roe.

**7. Adjournment**

- a. Member McBerty moved and Member Ballenger seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:32 PM. All approved.

Next Meeting: April 8, 2019

Minutes prepared by Donna Anderson, City Administration.