



Sweet Home Tree Commission Minutes

Wednesday, January 20, 2016

City Hall, Conference Room

1140 12th Ave., Sweet Home, OR 97386

Phone: 541-367-8113

www.ci.sweet-home.or.us

9:00AM Call to Order

- Call to Order
- Attendance: Nick Augsburger, Katie Kohl, Alice Smith, Lena Tucker, Planning Services Manager Laura LaRoque, Planning Assistant Katie Wilcox, and Public Works Director Mike Adams.
- Approval of December Minutes
- Time Reports: December 2015 and January 2016

ALICE	.5	Primo	
ALLEN	.5	Erik	
LINDSAY		Ken	
LENA		Stan	
KATIE K.	.5	Gina Riley	
JOE		PW Crew	
NICK			
TROY			
JULIE			
MIKE A		Bucket Truck	
KATIE W.		Tractor	
LAURA			

Number of Trees Planted this month= 0

Trees Removed= 0

Trimmed= 0

9:10AM New Business

In regards to the purchase of trees for the Tree Commission, Alice mentioned that she would bring in her receipt so that she may be reimbursed for her expenses. Lena has brought her receipt information in and left it with Laura for reimbursement. Lena can pick up trees she ordered February 6th. She can pot them at her home, and store them at the Ranger Station. Alice said she can pick up her order on the 21st of February. She said they are bare root, so she will take them straight to the forest service and pot them up. Katie K. mentioned that she will be at the seedling sale and offered her help. Lena said she has to go there to pick them up anyways, which Katie K. responded to by saying she could just pick them up for her. Lena replied by saying she wanted to check out the sale as well, and they could coordinate to meet there. Lena mentioned her order was all plugs so she and Alice discussed planting the trees in longer pots versus smaller pots and decided tree pots should be fine. Laura asked if the group wanted to do a potting party, but Lena and Alice decided they can get it done without the extra assistance. It was decided that these trees will be the trees sold at the 2016 Harvest Festival.

Chairperson Nomination

Lena Tucker was unanimously voted in to continue as Chairperson.

Oregon Community Trees/Sweet Home Community Foundation Grant Opportunities

Lena opened the discussion for the Oregon Community Trees Arbor Day grant. She mentioned that she had sent Katie W. the information and application via email. She explained that with the budget being expended this is will be a good opportunity for funding. She said that there is a great story to tell about the Arbor Day program which might help in receiving the grant. Katie W. asked to verify that the requested grant funds would be used for purchasing trees for the Poster Contest Winners' schools. She also asked about the Shea Point trees and if they were a part of the Arbor Day celebration. Lena explained that the Sweet Home Community Foundation grant would be geared towards funds for the Shea Point project. Laura mentioned that the grant was out and she was going to pull the information and look over the grant requirements. Lena offered to review and help with the grant applications. Katie W. mentioned that she had started to work on them and she will email them to Lena for review. Lena said that she believes we have a specific community driven story with the Arbor Day Celebration. She said that having a plan in effect at Shea Point, in conjunction with it being a gateway into Sweet Home, provides a great opportunity to be awarded the grant funding. Laura added that there is a lot of support with different groups that could also add to the possibility of receiving the grant funding.

Laura mentioned that Sunshine had mentioned that they were interested in participating in Tree projects, specifically Arbor Day. The Commission agreed that their involvement would be wonderful.

Pat Wood Memorial Trees

Lena asked Mike if he had heard anything back about the Pat Wood memorial trees, and asked him if they needed any support from the Tree Commission. Laura responded by saying the public works group, with family and friends, have raised some funds but are in need of an addition \$150.00. They have enough funds to plant one tree, but are raising the funds to plant another. The plan was one tree for the family's property and one for the Public Works property on 24th Avenue. Laura mentioned that allocating other funds could be a possibility, and Lena agreed, noting that the Tree Commission budget had been spent.

13th Avenue Street Trees Update

Katie K. stated that Gary was very happy with the street trees on 13th near his store, but that there had been some damage to them where people have pulled off and broken branches. Alice asked if it needs pruning. Katie K. said that after she had talked with Gary and gave him permission, Gary pruned them, but otherwise he is very happy. Alice said the second tree near Steelhead Gym needs to be actively pruned. Laura said that pruning can be scheduled for after the next meeting. Lena reminded the group that it is important to keep up on pruning and maintenance of newly planted trees.

Main Street Median Trees Update

Lena brought up the median trees, saying that the trees are ready to plant, and need to be planted. Laura mentioned that coordinating with ODOT would be necessary, so that they may close down a section of the highway to do the work. Katie K. mentioned that it would be great to coordinate with the beautification committee and do our planting at the same time they do their planting. It was discussed that one tree will be planted down by 60th avenue, while the other two will be planted on main.

A&W Tree Relocation Update

Alice asked about the A&W tree relocation. Lena mentioned we will need equipment and that it would be moved to the existing tree line at Northside Park where the new trees were planted. Mike said that Public Works would relocate the tree within the next few weeks.

Hobart Natural Area Management Plan

Alice brought up the Hobart Natural Area Management Plan. She said that she and Allen had met with Dustin Nichols of the forestry club. She mentioned that he seemed rather busy but if a plan was in place he could get the club to do the work. Alice looked into the existing plan and explained that it is quite extensive. She explained that by removing female Ash trees there would not be as many seedlings coming up in the area and it would help keep it more open. She said Dustin was comfortable, if the Tree Commissioners would show him how to identify the female Ash trees, taking the forestry club out to mark the trees and actually fall the trees themselves. Alice said she believes the plan is extensive and that an addendum would

suffice for what they need to do. Laura invited the group to the next meeting in Hobart the following Friday at 1:00pm. Katie K. mentioned that Angela Clegg is a great resource, as she has a couple of groups between Lebanon and Sweet Home who love to get involved with these types of projects. Alice mentioned that the Rotary Club was also currently working on trails in the forestry part and thinning the trees. Mike asked what would be done with the wood from the fallen trees. Alice mentioned a firewood giveaway or sale, depending on the value and amount of wood. She mentioned that they could be sold if they are bigger but these trees seem to be smaller than what the buyers are interested in. Lena asked if Ash wood is good firewood. Alice mentioned that Ash can be used for firewood, but that it is very ashy. Alice mentioned it would need to be done around the summer. Lena asked if the kids can run chainsaws, and Alice answered saying Dustin was comfortable with the kids running the chainsaws if he was present, but not around property lines. Nick asked how many trees needed to be removed. Alice answered by saying that they have not figured out how many and what trees need to be removed as of yet. Nick mentioned that the furniture store, Wood Castle, out on HWY 34 buys ash, and it is a possibility to contact them as well. Lena mentioned that it would be worth looking into, even if we gave it to them to pick it up. Mike mentioned that we could invite them to look at it and see if it is worth their time.

Urban Forestry Plan – OSU Fall Intern

Lena asked for an update on the Urban Forestry Plan. Laura explained that she had talked with a professor who teaches two different courses at OSU. He has one or two students enrolled in the Fall Introduction to Urban Forestry course that may be able to do a piece of a project. Projects they have done in the past were tree inventories for parks, or updating the tree species list. Lena asked if it was Paul Ries that Laura spoke to, and Laura confirmed it was. Lena also mentioned that he is a Community Forestry Director as well as a Professor at OSU. Laura continued by explaining that in September his advanced urban forestry class starts and they usually do a mock urban forestry plan. Laura said that Paul told her this year they could possibly do an urban forestry plan for Sweet Home. There is the possibility that one graduate student enrolled in the graduate certificate program may need to do a project and that he will reach out to them. Lena thinks it is a great opportunity to update the plan and benefit students in real world situations. Katie K. mentioned that the small woodlands group could also be a possibility and that she would contact them.

2016-2017 Tree Commission Budget

Katie K. had mentioned the budget has been exhausted. Lena noted that there is tree planting on the agenda and requested tree planting out in the Foster area, as well as Shea Point. Lena explained that there are grant funding opportunities to go after, but possibly considering smaller trees that require less people, machinery and support can be cost effective and rewarding. Mike mentioned that it would be wise to identify additional funds for tree maintenance, along with funds for purchasing new trees. He explained that there are ways to do grant match funding, but a documented recommendation from the tree commission it would assist him in moving funds to the tree commission budget. Lena asked if

there was an estimate for tree removal, or cost of contractors. Laura explained that the amount can be estimated. Mike added that he would like to keep that number to a minimum and keep it in the parks budget, or wherever reasonable. He explained that when requesting it helps to have a tree commission recommendation, and that budget drafts are usually due around March, with budget meetings start around mid-April. Lena said she can start drafting that up and the tree commission can all review it. Lena mentioned it is a good opportunity to address the Council and City with what has been accomplished and what they need to get done.

Additional Discussions

- Laura noted that she had one late addition. She noticed that there are leaning fir trees in Evergreen Loop pocket park and wondered if after the next meeting anyone wanted to go out and look at them.
- Alice asked if the foster tree request was for private property or business. Katie W. mentioned that she requested street trees in right-of way. Alice asked if we can look into the right of way areas with Joe, and Katie W. agreed she can do that. Lena asked if that item can be put on the 2016 planting list. Lena did mention that the Tree Commission does work with Foster a lot. Lena asked if maybe the Foster Mall is someone who would want to sponsor a tree. The group liked the idea that it was a new area of outreach.
- Mike mentioned he will not be at the next two meetings.

9:45AM Adjournment

Next Regular Tree Commission Meeting- February 17, 2016 at 9:00 AM