



Sweet Home Tree Commission Minutes

Wednesday, March 16, 2016

Sweet

Phone: 541-367-8113

Home City Hall

Conference Room

Home, OR 97386

www.ci.sweet-home.or.us

1140 12th Ave., Sweet

9:02AM Call to Order

- Call to Order
- Attendance: Chairperson Lena Tucker, Vice-Chair Person Alice Smith, Council Representative Jeffrey Goodwin, Nick Augsburger, Allen Braun, Aaron Pye, Staff Engineer Joe Graybill, Planning Services Manager Laura LaRoque, and Planning Assistant Katie Wilcox
- Approval of February Minutes
- Time Reports: February - March 2016

ALICE	4	Primo	
ALLEN	4.5	Erik	1
LINDSAY		Ken	
LENA	2	Stan	
KATIE K.	.5	Gina Riley	
JOE	.5	PW Crew	23.25
NICK			
TROY			
JULIE			
MIKE A		Bucket Truck	
KATIE W.		Tractor	
LAURA	.5		

Number of Trees Planted this month= 0

Trees Removed= 0

Trimmed= 0

9:10AM Old Business

Chairperson Lena Tucker announced that Sweet Home was recognized as a Tree City USA and received the Growth Award from the Arbor Day Foundation.

Chairperson Lena Tucker said that she had picked up the trees she had previously ordered and potted them. She said she can bring them in soon. Vice-Chair Person Alice Smith stated she had also picked up the trees she had ordered and potted them with Allen Braun.

Chairperson Lena Tucker asked if there were any items of new business to be added to the agenda. Vice-Chair Person Alice Smith stated that she wanted to find out what happened to the Zelkova tree that was meant for the main street median. Planning Services Manager Laura LaRoque explained that the tree was currently at the public works facility. She stated that there was not enough room in the main street median to plant two Zelkova trees. She asked for new location suggestions. Alice suggested Key Bank, although it was more columnar than they had previously planned for that site. She explained it will grow with a tall vase shape. She explained that it should be planted before summer. She asked if anyone else had any suggestions, as they had discussed other tree types for the Key Bank location. She also mentioned that she would like to see a tree in the little pocket park area by the New Era office. Laura stated that she had spoken with the owners of the New Era recently and they were interested in creating a green space there. She said she would follow up with the owner. Alice said that the Zelkova would do great planted in that location and suggested Key Bank could be a back-up location. She mentioned that it is pertinent to get the Zelkova planted as soon as possible. She also noted that the tree intended for 60th had been planted.

Sweet Home Community Foundation Grant Application –Update

Chairperson Lena Tucker noted that she would like to discuss the grant application update first and tie it into the tree list discussion. Laura explained the Sweet Home Community Foundation grant was not awarded because there was not enough community support for the project. She explained that the proposal was for purchasing trees for the Shea Point project. She mentioned some of the concerns the community had were why there were more trees being planted than being taken out and that the view of the lake would be obstructed. Lena stated that this is a good opportunity to do more community outreach and get more people involved in the process. She stated that a visual example would be beneficial. Vice-Chair Person Alice Smith mentioned that if they planted with native species it would be more affordable. She explained that the funds could be pulled from the new budget once it went into effect. Planning Assistant Katie Wilcox added that Todd Bronson had recently volunteered his time and cleaned up the Shea Point area. Alice asked if he was interested in planting trees at Shea Point. Laura explained that some community members like the idea of trees and some like the clear view. The group all agreed that a visual representation of what is proposed would be best to illustrate the plan for the public. Lena noted that it would be geared toward being a fall project leaving more time to plan.

Street Tree Species List Revision – OSU Student Project – Update

Chairperson Lena Tucker opened the conversation and mentioned that the Species List had been developed. Planning Services Manager Laura LaRoque explained that a college student had provided a comprehensive list as a project. She explained that the list had been sent out in an email for review and is broken into different categories, such as species, size, foliage and more. She explained that it should be a good tool when choosing a tree. Allen Braun mentioned that he had noticed some trees on the old list did not make it over to the new list and asked if there was any specific reasoning why those trees were excluded. Laura explained that the tree types did not come up due to the data the student was using to generate the list. She added that those tree types could still be listed if desired. She explained that she would compile a comparison between the two lists for discussion at the next meeting. Lena added she would like to see a review of the trees to list which are more invasive species. She also mentioned that she has concerns about the Emerald Ash Borer, and they should be careful about planting more Ash trees. Allen Braun agreed. Aaron Pye asked if there was consideration, when planting, about the mess or fallout from certain tree species. Vice-Chair Person Alice Smith confirmed that the debris was a deciding factor in species. Aaron stated that he has heard about the Ginkgo Biloba tree being a hazard. Alice explained that you have to plant males for that species because the females produce the odd smelling fruit. She then went on to note that Allen Braun had sent her a link to an article about people had complaining about the Callery Pear tree type, saying that it smelled bad. She added that they were very popular for some time because they stayed small. She mentioned that the only trees in the Safeway parking lot were Callery Pears. She explained she wanted to go down to Safeway when they are in bloom and see if they smell bad. She explained that the Callery Pear was on both lists, and maybe the Commission should consider not planting a lot of them, if they do plant them. Allen explained that if there are a lot of them the smell can be overwhelming, where maybe one or two trees will go unnoticed. The group also discussed the overall need to consider fruits, nuts and thorns that would fall and create hazards on sidewalks.

Friends of the Library Magnolia Tree Pruning - Update

Planning Services Manager Laura LaRoque explained that while the magnolia was trimmed around the powerlines, it was not trimmed around the building, and suggested that the commission look at the magnolia and discuss if it should be trimmed away from the building. Vice-Chair Person Alice Smith mentioned that it was always a robust tree and asked if the Friends of the Library had complained or if Laura had noticed it. Laura explained she had noticed that it was getting close to the building and may need future maintenance.

Arbor Day Poster Contest

Planning Assistant Katie Wilcox started the conversation by directing the group to the handout that outlines the project. She explained that as of that morning, all the entry forms and rules had been distributed throughout the schools, but she has not received confirmation from the Charter School, or Junior High.

Planning Assistant Katie Wilcox asked the Tree Commission to consider what trees they would recommend for each school and where they would recommend planting them. She explained that she had listed the tree types from previous years, but there was not much information recorded for her to pull from. Chairperson Lena Tucker mentioned that the Charter School has a lot of wide open area and she would like to see a large shade tree on their grounds. Vice-Chair Person Alice Smith added that she would like to improve the record keeping on what trees were planted for Arbor Day celebrations. Lena mentioned that Foster School had 2 dogwoods planted. Alice noted that Hawthorne School had a dogwood planted many years ago. Lena asked if anyone remembered the species of the trees planted at Oak Heights School. Alice noted that she remembered planting flowering species, and added that at the Charter School it would not be necessary. Planning Services Manager Laura LaRoque asked if the group could consider a few different types of shade trees and flowering trees to run by the schools for their opinions. Lena agreed. She explained that the Charter School could go with a large shade tree, where Foster School may have limited space. Alice noted that Foster School does have a larger area for a large shade tree. Lena mentioned that Hawthorne School had a dogwood in front. Alice noted that they also have the large area in back where they cut down a large Oak tree. Katie mentioned that around the ball field a lot of people get sunburnt watching the baseball games in the summer and could use shade trees. Nick Augsburger asked if anyone has considered replacing the tree that fell by the high school ballfield in the parking lot. Laura explained that she has not heard a request for replacing those trees. Lena explained that if the Tree Commission reached out to the schools and asked what they preferred then the tree list could be used to decide on a species. Katie said she can contact the schools, including their maintenance staff and see what they would prefer. Lena asked what the dates for the contest are going to be. Alice explained that the posters are due by the 8th of April and the planting day would be the 28th of April. Katie said that Arbor Day was on Friday the 29th of April and that the schools would be closed. She continued to say that Thursday the 28th of April is a half day so she is hoping to coordinate for early morning. Alice said the proposed date was a little late for planting because the trees would be leafing out. Laura asked the group if they wanted to move the planting date up a week. She said posters would be due the 8th of April, winners would be decided by the 15th of April and they could plant after that. Alice explained that they should at least get the trees transported down the highway before they are leafing. Laura asked if the trees should be purchased before the 1st of April. Alice agreed. Laura said that the staff would reach out to the schools this week, and work towards getting trees from the nurseries by the end of this month or 1st of April. Alice mentioned that the type of trees that can be purchased will be limited by the available \$500.00 in funds. Aaron Pye and Nick Augsburger

both inquired as to where the trees are usually purchased. Alice said they buy from several different nurseries. Nick asked how the placement is decided. Lena explained that the schools usually decide based on ideas they have and maintenance schedules. Lena suggested compiling tree types and coordinating with Katie on reaching out to the schools.

Planning Assistant Katie Wilcox began the next discussion on what tree related books the commission wanted to use as prizes. Planning Services Manager Laura LaRoque mentioned that there is currently a stock of the books Oregon Trees and Oregon Shrubs available, and asked if there were any other suggestions. Allen Braun mentioned that there was a good Northwest Trees book out. The group decided that since they had already purchased these books they needed to use them and they would be what are handed out with the prizes for the Arbor Day contest.

Planning Assistant Katie Wilcox explained that she had already sent out a few donation requests to some local restaurants asking for gift cards to be used as prizes. She continued by asking if the Tree Commission had any specific local businesses they would like to reach out to or buy gift cards from for prizes. The Commission had suggested the following businesses; Dairy Queen, Figaro's, A&W, the Skyline or the Rio Theater.

Chairperson Lena Tucker suggested contacting the newspaper and notifying them of the event once planting dates and locations are decided upon.

Chairperson Lena Tucker asked what the theme for the poster contest would be this year. Planning Assistant Katie Wilcox explained that it would be "My Favorite Tree is *Blank* Because *Blank*." The group agreed that it was a very open ended theme that leaves a lot to creativity.

Additional Discussions

Planning Assistant Katie Wilcox asked if Chairperson Lena Tucker wanted to explain the Community Tree Institute Workshop. Lena explained there were three sessions, two in Washington and then one in Oregon. She said it was a good program for all kinds of people who work around trees. She suggested the flyer be emailed out to the group for consideration.

Vice-Chair Person Alice Smith wanted to discuss Outdoor School. She mentioned that Katie Kohl had been doing the program for years, and mentioned that it would be nice if she received more support and assistance from the Tree Commission. Nick Augsburger explained that it was a lot of work in a few days. Chairperson Lena Tucker asked when it is usually held. Alice said that in previous years it was held in June. She continued by saying this year it was moved to March because it conflicted with other activities in June. She explained that the bad weather this year may cause for the event to be moved back to June. Planning Assistant Katie Wilcox mentioned that it most likely limited some of the water activities with the colder weather, and she noted that she had heard the number of kids was

drastically increased. Alice confirmed Katie's comments and reiterated that she would like to suggest support for Katie Kohl and that someone possibly help take over the event once Katie Kohl decides to retire. Lena suggested putting it on the calendar for discussion in January.

Planning Assistant Katie Wilcox brought up the final topic on the agenda of a work party at Evergreen Loop. Planning Services Manager Laura LaRoque explained that there are some trees that need to be removed but first they need to be identified. The group decided to wait until a dryer day to mark trees, and possibly schedule a time before the next meeting.

Chairperson Lena Tucker asked about the trees at Hobart Park along the fence line. Planning Assistant Katie Wilcox said that the forestry club will coordinate with the Tree Commission to remove some of the female Ash, and that they were far enough away from the fence line that they should not pose a hazard. Planning Services Manager Laura LaRoque added that they would need to plan a time when the trees were in flower, or in the fall when they can identify the female trees. Allen Braun added that by next month the trees may be ready to identify due to flowering.

Council Representative Jeffrey Goodwin asked the group if there were any specific topics, issues or projects that would need to be discussed with City Council or that they would like added support for. Chairperson Lena Tucker explained that she would like to see some public support with the Shea Point tree replacement. She added that she would like to see some ideas on how to work towards gaining community acceptance of that project. Staff Engineer Joe Graybill said that explaining the project in detail to the public with visuals would help gain more support. Allen Braun reiterated the idea of a graphic for visualization. Lena mentioned that the public could be invited to the tree planting party. Aaron Pye suggested posting to social media as well.

Chairperson Lena Tucker asked about the Facebook presence that the City of Sweet Home has. The group discussed the different pages that are constantly posting news feeds about Sweet Home. Lena asked if Tree Commission events were posted to these pages. Planning Assistant Katie Wilcox explained that she had started a specific page for the Tree Commission and posts projects to that page. She added that she then shares those postings with the numerous group pages she belongs to throughout the community. Lena mentioned putting an outreach survey up on Facebook. Aaron Pye suggested using an online page called Survey Monkey. Lena said she would like to see an increased online social media presence. Allen Braun mentioned that it would be best to ask for feedback with a proposed idea, like mentioned before, rather than an open ended question. Council Representative Jeffrey Goodwin added that there has been a lot of feedback on what people would like to see out there, but recommends first asking Linn County what is feasible. He also suggested looking at it from the business perspective. He said that whatever is planned for Shea Point could bring in business. Katie mentioned that strategically placed trees could frame the view of the lake. Lena agreed and mentioned she would like to move forward on planning this project. Lena said that it would

be a good idea to do an outreach to Linn County and discuss the development for Shea Point.

10:03AM Adjournment

Next Regular Tree Commission Meeting- April 20, 2016 at 9:00 AM