



Urban Forestry Board
Wednesday, December 9, 2015
P.O. Box 39, Sisters, OR 97759

PRESENT:

Board Members: Jerry Bertagna, Patrick Burke, David Moyer, Marcus Peck
City Parks Advisory Board Member David Magaret
City Forester: Dan Galecki/Spindrift Forestry
Recording Secretary: Nicole Montalvo

ABSENT:

Public Works Director Paul Bertagna

I. CALL TO ORDER

Board Member Moyer called the meeting to order at 3:05 P.M.

City Forester Galecki is running a bit late so the board briefly discusses the trees at Village Green Park that had to be removed due to the placement of the new restroom/shower building. An e-mail was sent out to ask board members for their opinion. Board Member Burke did not receive this e-mail and requests to make sure he is included next time. Recording Secretary Montalvo will make sure that all office staff has his contact information.

Board Member Peck asks if the city owns a tree spade, to be able to move the trees that are in the city's nursery. Public Works doesn't own a tree spade. Trees are planted in containers and will be planted in bigger containers as they grown. Per board member Burke, the tree spade can be purchased as an attachment for a Bobcat.

An e-mail was received about the trees that were planted along Cascade Avenue. An arborist from the valley drove through town and noticed the trees still have ties. Per the arborist, the ties should be removed, before they damage the trees. Board agrees that trees need about a year or so to establish and agree this should be checked.

II. VISITOR COMMUNICATION

Mrs. Maxwell, 496 E. Tyee Drive, Sisters, OR, 97759.

Mrs. Maxwell came to the meeting as a representative for several concerned neighbors to talk to the board about a tree in the city right-of-way. The tree in question is located at 497 E. Tyee Drive in Sisters. It is a large Ponderosa Pine, with a split top (three forks). City Forester Galecki was asked to assess the tree because

home owners in the neighborhood are concerned, in particular Mrs. Gerling. The tree is very close to her property. During the last several weeks, high winds have caused concern for the tree to fall. Mrs. Gerling lives by herself. Mr. & Mrs. Maxwell live directly across the street. All concerned neighbors disagree with Forester Galecki's report and are asking the board to consider removing the tree. It's unnerving when those big trees are swaying up and down in a storm. Mrs. Maxwell is a 26 year resident and has never seen so many trees come down. Board Member Moyer states that there are various reasons for that, one being the current drought conditions. Board Member Bertagna states that it is normal and a good thing that trees sway and asks if there is any rot. City Forester Galecki states that the condition of the tree is good. Due to the proximity of Mrs. Gerling's yard, this tree actually has access to water because of irrigation in her yard. The tree has no rot, there is no heaving or cracking of the soil at the base of the tree, and as far as he can see, no funky bark in the fork areas (checked with binoculars).

Mrs. Maxwell asks if it is possible to prune the tree. City Forester Galecki explains that pruning this tree is not a good idea, as it will weaken the tree.

Board Member Peck states that next time he takes his lift into town City Forester Galecki can take a closer look at the tree. Recording Secretary Montalvo advises City Forester Galecki that the city owns a bucket truck and that the use of this truck can be scheduled any time he needs it. Board Members Moyer and Bertagna would like to take a closer look with the bucket truck before a decision is made and Board Members Burke and Peck agree.

City Forester Galecki suggests to do this next week. Public Works will schedule the bucket truck. Board Member Moyer states that once they have been able to inspect the tree, a recommendation will be made to Public Works Director Bertagna. Mrs. Maxwell asks how long it will take before she will hear back. Board Member Moyer answers that she can expect to hear back sometime next week (week of December 14th thru 18th, 2015). Mrs. Maxwell thanks the Board for their time.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of October 14, 2015 are approved with one correction. David Magaret is not a Board Member, but a representative of the City Parks Advisory Board.

Meeting Minutes of November 12, 2014 – December 10, 2014 – January 14, 2015 – March 11, 2015 – March 20, 2015 – April 15, 2015, June 10, 2015 and August 12, 2015 are approved.

Board Member Bertagna motioned to approve the minutes with correction, Board Member Moyer seconds the motion. Motion carries.

IV. URBAN FORESTRY BOARD DISCUSSION

a. City Forester Dan Galecki – Tree Reports & Tree Inventory

City Forester Galecki and the board members discuss various tree reports that have been submitted by Forester Galecki since the last Urban Forestry Board meeting in October. Village Green Park trees (2) had to be removed due to the proximity to the

new restroom building in the park. Trenching damaged the roots. Village Green Park has plenty of trees, so removal of these two trees will not have much impact. The board also suggested to skip planting new trees in the park. Village Green Park has plenty of trees, and needs some open space to be able to continue to host large events. New trees can be planted elsewhere.

A large leaning Ponderosa Pine tree at 222 W Black Crater and Ash Street was called in by a home owner. This tree is in the city right-of-way and is excessively leaning over S. Ash Street. It is a strong candidate for removal. Board agrees, and ***Board Member Moyer motions for this tree to be removed. Board Member Bertagna seconds, motion carries.***

A Ponderosa Pine tree at the Cedar and Washington construction zone was discussed. The tree is on private property, in an area with new construction. The tree was assessed and the contractor indicated this tree will stay. City Forester Galecki noticed the tree doesn't seem to be protected from construction debris, etc. and may end up being damaged.

On Barclay Drive a Ponderosa Pine tree was removed at the end of October. The tree was located directly under the powerlines, had been topped and pruned by CEC and was not in great shape. It was in the way of new improvements and had to be removed.

The board discussed continuing the tree inventory work by City Forester Galecki. The downtown core is done. City Forester Galecki would like to continue with the NW section of the city next. It is a good idea to branch out to other areas in town to complete a tree inventory for the entire city. Once done, the data can be saved and used for years. It will be a helpful tool, to identify hazard trees early. It will take anywhere from several days to a few weeks to complete the project. Work can be done this winter, especially now due to the mild weather and lack of snow in town. The inventory will include information about tree size, species, health issues, etc. Per the previous meeting, the next phase depends on the budget. The board is in favor of continuing the inventory. Director Bertagna should be able to report back his findings about funding for this project (next meeting).

Magnesium Chloride damage to trees (outside of town) was brought up as well. Tree damage at Harrington Loop Road, about 10 to 15 ft. in. Trees are deteriorating fast. This subject was discussed during the October meeting and board members determined it may be the concentration of the solution of Magnesium Chloride used that is causing issues.

Board Member Moyer adjourns the meeting at 4:10 PM.