

Urban Forestry Board (UFB)

Regular Meeting Minutes

Monday, June 8, 2020

(Approved July 13, 2020)

Board Members Present:

Dave Moyer, Chair

Patrick Burke

Patricia Cusick

Staff:

Dan Galecki, Urban Forester

Nicole Mardell, Principal Planner

Troy Rayburn, Public Works Project Coordinator

I. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

Upon establishing a quorum, Chair Moyer called the Monday, June 8, 2020 regular meeting to order at 3:00 PM. Chair Moyer welcomed the Board back after two month absence from convening due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Committee Administrator Troy Rayburn confirmed attendance.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Moyer directed Board members to the March 9, 2020 draft meeting minutes and asked if there were any comments or questions. Board Member Patricia Cusick pointed out a typo on Pg. 4. Should read Lazy Z Ranch, not Lazy D. Chair Moyer called for a motion to approve. Board Member Patricia Cusick made the motion, including correction of typo. Board Member Patrick Burke seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously, 3-0.

III. VISTOR COMMUNICATION

Chair Moyer asked staff to summarize visitor communication process under the auspice of COVID-19. Troy pointed out the information noted on the UFB's advertised agenda and summarized the call in / conference call process. Staff noted there was no one on the call as of yet. Later in the meeting Matt Smith from Hayden Homes joined the meeting via conference call. His agenda item is D. under Board Business relating to revised or amended McKenzie Meadows Village Phase 3 Tree Plan.

IV. BOARD BUSINESS

A. Consideration & Discussion Regarding Removal of Two (2) Juniper Trees in Public Right-of-Way at 270 S. Spruce Street

Chair Moyer read the agenda item into the record and called on Urban Forester Dan Galecki to present his staff report and recommendation. Dan summarized his site visit findings and recommendation, noting only removing the small 12 inch Juniper was recommended due to deep scaring and irregular crown. Retain the larger 20 inch Juniper, but trim or remove dead material.

Chair Moyer called for any additional comments or questions. Board agreed with Urban Forester's recommendation. Seeing no further discussion, Chair Moyer called for a motion from the Board. Patricia made the motion per Dan's recommendation. Board Member Patrick Burke seconded. Motion passed unanimously, 3-0.

B. Consideration & Discussion Regarding Removal of Two (2) Poplar Trees from Public Right-of-Way at 516 E. Tye Drive

Dan was called on to present his technical report regarding two dead or dying Poplar Trees in the public right-of-way along E. Tye Drive.

Dan noted during his initial site visit that both Poplars appeared to be dead, however upon a second visit at a later date the tree on the northern end is actually alive and appears to be flourishing, thus his submitted staff report and recommendation is outdated. The UFB agreed. It was agreed to retain the live Poplar. Remove dead Poplar to the south. There is no need for a replacement tree since it is not a native species or Ponderosa Pine.

Chair Moyer called for a motion seeing no further discussion or questions. Patrick made the motion per the Board's discussion. Patricia seconded. Motion passed unanimously, 3-0.

C. Consideration & Discussion of Two Additional Trees (split trunk) from Public Right-of-Way at 367 W. Jefferson Ave

Chair Moyer read the agenda item into the record and called on Dan to present. Dan outlined his site visit, staff report, and recommendation to remove 15 inch and 19 inch Ponderosa Pines in the alley or public right-of-way to enhance access through the alley and back entrance to residential property. Dan noted Development Code requirement regarding back entrance for all new residential developments. The Board agreed.

Chair Moyer asked for additional comments or questions. Seeing none, he called for a motion. Patricia moved the Urban Forester's recommendation. Patrick seconded. Motion passed unanimously, 3-0.

D. Additional Consideration & Discussion of McKenzie Meadows Village Phase 3 Tree Plan

Troy noted for the Board's information that Matt Smith with Hayden Homes called in on the conference call line. Dan was asked to speak to his various site visits, findings, conversations with developer's project manager (Matt Smith) and engineer (Sean Williams), and additional recommendation. See urban forester's detailed staff report for specifics.

The Urban Forestry Board carefully reviewed urban forester's findings and the 13 Ponderosa Pines listed in staff report. Board Member Patricia Cusick made the case for saving four of five of the oldest and largest trees, noting not just aesthetic value for the subdivision development, but shade and environmental issues, and trees size and age are irreplaceable.

It was asked if floor plans could be modified to save the mature trees that are 100 plus years old. Matt Smith with Hayden Homes and Board Member Patrick Burke noted such a change at this point in the development process is more involved than it appears due to grading of land, time invested to redraft existing floor and architectural plans, providing infrastructure hookup location, and resubmitting the officially recorded land use / planning documents.

Other discussion point discussed included what appears to be a lack of follow through from Hayden Homes regarding appropriately fencing off and protecting trees out to the drip line. Troy called on Matt Smith with Hayden Homes to speak to the issue. Matt apologized for the lack of follow through and said he would follow up with on-site construction crew superintendent to remedy the situation.

Chair Moyer asked for further questions and/or comments and called for a motion. Patrick moved Dan's recommendations per his staff report and associated map. Chair Moyer seconded. Motion passed 2-1 with Board Member Cusick voting against.

V. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Work Session Regarding Review & Discussion of New Tree Code per Community Development

Chair Moyer called on Troy to introduce the work session. Troy opened the work session outlining its purpose and scope and introduced city's new Principal Planner Nicole Mardell who will present.

Nicole noted the goal of the work session is to provide greater clarity between the Development Code and Municipal Code by editing existing language (see staff report for more detail), define Community Development and Public Works' roles, and that there is no immediate rush to finalize, can return in July for a second work session and take amendments to Planning Commission in late August.

Issues Nicole and the Board spoke to include:

- Purpose and objectives of both the Development Code and Municipal Code
- Research that went into drafting Code edits, including how other cities similar to the City of Sisters approach tree conservation and tree management plans
- Subdivision development tree plans
- Private property (individual lots) vs. public property (parks & public rights-of-way)
- Minimize impact on individual lot owner / differentiate single lot owner from subdivision development
- Fees for potential tree cutting permit
- Use tree caliber as a tool to assess starting point for removal process
- Utilize homeowners' associations during determination process
- Tree replacement requirement for individual lot owner / mandatory replacement for subdivision
- Replacement ratio (3 to 1 vs. 2 to 1)

Upon initial discussion of the above points, Nicole noted that she will return in July with updated information for a second work session.

B. Urban Forester Update / Status Report Regarding Any Other Issues

Dan provided a high level summary of other tree removal requests and his site inspections in relation to those inquiries that will be presented in forth coming staff reports for July meeting.

VI. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

No Board comments

VII. ADJOURN

Chair Moyer adjourned the Monday, June 8, 2020 Urban Forestry Board meeting at 5:05 PM.