

Urban Forestry Board (UFB)
Regular Meeting Minutes
Monday, December 11, 2023
Approved 2/12/24

Board Members Present:

Patrick Burke, Chair
Marcus Peck, Vice Chair
Therese Kollerer

Staff Present:

Paul Bertagna, Public Works Director
Dan Galecki, City Forester
Jackson Dumanch, Public Works Project Coordinator

Absent:

Rebecca Green
Gary Ross, Councilor

1. Call to Order & Roll Call

Chair Burke called the Monday, December 11, 2023, regular meeting to order at 3:02 PM. Staff confirmed a quorum was present.

2. Approval of Minutes

Chair Burke directed the Board to the November 13, 2023, draft meeting minutes. Board Member Peck made a motion to approve. Board Member Kollerer noted one typo, Project Coordinator Dumanch made the correction. Board Member Kollerer made a motion to approve the minutes as adjusted. Vice Chair Peck seconded. Motion passed unanimously, 3-0.

3. Visitor Communications

Chair Burke note there was no visitor communication.

4. Board Business

A. Consideration of recommendation to remove dead Ponderosa Pine near intersection of N Pine St and W Barclay Dr.

Chair Burke read the agenda item into the record. City Forester Galecki reviewed their report noting that the tree is in decline and beyond saving, recommending removal. Chair Burke asked for comments from the Board, there were none. Burke mentioned trees having been removed in the development, anticipates more trees being lost due to the nearby construction, and wondered how many trees are in the right-of-way surrounding the development. Vice Chair Peck asked if an autopsy could be performed on the tree. Galecki stated that no blue stain could be found during his inspection and suggested he be contacted if the arborist removing the tree notices any symptoms. Director Bertagna noted a utility crossing in one of the images

near the tree and suggested that could have contributed to the tree's decline. Peck made a motion to remove the tree, Board Member Koller seconded. Motion passed, 3-0.

Chair Burke mentioned the decline of several trees in the development. Galecki stated that the developer had a good initial plan for saving trees, however the construction results in declining trees and commended them for their efforts in preserving trees. Burke mentioned a large tree that had been removed near a construction site. Kollerer noted that the tree was supposed to have been preserved. Kollerer stated they visited the site after the tree had been removed and measured a section of the tree that remained and measured a diameter of 42 inches. Kollerer continued by providing background information, stating that the developer was working with the City on preserving the tree, but the tree had been removed. Kollerer asked if an age of between 200 and 300 years was accurate for that tree, stating it may have been one of the five oldest trees in the development. Burke stated they were unaware of the communication between City and developer. Kollerer noted that the tree was marked on plans to be preserved, but the developer was concerned over the vicinity of the tree to the foundation and the settling that could occur if the tree should die. Kollerer stated they contacted the developer regarding the removed tree, adding the developer apologized for the removal but provided reasons for removal. Peck added that the tree was not in the public right-of-way. Kollerer added that there is another private tree that is very large and marked for preservation but has concerns over the developer's ability to preserve the tree. Galecki added that preserved trees have green flagging and those with blue flagging could potentially be preserved, those without flagging are planned for removal. Galecki asked if the removed tree was originally marked for removal. Bertagna stated that it was marked green. Galecki was surprised. Bertagna added that the developer was fined \$500.00 by Code Enforcement because they did not have permission to remove the tree. Galecki wished that a conversation could have been had. Bertagna stated that they were bound by the Development Code. Galecki stated they would have liked to have been involved. Bertagna stated that the City would have liked to have been involved.

B. Consideration of recommendation to remove dead Lodgepole Pine at 296 E Tyee Dr.

Chair Burke read the agenda item into the record. City Forester Galecki reviewed their report noting the tree is in a cluster of live and healthy Ponderosa Pines. Galecki suspected pine beetle. Galecki also noted that removal may be technical due to the tight cluster of trees. Chair Burke asked if the tree would have to be climbed. Galecki did not think climbing would be required nor safe, but some control would be required. Burke asked if the estimated cost would be for another organization to perform the removal, Galecki confirmed that to be the case. Board Member Kollerer stated they visited the site and agreed that the tree should be removed. Kollerer made a motion to remove the tree, Board Member Peck seconded. Motion Passed, 3-0.

C. Declining Ponderosa Pine at 725 E Coyote Springs Rd.

Chair Burke read the agenda item into the record before asking City Forester Galecki to update the Board on the condition of the tree. Galecki stated that the tree was alive, but the top was dead, and no sign of blue stain was found. Galecki added that the tree has a slight lean to it.

Galecki stated that though topping of trees is sometime recommended, he did not recommend that treatment for this tree. Galecki noted sap holes indicating insects. Galecki recommended removal considering the existing conditions. Board Member Kollerer and Chair Burke stated they would defer to Galecki's judgement. Director Bertagna added that the tree has shown further signs of decline since Galecki had visited the tree. Vice Chair Peck made a motion to remove the tree. Board Member Kollerer seconded. Motion passed, 3-0.

5. Other Business

A. Tree City 2023 review - Staff

Project Coordinator Dumanch directed the Board to the informational page provided in the packet regarding the City's Tree City 2023 recognition year application. Dumanch reviewed the four requirements for qualification. Dumanch reviewed the City's 2023 expenditures for urban forestry, noting that the City exceeded the minimum requirement of \$2 per capita, spending \$27 per capita. Dumanch added that much of that was due to the Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project and that if one were to not consider that project the ratio would have been \$7 per capita. Dumanch then highlighted the number of trees planted and removed during the 2023 calendar year, which the City is required to provide in the annual application. Dumanch stated that 167 trees were planted, 24 trees removed by Board approval, and 300 trees removed as part of the Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project. Dumanch concluded by stating that the 2023 recognition year application had been submitted. Dumanch asked if there were any questions from the Board. Board Member Kollerer stated that it was great to have the summary and asked about the community tree ordinance and how that related to the recent ordinance concerning private trees. Dumanch stated that the ordinance that satisfied that requirement was the ordinance relating to public trees. Kollerer asked for more clarification, Dumanch stated they would verify. Director Bertagna suggested it the recent ordinance might not qualify as it would be difficult to verify activity concerning private trees. Bertagna added that the trees removed for the fuels reduction project were mostly small trees. Kollerer asked about the number of planted trees. Bertagna stated that the number included trees planted by the City and developments in the public right-of-way or on public property. Bertagna asked Dumanch about the Management costs and if that reflected the work done by City Forester Galecki. Dumanch stated they would have to investigate the specifics and added they believed it was indeed concerning the City Forester. Bertagna added that the City does not factor City staff time in the budgetary breakdown of urban forestry. Chair Burke asked if the City tracks tree removal performed by staff. Bertagna stated that such situations are few and not tracked in that regard rather by departments such as streets and water and added that most approved removals are performed by the City's contracted arborist. Burke asked about the cost of removals regarding the fuels reduction project. Bertagna stated that the cost of removals for the fuels reduction project was separate from the Board-approved removals. Dumanch stated that Ordinance 516 was the ordinance he referenced as being required for Tree City and that it related to the Urban Forestry Board and public trees.

6. Board Member Comments

Chair Burke asked for comments from the Board. There were none.

7. Adjourn

Chair Burke adjourned the meeting at 3:28 PM.