

**CITY OF COOS BAY
MINUTES OF THE TREE BOARD
JANUARY 3, 2013**

Tree Board members present: Ariann Lyons, Jake Robinson, Mike Vaughan and Kim Singh

Tree Board members absent: Rex Miller, Cora Vandervelden, Beth Clarkson

Staff Present: Jon Eck, Pam Patton
Randy Dixon was absent.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: March 7, 2012; June 7, 2012; August 16, 2012 and October 25, 2012

Ariann Lyons asked if she should vote if she wasn't a member on the board on March 7th and June 7th meetings.

Kim Singh mentioned that there were a lot of removal requests and wondered if all the work has been done. Jon Eck said that not all have been done. Some of it fell back onto the property owner and the budget is very tight and as money permits.

MOTION: Jake Robinson motioned to approve as read
SECOND: Mike Vaughan
DISCUSSION: None
VOTE: Unanimous

NEW BUSINESS:

1050 Juniper:

This is down at 10th & Juniper ROW. Dick Bartell, owner, originally submitted October 25, 2012. The application has been re-submitted December 27, 2012, as a safety hazard. Arborist, Steve Holmes, gave Jon Eck a verbal recommendation not to remove. Jon gave a brief overview and reported to the board the tree is healthy, growing straight, it just happens to be "ugly." Jake Robinson did a site inspection and stated the tree had been topped aggressively. The "leaders" are doing well. He also stated that the city can't afford to maintain a wild tree. Mike Vaughan responded that the board should take into consideration the aesthetic value.

Jon Eck reported that Frontier doesn't consider it to be a problem or risk to their lines (the original request was for the removal of a grouping of trees that were in a utility ROW but no power lines were involved.) Mike Vaughan recommended that the board should develop broader criteria. He feels that an owners "view" needs to be considered. He asked if the board could give permission to the owner to do what he would like at his own expense. Jon mentioned that the homeowner opened the stand of trees and then has asked the city to take the care of ROW. Mike Vaughan asked, "What are the legal ramifications?" Can the owner take care of it at their

expense? Jon Eck stated the tree was in the ROW and it needed to go through the board. He also reminded the board that they can't make the justification for removal on a safety issue as it does not present a hazard. Ariann Lyons responded that there were budget restraints that factor in as well. Mike Vaughan told the board that by doing nothing and if funds aren't available, we would have immunity from the liability.

MOTION: Jake Robinson motioned to deny request.

SECOND: Mike Vaughan

DISCUSSION: There was concern among the board if the discussion remains private or opened to the applicant. Does the applicant receive the findings behind the board's decision? The board asked questions regarding protocol, responsibility, legal ramifications. Jon Eck told the board that they were getting out of the scope of the agenda and would need to be placed on another agenda. Jake asked that it be placed on next agenda. Ariann Lyons advised that they should be careful in this area as it could pigeon hole the board in making decisions that they don't necessarily want to make. Jon Eck stated that he would bring this subject matter to Randy's attention.

VOTE: Unanimous ** There is a 15 day window to appeal the decision.

The Board welcomed new board person, Kim Singh. She shared some of her background. Jake Robinson asked Kim why she decided to come to the tree board. Kim expressed her interest to be involved in the community. She has background in nursery, landscape business.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:

Kim Singh brought up that she had been doing some research on the effects of salty spray and soil conditions on our trees.

Mike Vaughan stated that at the last Council meeting he brought up that we need to stop weeds and invasive species, noxious vegetation from encroaching. He will be putting together a list of weeds and noxious vegetation by mirroring lists from Coos County and the State. Along with that, develop a process of removal. He also expressed that the tree/plant list needed to be edited. He would like to have it placed on an agenda.

STAFF COMMENTS

Pam apologized to the Board that she jumped the gun on adding a request at the last minute. Therefore, 245 S 2nd was removed from the agenda and will be added to a special meeting sometime in February. She would notify when a date has been determined.

MEETING ADJOURNED: 5:15pm

Respectfully submitted,
Pamela Patton