

**CITY OF COOS BAY
TREE BOARD/URBAN FORESTRY
MINUTES**

Approved

Meeting of March 11, 2016

TREE BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Cora Vandervelden; Ariann Lyons; Meredith Childs; Rex Miller; Skip Shipman

TREE BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Sarah Crawford; Grant Walding; Tom Leahy

STAFF PRESENT: Jon Eck, Randy Dixon, Pam Patton

GUEST : Mike Cook – Property owner of 1090 N 10th Ct

Chair brought the meeting to order and roll call was taken. Approve minutes of December 17th and January 29th. Cora asked for a motion to accept the minutes.

MOTION: Rex motioned to accept the minutes of December 17th and January 29th as written.

SECOND: Ariann

VOTE: Ayes were unanimous. Motioned carried.

CITIZEN INPUT/PUBLIC COMMENT: n/a

NEW BUSINESS:

Tree Removal Request:

- 1090 N 10th Ct – Suspect interior of tree, a shore pine, is rotting from previous limb failure. Property owner, Mike Cook, was present and he was asked to present his request. He felt it was a danger to neighbors and his property. He was asked about any lines that it would affect if any. He said yes but north of the house. He was also asked if tree was leaning and Mike said there a very slight lean. Staff report states tree shows signs of rot and other damage and recommends that it be removed at owner's expense. Rex confirmed there was a lot of rot and covered in ivy.

MOTION: Rex motioned for the tree to come down at the expense of the property owner.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Cook asked if he would have an official notice. He will receive a letter from the city and that it will also be in the approved minutes. Jon asked that Mike call and he would have city crew come by and take care of the wood.

SECOND: Meredith

VOTE: Ayes were unanimous and motioned carried.

- 460 N 3rd Ct – Staff inspection stated the tree had a split top but couldn't make an argument to remove at this time. If the owner wanted to pursue it any further, he would recommend contacting an arborist, at their expense, to evaluate. Tree appeared healthy and everything looked sound. No further comment. Cora asked for a motion.

MOTION: Rex motioned to accept staff's recommendation. Notify owner to leave the tree until there is something from an arborist saying differently.

DISCUSSION:

SECOND: Ariann

VOTE: Ayes were unanimous and motioned carried.

- 625 Commercial – Staff inspection stated tree had been topped several times and is now into communication lines. At some point Trees Inc. will be through to top again regarding the power lines. No safety hazard Rex had concerns in this case because the tree is filling out nicely and would only need to be trimmed up. He felt the Sunset Maple could take back about 4 feet and the tree could be held at least 15 feet below power lines. If using a plum, it would a vision corner. Site does have a sidewalk issue but would wait for Trees Inc. but Jon suggested to wait on Randy and Skip to way in. Cora asked for a motion.

MOTION: Rex motioned to accept staff's recommendation and for tree to remain but trim back from power lines

DISCUSSION:

SECOND: Ariann

VOTE: Ayes were unanimous and motioned carried.

- 338 8th Ave – Property owner felt trees were dying and unsafe. Rex thought it probably not a hazard but is in among other conifers. Certainly wouldn't hurt anything if the owner chooses. Letter dated 2/10/16 telling the property owner if they choose to remove it will be at their expense. Motion was not necessary but Jon asked to vote to backup staff's recommendation.

MOTION: Rex motioned to accept staff's recommendation

DISCUSSION:

SECOND: Ariann

VOTE: Ayes were unanimous and motioned carried.

- 491 16th Ave – Six large trees in ROW in creek/alley. Firs and Hemlock. Owner felt the trees were unstable and creek is undermining the tree roots. **Staff will have an arborist come out and assess. There were two trees were in the ROW. Rex noted that the owner is backing out as he can't pay the cost of removal. He requested to pull the application. Jon asked for letter to go out to confirm their decision.

MOTION: Arian motioned that the board take no further action regarding the trees and if the owner would like to pursue at a later time, they could reapply.

DISCUSSION:

SECOND: Rex

VOTE: Ayes were unanimous and motioned carried.

- After the Fact – 1134 Coos River Hwy – Several maples with one that had already fallen on the house. Owner had hired arborist, Patrick Myers to do the removal and he concurred with staff's recommendation to remove. Jon filled out the paperwork and authorized the removal. Cora asked for a motion.

MOTION: Arian motioned that the board supports the staff's decision authorizing the removal.

DISCUSSION:

SECOND: Meredith

VOTE: Ayes were unanimous and motioned carried.

OLD BUSINESS: Creating the Urban Forestry Plan

Approved Street Trees - Rex asked where did the list come from regarding the downtown zone? The city has already established Armstrong Maples and should continue with them. Ariann asked about the corridors. Rex commented that the corridors match the downtown and the remaining zones could be something different. Keep consistence with themes.

- Zone 1 – Downtown
- Zone 2 – Newmark to Empire Blvd
- Zone 3 – Empire Blvd to Wisconsin

Zone 2 – Newmark has utility lines on both sides and then there is the visibility issue. Need to keep at least one side of Newmark with high canopies up to 15 feet. Each zone has different exposures. Wind is strong in Empire and distorts the growth of a tree.

There were continued questions with the legends listed on each zone map. The consensus was to keep more of a generic and not name specific. Need detail of planting a tree and how to maintain the shape, growth and height of a tree written into policy.

BOARD COMMENTS: n/a

STAFF COMMENTS: n/a

MEETING ADJOURNED: 1:15pm

Respectfully submitted,
Pamela Patton

APPROVED BY THE TREE BOARD ON THE 3rd DAY OF June, 2016.


Cora Vanderveldon, Chair

Attest: 
Pamela Patton, Staff

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City of Coos Bay

Public Works Department



500 Central Ave., Coos Bay, Oregon 97420
Phone (541) 269-8918 / Fax (541) 269-8916

February 9, 2016

Jessica L. Chatman
338 8th Avenue
Coos Bay OR 97420-4359

Dear Ms. Chatman:

This letter is in regard to your Tree Removal Request received February 8, 2016. It was stated that there was a tree in the right-of-way on 8th Court that is dead, leaning and needs to come down.

We are contacting you today regarding the site inspection performed by the Operations Superintendent, Jon Eck. His report stated that the Fir tree has a split trunk and broken top. The tree is stressed and is likely to fall in the future. Jon was unsure of property line but the city ordinance leaves removal to abutting property owner. The City of Coos Bay has adopted certain standards relating to health, safety and elevating the quality of life for all citizens. These standards are known as the Coos Bay Municipal Code (CBMC), and it governs what is allowable by city residents. You may find the municipal code on our City website, www.coosbay.org.

CBMC 8.10.060 Trees

(1) No owner or person in charge of property that abuts on a street or public sidewalk shall permit trees, bushes or vegetation on the property to interfere with street or sidewalk traffic. An owner or person in charge of property that abuts on a street or public sidewalk shall keep all trees, bushes or vegetation on the premises, including the adjoining parking strip, trimmed so that any overhanging portions are at least eight feet above the sidewalk and at least 14 feet above the roadway.

(2) No owner or person in charge of property shall allow a dead or decaying tree to stand if it is a hazard to the public or to persons or property on or near the property. [Ord. 409 § 1, 2008; Ord. 400 § 6, 2007]

CBMC 8.30.020 Purpose

It is the purpose of this chapter to promote and protect the public health, safety, and welfare of the residents of the city of Coos Bay by providing for the regulation of the planting, maintenance, and removal of trees and shrubs within the city. [Ord. 181 § 2, 1992]."

You, as the responsible abutting property owner, will need to comply with the Coos Bay Municipal Code and remove the dying and unsafe tree.

If you have any further questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact us. I have included copies of the code that is referenced above for your convenience.

Sincerely,

Randy Dixon
Operations Administrator

Encl: CBMC Chapter 8
Cc: Tree Board, Tree file, Jim Hossley

City Tree List for Downtown, Empire, and Newmark

1. *Acer platanoides*. All varieties Norway Maple.
Priority: "Crimson King", "Emerald Queen"
2. *Acer rubrum*. All varieties.
"Armstrong" as corridor trees.
3. *Carpinus*. Hornbeam
4. *Malus*. All flowering varieties crabapple.
Priority: "Snowdrift"
5. *Prunus*. All flowering varieties
Priority: Plum – "Thundercloud"
Cherry – "Amanogawa", "Kwanzan"
6. *Pyrus*. All flowering varieties.
Priority: "Chanticleer", "Redspire"
7. *Styrax japonica*, Japanese snowbell.