



Tree Board ~ Meeting Minutes ~



Thursday, November 17, 2011 • 10:00 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Councilmember Pam Fernald; Daryl Tapio, Citizen Representative; Barbara Nelson, Planning Manager

MEMBERS ABSENT: Sean Clark, Public Works Maintenance Supervisor

STAFF COORDINATOR: Roger Chouinard, Parks Operations Supervisor

Call to Order: Meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes dated March 17, 2011 were approved as written.

Tree Board Member Terms:

- Length of member terms is set by Ordinance and is three years.
- Talked about meeting more often and communicate about ongoing items on a regular basis. Decided to meet every two months and send minutes to members that were not present so they are aware of status items.

Status of completed segment of public tree inventory, specific locations (Public rights-of-way and Valley Ridge Park:

- Roger updated the Board on areas assessed. He noted that the benefits of the inventory were presented at the October Land Use & Parks (LUP) Committee meeting.
- Daryl expressed his concerns about how the data obtained from the inventory would be used. He is concerned about the tree canopy information affecting the zoning codes for future developments.
- Roger included information that, from the Tree Board's standpoint, the inventories are important and currently only focus on City owned public space trees.
- Councilmember Fernald inquired about some trees on 24th Avenue near the Boeing Spares buildings. It appears these are an example of private public space trees. Such trees should be omitted from any inventory or canopy studies.

Tree planting of smaller caliper trees for future development:

Here are the key points discussed:

- Roger mentioned there should be a distinction between any development guidelines and City owned public trees in zoning code. Spoke about the inventory concentrating on City owned public trees.
- Barb mentioned that CED (Community & Economic Development) is currently looking at the entire zoning code.
- Roger said he could set up a time that Daryl, Kit Ledbetter and himself could look over various areas of public space in our parks that may be acceptable for establishing planting areas for small caliper trees.
- Daryl mentioned concerns about the amount of labor and standard of care for both the current practice of purchasing 2" minimum standard trees for City projects and having a small

caliper planting program to which trees of smaller caliper could be used to supplement existing right-of-way and City owned trees.

- Mortality, watering and labor are the main issues. Daryl stated that volunteers, possibly scouts and other civic organizations could help as well as the possibility of donations from developers.
- Discussed the possibility of setting up a group of developers and property owners to give input on zoning code requirements.

Trees planted at rockery project below the Japanese Garden:

- Discussed the reason for these trees being planted now rather than earlier this year. Roger explained that the delay was due to waiting for confirmation that the contractor was paying prevailing wage rates.

New Business:

2011 Tree City Application ~ Roger updated the Board on the status of the application and the possibility of including a growth award certification.

Grant applications for future inventorying of public space trees ~ Roger mentioned the GIS project proposal and how this may all tie into reaching out for a possible King Conservation District grant application should all approval criteria be obtained.

Ideas for 2012 Arbor Day Event

- Ivy Out ~ Councilmember Fernald mentioned that the Neighbors Without Borders Action Committee may be interested in directing their efforts to the ivy out instead of the south woods cleanup at North SeaTac Park. With proper tools, instruction and public outreach, this even could be more successful. Roger mentioned that he could check into the possibility of getting the events into the Parks & Recreation brochure and the SeaTac Report. Councilmember Fernald mentioned advertising in the Highline Times and SeaTac Blog. Discussed the coordination of these advertising efforts.
- Tree Planting ~ Daryl thought this might be a good item for a civic organization or scout group but had concerns about the timing of the event in relating to the success of planting small trees.
- More discussion may be needed to finalize the 2012 Arbor Day event and this can be done via emails between Board members.

Daryl showed some pictures of examples of improper street tree selection on S. 136th St. Barb mentioned this is something that would be a zoning code concern.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 11:18 a.m.