

**CITY OF ALBANY
TREE COMMISSION
Albany City Hall, Santiam Room**

Thursday, December 18, 2008
3:00 p.m.

MINUTES

Commission members present: Dick Miles, David Smith Mark Azevedo,
Commission members absent: Tom Krupicka, Barb Bolden
Staff present: Sharon Konopa, City Councilor, Craig Carnagey, City Forester, Tari
Hayes, Administrative Assistant
Others present: Bodie Dickerson, Peggy Fourné, Cathy Cook, Joy Gilliland, Albany Parks
and Recreation Event Coordinator, Debbi Richards, Albany Parks and
Recreation Children, Youth, and Family Coordinator

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mark Azevedo called the meeting to order at 3:15 pm.

2. ROLL CALL

3. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Cathy Cook offered a list of resources for native trees and plants put out by the Benton County Water Conservation District.

Sharon Konopa offered her support for the Tree Commission and the Forestry program and appreciates the work the Commission has done on updating and revising the tree codes. Sharon is the incoming Mayor, with 12 years of experience as a City Councilor.

4. APPROVAL NOVEMBER OF MINUTES - deferred to January meeting for lack of quorum.

Carnagey updated the Commission with the City Attorney's response to the September minutes. Delapoe is fine with the minutes as is. He said it would be healthy for the Tree Commission to review the AMC, Section 2.32 which details the Tree Commission duties. The Commission will review in the near future. The Commission approved the September minutes as presented.

5. SCHEDULED BUSINESS

a) Tree Code Summary

Azevedo suggested that the Commission discuss some edits he has at the January, 2009 meeting, when the full Commission is present. Carnagey has forwarded code revisions to the Planning Department, the City Attorney, and the Planning Commission. One of the Planning Commissioners has already made comments. The Planning Commissioner, Cordell Post, requested that the City Forester forward his comments to the

Tree Commission. He has concerns with the applicability of 9.207, and believes that if a citizen possesses a farm or forest deferral, they should be exempt from site review plan, and would like to see the acceptance of ODF logging permits for tree felling reinserted into the code. Azevedo commented that the removal of ODF section was for clarification between the city code and ODF responsibility.

Although the code revisions haven't been formally forwarded to the Planning Commission, the code revisions are a matter of public record and can be found on the Tree Commission website in the meeting packets. When the comments come back, the Tree Commission will review the comments.

b) Arbor Week '09

Joy Gilliland, Debbi Richards and the Commission brainstormed ideas for Arbor Week festivities.

Ideas they came up with include:

- A Heritage Tree tour out of the Senior Center - The Senior Center is equipped to run and promote trips and tours to a wide variety of residents. Stefanie Coons, Recreation Program Coordinator will work with Mark Azevedo to arrange.
- An additional idea could be a tour in conjunction with the Oregon State University (OSU) School of Forestry. The OSU campus was recently designated Tree Campus USA. The tour could include a tour of the campus, lunch in Corvallis and then a tour of Heritage Trees.
- A workshop on tree pruning and care of privately owned trees.
- An educational walking tour with school kids of Simpson Park. Simpson Park has a walking path to the river, the distance of which is 2.36 miles down and back. The Public Works Environmental Services program could help facilitate, they do work with watershed health in the community. Diane Dennis-Taniguchi, Public Works Director, may want to participate to introduce redevelopment ideas along the river.
- Provide an interactive booklet to school age children dealing with tree identification. Dickerson commented that fall would be a good time to work with schools on tree education, when the leaves are turning and identification is easier. Tom or Barb mentioned obtaining tree booklets at the last meeting.
- Tree lottery – budget concerns will limit the number of trees available. The Commission discussed investing in 10, or so, really good trees for a tree lottery.
- Native trees are on order for planting along the Willamette River, primarily in Bowman, Bryant, and along the Dave Clark path. Perhaps these could be planted during Arbor Week since they are smaller in size.
- Planting or presentation at Lexington Park to promote the Legacy Forest
- Earth Day is a few weeks after Arbor Week. Try and tie the two together for a Green/Sustainability Week.

- Dickerson suggested looking into a portable saw mill. They could have the students actually cut pieces of different wood. This could be a great learning experience. Azevedo will research the possibility of bringing in a portable saw mill and could provide different types of wood.
- An art project was discussed. Corvallis has an art program that gives lumber from trees that were removed by the city free of charge to local artists. The artist then provides a piece of art back to the city to sell or display. Gilliland will work with the Art Commission to see if this is something they'd like to introduce.
- The new library will come on-line soon. The Art Commission has sent out a "Call for Artists" for permanent artwork in the library. The Art Commission could include a piece designed from native wood. A wood conference table for the library would be nice. Azevedo would be willing to provide a slab of wood for a project. It may be too late to plan a large project, more research is necessary.
- Holding a "Tree of the Year" contest, it may be too late for this year's celebration but could be a promotional activity for sometime in the year, or next Arbor Day.
- Heritage Tree dedications during Arbor Week
- The East Thornton Lake grant award is scheduled for Mid-March. If awarded, it could be incorporated into Arbor Week.
- Have Marilyn Smith help with lots of little press releases.
- GPS coordinates for trees that are planted by students and participants. This would provide a feeling of ownership knowing the planter could track the tree growth, etc. Perhaps we could provide a certificate with the coordinates.

It sounded like there are lots of possibilities. The Commission would like to have at least one activity per day, with maybe a big wrap up on Saturday. Perhaps the Commission should look at having an activity a month, throughout the year, to promote the City's Urban Forest.

ACTION ITEM:

- Joy Gilliland will contact Stefanie Coons regarding a tour out the Sr. Center.
- Carnagey will contact the Public Works Director regarding a Simpson Park walk.
- Joy Gilliland will contact the wood shops at both high schools to see if they have anything to display or if they would be interested in doing projects during Arbor Week.
- Joy Gilliland will work with the Art Commission for Arbor Week activities.

c) Tree City USA Application

The application was sent in December and a response should be coming in late January. The City Forester sees no reason why the City would not receive the designation this year.

d) Heritage Tree Candidates

Followed up on the action items from November:

- Krupicka is still working with the property owner of the Japanese maple under consideration as well as with the property owner at 8th St and Washington (behind Henderson Park) regarding a grove of trees that may be Heritage Grove candidates.
- Miles and Dickerson were going to contact the property owner at 340 Queen St regarding a large White Oak that may be a Heritage Tree candidate. The tree is very nice, but needs maintenance. Miles asked if one of the advantages of becoming a heritage tree would be a maintenance provision. The property owner at the Queen St. location is Sue Johnson, a past City Councilor. The area is zoned commercial, but the tree is located at the rear of the lot, and could possibly be preserved if the land was sold for development.
- The City Forester followed up on:
 - A tree at 4th and Ellsworth on county property - County is fine with the designation
 - Designation for groves of trees in Eleanor Hackleman and Hazelwood parks – the Director of Parks is fine with moving forward on the designations in both parks. The condition of the trees at Hackleman may need to be looked at more closely.

The part of the code dealing with Heritage Trees may need to be updated to reflect that the designation transfers with ownership and needs to be provided in writing to purchasers.

6. BUSINESS FROM THE COMMISSION

The City Forester let the Commission know that the Urban Forestry program is starting to work on budget projections for next year. He feels that quite a bit of progress has been made in the last couple of years, particularly with the tree inventory, preventative pruning, right-of-way and street tree conditions. This has cut the City's liability significantly. Complaints from the community regarding appearance standards of the right-of-ways have dropped appreciably. The City Forester asks that the Commissioners share the Urban Forestry story with the citizens they come in contact with to increase program awareness.

Waverly Drive is about 75% completed and the Commission feels it looks good.

34th Street has leaning trees. Every year the City plants some replacement trees and then takes some trees out at that site. Not only do the trees lean, but there are issues with the tree wells they were planted in. The soil may be compromised. The trees have been growing that way for so long that they can't be straightened.

Smith asked for an update on the tree removal permit request from November and December. The owner, Bontrager Properties II, has not been back in contact with the City since the initial request.

7. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting of the Tree Commission is scheduled for Thursday, January 15, 2009 at 3:00 p.m. in the Willamette Room in Albany City Hall.

8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:23 p.m.

Submitted by

Tari Hayes

Parks and Recreation Administrative Assistant