

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

Thursday, February 19, 2009  
3:00 p.m.

**MINUTES**

Commission members present: Dick Miles, David Smith, Mark Azevedo, Tom Krupicka, Barb Bolden

Commission members absent:

Staff present: Joy Gilliland, Event Coordinator, Stefanie Coons, Recreation Program Specialist, Debbi Richards, Children, Youth and Family Supervisor, Tari Hayes, Administrative Assistant

Others present: Bodie Dickerson, Kathy Cook

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Tom Krupicka called the meeting to order at 3:05 pm.

**2. ROLL CALL**

**3. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Bodie Dickerson suggested that the word "Albany" be added to Section 5.a.3 of the January minutes. The sentence should read: "*The tour could include a tour of the campus, lunch in Corvallis and then a tour of Albany Heritage Trees.*" The Commission agreed and the minutes will be updated to reflect her comment.

4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** - Approved the January 2009 minutes with edits.

**5. SCHEDULED BUSINESS**

a) Arbor Week '09

The Commission had further discussion on activities for Arbor Week.

Joy Gilliland provided the Commission with an update on Arbor Week activities and promotional ideas. She presented a draft of the flyer that also will be used in the Parks and Recreation brochure that's due out March 11, 2009. The layout will be similar to last year's and updated to reflect the activities throughout the week. The activities to be featured will include: tree planting at Lexington Park on Sunday in promotion of the Legacy Forest and Oregon's sesquicentennial, a tree pruning workshop, the field trip with local elementary schools to Simpson Park, the tour departing from the Sr. Center traveling to OSU followed by the Albany Heritage Tree tour and the milling demonstration at local high schools. Dates will not be included on the flyer as they are still being confirmed. Separate news releases and promotions will be created as the dates are finalized. Tom Krupicka and Barb Bolden will facilitate the tree pruning workshop.

Stefanie Coons updated the Commission on the tour of OSU and Albany Heritage Trees. The tour is scheduled for Wednesday, April 8, from 10 am – 4 pm and will depart the Sr. Center. Joe Majeski, Landscape Manager at OSU, will guide the tour at OSU and will include information on historic trees on campus as well as facts regarding some of the architecture on campus. OSU is a historic landmark because of the architecture of the University. Participants will have lunch on campus at the Memorial Union and then return to Albany. Upon arrival in Albany, they will board the trolley and Dick Miles will lead a tour of the Albany Heritage Trees. The tour is free to the public; they do pay for their own lunch. Azevedo wanted to publicly thank the Joe Majeski for his participation with the tour.

Azevedo has met with the wood shop teachers at both West Albany High School (WAHS) and South Albany High School (SAHS) regarding the milling demonstration during Arbor Week. The demonstrations are scheduled for Monday, April 6 at SAHS and Tuesday, April 7 at WAHS. The demonstrations will start at 8:00 am and will last all day. Mike Doolittle will be donating two full days of his saw mill and an employee to assist with the demonstration.

A log truck of hard wood lumber has been donated by Starker and a self-loader has offered to truck the logs to each of the school at a reduced rate. The logs will be delivered prior to Arbor Week and the schools are working at finding places to store the logs. The school superintendant is excited about the events and has provided the name of the school district's public information officer to work on promotions with City staff.

It's estimated that 1000 board feet of lumber per school will be produced which would save the school district \$8 - \$10K. The estimated budget includes \$250 for trucking the logs, \$60 for the wax to seal the ends of the logs, and if possible some compensation for Mr. Doolittle's employee. The Parks and Recreation Department will need to have a fork lift delivered to the schools the morning of their demonstration, to be used for moving the logs on site. City Staff will research the sponsorship of 2 dinner certificates for both Mr. Doolittle and his helper in gratitude for their work. Tom's Garden Center will provide 2 gift baskets.

The Commission would like to have Mr. Doolittle recognized for his contribution, possibly at the City Council meeting on Wednesday, April 8. The certificates and gift baskets could be presented at the Council meeting.

Gilliland is working with Leslie Bradner to do some demonstrations of wood magic with 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders in local schools. She participated in the 2008 Arbor Week celebration and her demonstration was very popular.

Debbi Richards has been working with the local Arbor Day Foundation contact on their Arbor Week poster competition for 5<sup>th</sup> graders. The contest is local, state-wide and national. This information will be added to the flyer if it comes to fruition.

City staff confirmed that GPS coordinates can be provided to the school children who plant trees during Arbor Week activities.

Hayes updated the Commission on additional activities for Arbor Week. The field trip to Simpson Park is going to take place and she will follow up with Heather Slocum in order to provide the Commission with additional information at the March Commission meeting.

The proclamation is being worked on; Hayes will bring a copy to the March Commission meeting for their review.

The native tree planting at Lexington Park has been added to the Oregon Sesquicentennial website.

Azevedo has the slab of wood for display and will need to know if the exhibit will be indoors or outside and the location. He will need to finish the wood if it's going indoors. The City Forester will follow up with the Library Director regarding displaying it in the new library.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

- Gilliland and Hayes will follow up with the City Forester regarding the timing of the tree pruning workshop and details of the tree lottery when he returns to the office.
- Gilliland will follow up with the City Forester for additional information on tree planting along the river. Will it be open to the public or done in house? How many trees and what types will be planted?
- Hayes will check on adding the presentation to Mike Doolittle to the City Council presentation.
- Gilliland will continue to work on the Wood Magic demonstrations.
- Richards will continue to work on the Arbor Week poster competitions.
- The City Forester will determine the location of the historic slab exhibit and provide additional information to Azevedo.

b) Heritage Tree Candidates

The Commission discussed the need for establishing Heritage Groves in City parks. Smith questioned the need given that the City owns the property and would have control over the removal of any trees. Azevedo suggested that the City could lead the effort on promoting Heritage Trees and demonstrating the value of saving trees by establishing Heritage Groves. The groves could provide educational information including historical or species significance and history of the grove and the surrounding area with the proper signage. The designation would also provide an additional level of protection from removal. Everyone was able to tour the groves at both Eleanor Hackleman and Hazelwood parks prior to the meeting. They discussed the pros and cons of each grove and unanimously voted to nominate both groves for Heritage Grove status. The City Forester will complete the applications and Krupicka and Miles will assist.

Azevedo provided Krupicka with contact information for one of the properties Krupicka was following up on. He was unable to contact the other owner.

Miles provided pictures of the tree under consideration at 340 Queen. There's also an impressive Myrtle Tree on the property. Dickerson and Miles attempted to contact the property owner and were able to leave an application. Miles will continue to try and reach the owner. Miles feels that if the lot was developed the Oak Tree could be preserved. The two trees together take up quite a bit of space and may influence the development potential. The strongest selling point they felt was the offer of City maintenance, both up front and ongoing, of Heritage Trees. The owner understands that maintenance is primarily pruning services and not leaf clean up.

The Commission was unable to determine which tree on the courthouse square that the City Forester would like to nominate. There are a number of candidates including the Japanese maple on the corner and an Oregon White Oak in the center of the square. The City Forester will provide clarification at the March meeting.

The Commission discussed the Heritage Tree application. They feel that the application could be intimidating to a homeowner to complete and the form is complicated. There are some edits, such as adding the "Groves" option, that need to be reviewed and updated. The Commissioner's would like the application and promotional materials to reflect the willingness of the Commissioner's to assist homeowner's in completing the application.

Approved: March 19, 2009

Currently the process requires that the application be submitted by a certain date and Azevedo would like to have the process open all year round. A deadline could be required if the homeowner wanted to have the designation for declaration during Arbor Week, but applications could be accepted at anytime.

The Commission will review the Heritage Tree application after Arbor Week activities.

Azevedo offered to research the additional designation of some Oak trees on Old Salem Road, next to a craftsman style house. The Commission discussed how many trees should be designated each year and the types of trees. The Commission understands the benefits of having a variety of trees with Heritage Status.

Bolden asked what kind of signage is supplied for the trees. Currently the trees are given signage that states the date, species and name of the tree. She wondered if there was a way to provide additional education information for groves. The City Forester will provide additional information at the March meeting.

Krupicka asked if there were a certain number of trees that the Commission wanted to designate each year. Ms. Dickerson said she believes historically there's never been a certain number desired. Azevedo felt that there should be a mixture of public and private trees designated. With the addition of grove possibilities the Commission felt that the more trees designated the better.

Krupicka would like to research the Lace-Leaf Maple at 220 Broadalbin as a candidate for designation, if not this year, then next. This is the same tree that was submitted in the fall of 2008 and declined because the property was for sale at the time.

The Commission discussed possible public perception that a Heritage Tree designation cedes to the City greater control over property rights and how to improve that perception. As part of the application review the Commission will create a brochure to include information such as what the heritage tree designation is, what it means to the property owner, what rights it does and doesn't give to the City, etc. This would provide the Commission with something to leave with the homeowner at initial contact. They would also like to have the City Attorney follow up with the deed secession at that time.

#### **ACTION ITEM(S):**

- **Miles will follow up with the property owner on Queen.**
- **Krupicka will continue to work on the property owner at 8<sup>th</sup> and Washington and research the tree on Broadalbin.**
- **Azevedo will pursue the trees on Old Salem Road.**
- **Review of the Heritage Tree application will be added to a future agenda.**
- **The City Forester will start on the application for the two Heritage Groves**

## **6. BUSINESS FROM THE COMMISSION**

Azevedo and Dickerson have been reviewing the Urban Forestry Management Plan (UFMP). Azevedo wanted to thank Ms. Dickerson for her hard work on the review. Unfortunately they were sent a version of the UFMP without City staff edits. Staff will send everyone a copy of the updated UFMP to review prior to the March meeting. Hard copies will be sent to Bolden, Miles and Dickerson.

Approved: March 19, 2009

Miles shared that there was a story on OPB recently about wildlife corridors. Researchers from OSU were able to put recorders on humming birds and track their migration. They found that the birds stuck to wildlife corridors during their migration, avoiding open areas. They even go as far as doubling the distance of the trip to avoid open spaces. This has a profound effect on the pollination and breeding patterns. It can also result in the decline of the habitat due to lack of pollination. This got Miles thinking about the wildlife corridor work that's part of the Thornton Lake grant project and thought the City should keep this in mind when they are planning wild life corridors. Azevedo shared that the City of Albany is moving towards trying to preserve a continuous habitat corridor along the Willamette River and he applauds the City for looking at this issue.

Miles has been reading about the Valley Ponderosa Pine. He knows there was a large valley of Ponderosa pines in the area, and believes there is a fine specimen tree in the local cemetery. The Pines have adapted well to the climate and conditions. In connection with Heritage Trees, there may be some Ponderosa Pines in the City that are as old as some of the Oaks. Azevdo said there are some Ponderosa Pines in the area around Thornton Lake. He also thought that there may be some pines on the property of the North Albany schools. Miles thought that some of these pines may be Heritage Tree Candidates.

Krupicka shared that he had a discussion with the Parks and Recreation Director regarding the tree removal at 34<sup>th</sup> Street and the article in the Democrat Herald. The City Forester will share an update with the Commission when he returns. Krupicka was also contacted by National Frozen Foods. He was asked that when the new trees are planted the visibility at the driveways not be obstructed for the large trucks. Krupicka also feels strongly that the Flowering Pear not be replanted as they are not good candidates for street trees.

Bolden will miss the March meeting and possibly the April meeting as well for personal reasons.

**ACTION ITEM:**

- Hayes will send the updated UFMP to the Tree Commission after the City Forester returns to the office.

**7. NEXT MEETING DATE**

The next meeting of the Tree Commission is scheduled for Thursday, March 19, 2009 at 3:00 p.m. in the Calapooia Room at City Hall.

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

Submitted by

Tari Hayes  
Parks and Recreation Administrative Assistant