



TREE BOARD MEETING MINUTES
6101 Johnson Creek Blvd. Milwaukie, OR 97206
4.16.2025

Hybrid / In- Person and Zoom Video Conference Meeting

Board Members Present:

Kathleen Hunter-Brenner
Ley Garnett
Camden Mckone
Jon Brown

Board Members Absent:

Ley Garnett
Alexis Barton
Olivia Padilla

Guest:

None

Staff Members Present:

Courtney Wilson, Urban Forester
Katie Gavares, Climate and Natural Resources Manager

MEETING NOTES

Courtney Wilson, Urban Forester, and Katie Gavares, Climate and Natural Resources Manager, shared staff updates. Katie shared that the Tree Code amendments are now in effect and reflected in outreach materials and the GovBuilt permitting software. Recruitment for the new tree board member is underway, eight applicants were received and interviews will be taking place in May. The new member's term will begin July 2025.

Staff are working with North Clackamas Parks and Recreation District (NCPRD) and Clackamas Water Environmental Services (WES) on regional EAB management coordination efforts. Priority next steps include developing the Programmatic Tree Permit application for NCPRD to use while managing Ash trees in maintained parks and planning a rapid risk assessment inventory of public Ash trees. Finally, the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) grant timeline has continued to be delayed. Tree Board's 2025 work plan calendar has been updated to reflect the changing timeline.

Courtney and Katie shared the challenges they are noticing relating to tree loss during development. Based on data from the past 3 years of development permits, 2/3 of developments have elected to preserve trees opposed to removal. While this number

sounds promising, it doesn't account for the allowable tree removal above 30% canopy per lot. Board members discussed the need to identify the Tree Code's target preservation goal, as 100% preservation doesn't seem like a reasonable goal.

Board members suggested additional awareness raising efforts to encourage greater tree preservation. One idea included developing a similar program to Milwaukie's Home Energy Score program to communicate statistics about the health and future values of the trees. Providing these statistics to prospective home owners could influence market decisions and create an additional incentive for developers to preserve trees. Another idea included providing developers with a tree code specific pre-application conference to provide detailed information on how to preserve trees during construction before any plans were developed.

Board members also discussed the benefits and barriers of requiring performance bonds for preserved and newly planted trees. The limited banks in the region that offer this service was noted as a significant barrier. A potential strategy is outreach to encourage local credit unions to offer this service.

As many board members were not present, a vice-chair was not selected in this meeting.

The Board Meeting concluded at 7:15 pm.