



TREE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

6101 SE Johnson Creek Blvd. Milwaukie, OR 97206

February 16, 2022

Zoom Video Conference Meeting

Members Present:

Gina Dake, Vice Chair
Ley Garnett, Secretary
Madison Tucker
Christina Harris
Jon Brown
Alexis Barton

Members Absent:

Kathleen Brennan-Hunter, Chair

Staff present:

Peter Passarelli, Public Works Director
Natalie Rogers, Climate and Natural Resources Manager

MEETING NOTES

November and January Board minutes were approved as amended

Peter said the City has been honored with its sixth Tree City USA designation and third Growth Award.

The Board was updated on the draft Tree Code. There was a public hearing on Feb. 15, the 3rd public hearing on the draft. The fee structure was a point of interest. Council went into deliberations on the Code after the hearing was closed.

Peter said the Council still has a few questions and that the public oral testimony has been generally favorable, though there is some opposition. The written testimony has been more mixed. He said it's important for the community to understand the process. Most complaints are about private property rights and the fees being too high.

Agricultural exemptions were discussed, i.e. Christmas tree farms. Peter said Mayor Gamba wants to be sure there's not a disincentive against developers planting street trees and that Council wants to be sure fees don't overly punish innocent violations by property owners---like a car backing into a tree or a tree that has grown into the right of way. There will be another public hearing March 15th after integrating Council's suggestions.

Natalie said 2014 data has been used to estimate canopy. 32.3% canopy is the latest estimate on residential properties. The 40% canopy goal originated in the City's Climate Action Plan. Council had input on soil requirements and affordable housing mitigation. She said currently mitigation fees would be 50% less on affordable housing than market priced housing.

Peter said Council is always helped by input from the public to include the Tree Board. He discussed concerns about the about the complexity of the Code. He said the staff is considering edits to simplify or present material in a different manner to make the code easier to understand. It now looks like final approval of Code will be in early to mid-April.

Peter said the City is in the process of developing three parks, and has hired a coordinator who wanted to know if Board members wish to have a delegate to the Milwaukie Parks and Recreation Board?

The meeting was adjourned at 7:19pm.