



# **TREE BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**6101 SE Johnson Creek Blvd. Milwaukie, OR 97206**

**April 20, 2022**

**Zoom Video Conference Meeting**

**Members Present:**

Kathleen Brennan-Hunter, Chair  
Gina Dake, Vice Chair  
Christina Harris  
Madison Tucker  
Jon Brown  
Alexis Barton

**Members Absent:**

Ley Garnett, Secretary

**Staff present:**

Peter Passarelli, Public Works Director  
Natalie Rogers, Climate and Natural Resources Manager  
Courtney Wilson, Urban Forester

## **MEETING NOTES**

April board minutes were approved.

Peter shared that the Tree code and Fee schedule were approved last night, with a unanimous vote. No additional concerns were expressed; Mayor Gamba and several Councilors were very excited to see this through. The housing code will have a second reading May 5; complexities are still unfolding in the housing code process.

At the April 5 Council meeting, there had been more of a focus on the fee structure. Council wanted to reduce some financial impacts to residents while avoiding removal, but still recognize that when trees reach a certain size there are more impacts. From 6- <30" based on \$60/inch DBH, 30-36" \$150/inch, >36" \$200 DBH. Rare/threatened trees \$250/inch DBH.

GovBuilt will be the database/software that City staff will use to track metrics/performance of the code. Could be a good item for future Tree Board meetings, to go over this database/software and figure out what we want to be tracking.

Another future topic could be how to support people in difficult financial situations in meeting Tree Code who may be disproportionately impacted by the fee system. There is support from Council members to look into how to best support and work with folks who've relationally struggled with

government or judicial systems; part of this has been in allowing flexibility for the judge to determine whether there are extenuating circumstances if there has been a violation. On the Master Fee Schedule, flexibility is incorporated too.

We now have 30 days from April 19 until it becomes effective: May 19, 2022.

The next part is implementing the adoption of the code. Natalie, Courtney, Galen, Peter, and planning team will be working together to set up the process to implement the non-development piece - how it will interact with other processes (land use and permitting processes on development side, etc.). How we educate the community is part of this. In the next few weeks, a mailer to all residents will notify them about the effective date. Handouts, flyers, articles, etc., telling folks about what to expect and where to find resources. Working with EnviroIssues, will be sent out to the Tree Board for review. Lots of work ahead in outreach, permitting, etc.

Bask in the glow! Big kudos from Tree Board to City staff for communicating complex information effectively to Council. Kudos to Courtney for interacting so much with the public, responding to questions and issues, fielding the brunt of community feedback. Courtney has received a large influx of calls, many from folks removing trees before the effective date, as well as those hoping to save trees near and around them (all the more value in people contributing comments, and the reason behind the code itself). The City also thanked Tree Board members for applying lived and professional experience, answering questions and establishing priorities, into this process. The opinion of Tree Board being composed of community members outweighs staff technical expertise from a neighbor-to-neighbor relational view. Gina acknowledged former members who pulled together to found the Tree Board and identified developing a tree code as a priority.

Milwaukie is receiving inquiries from other cities outside of the metro region (and state!) on the City's work to protect trees and meet canopy goals. Courtney shared NCWC's article on LinkedIn and has heard from other city arborists with inquiries (Roanoke VA, Palo Alto, San Francisco - who have no code or are revamping). Natalie has noticed that Milwaukie has fielded more inquiries in recent years on various topics (home energy score, trees, etc.) - where Milwaukie is being looked to as a resource or leader, as we're implementing "big code, tiny town" - showing others this work is doable for fellow small communities.

Rare and Threatened tree list - for future meetings. Will need to be able to share criteria and justify inclusion on the list; Tree Board input will be appreciated. TBD: Motion needed? How to edit (add, remove) in the future?

Agenda item on Variances was Ley's interest to discuss. The board agreed to hold that until Ley's on next time.

Updates: Plantings, ivy removal, brainstorming; NCWC workshops; Connecting Canopies (Blueprint, Urban Greenspaces Institute; PSU and TNC); Kellogg Dam work

**The meeting was adjourned at 6:53pm.**