



TREE BOARD MEETING MINUTES
6101 Johnson Creek Blvd. Milwaukie, OR 97206
3.19.2025

Hybrid / In- Person and Zoom Video Conference Meeting

Board Members Present:

Ley Garnett
Camden Mckone
Olivia Padilla
Jon Brown

Board Members Absent:

Kathleen Hunter-Brenner
Alexis Barton

Guest:

Mark Hughes, local resident

Staff Members Present:

Courtney Wilson, Urban Forester
Katie Gavares, Climate and Natural Resources Manager
Brett Kelter, Milwaukie Senior Planner

MEETING NOTES

Courtney Wilson, Urban Forester, started the meeting with reference to a recent story in Willamette Week critical of Portland's Tree Code. The article featured comments from Portland citizens who said Portland's law is too rigid and had created financial difficulties for them. There were no references to success stories. Courtney said the story created a buzz among the urban forestry community and that most felt the article was not objective.

The critical ODF grant is still not finished. It's been slowed by uncertainty about federal funding from the Trump Administration but Katie Gavares, Climate and Natural Resources Manager, told the Board that it hopefully will be ready to sign at by the end of April. But It's still politically sensitive.

Courtney said many suggestions are coming regarding the City's Tree Lists. There are currently six existing tree lists that are each used for different purposes. Staff's goal is to create a consolidated plant list that house each of the previously separated lists. The main discussion of the evening focused on Milwaukie's use of two different invasive species lists, the Oregon Noxious Weed List, used in the Tree Code, and the Portland Plant List, used in the Natural Resources Code.

Brett Kelter, Senior Planner, led a discussion of Natural Resources Code that govern the City's creeks and wetlands (WQRs) and the Habitat Conservation Areas (HCAs) that set standards to preserve and enhance riparian habitats. Natural Resources code applies throughout the city, where the Tree Code only applies in residential areas. The codes both apply in WQRs and HCAs located in residential zones, which is approximately 175 properties throughout Milwaukie. In these areas, the both applicable codes have different definitions of invasive species and therefore different allowances. The board discussed the benefit of deferring to the Natural Resources Code invasive species list in HCAs and WQRs in residential zones, but otherwise maintaining a limited invasive tree list in remaining residential zones.

The Board meeting concluded with remarks from Mark Hughes who urged that an adaptive management plan be created for Elk Rock Island and Spring Park.

The Board Meeting adjourned at 7:11 pm.