



CITY OF ASHLAND



Ashland Tree Commission
Draft Minutes
February 6, 2020

CALL TO ORDER

Commission Chair Chris John called the meeting to order at 5:59 pm in the Siskiyou Room at the Community Development and Engineering Offices located at 51 Winburn Way, Ashland, Oregon, 97520.

Commissioners Present:	Council Liaison
Christopher John	Stephen Jensen - Absent
Asa Cates	
Russell Neff	Park Liaison
Eric Simpson	Peter Baughman
Cat Gould	
	Staff Present:
	Aaron Anderson: Associate Planner
Commissioners Not In Attendance:	Eric Simpson

Other Staff Present – Katie Gible from Ashland Fire

Members of the Public – Huelz Gutcheon, Risa Buck, Julie Norman, Mike Bartlett, Linda Adams

Applicants – Amy Gunter, Bill Robertson, Casey Roland

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioners Cates/Gould m/s to approve the minutes of January 9, 2020. Voice Vote: All Ayes. Motion passed

PUBLIC FORUM

- Julie Norman (Friends of Lithia Park) Thanked the Tree Commission for their recommendation to save the trees associated with the Japanese garden.
- Huelz Gutchin spoke about electric cars, solar panels, and carbons.
- Risa Buck emphasized her ideas on wildlife and tree removal best practices and had two requests:
 - 1) Address wildlife living in trees.
 - 2) Examine guidelines regarding tree protection during development.
- Mike Bartlett discussed the best practices for working around wildlife during tree removal and pruning. He briefly outlined the Federal Migratory Bird Treaty which also covers fur bearing animals. Mike spoke with ISA for further input and was told that there were no industry 'best management practices' for interacting with wildlife during tree work.
- Linda Adams stressed that it is not just protection during development but taking care of trees after development.

LIAISON REPORTS

Council Liaison – Council Liaison Jensen was absent so no report was given.

Parks & Recreation Liaison – Baughman spoke about Tree City USA (35th year) and 3rd Growth Award and gave a brief update on Lomakatsi Restoration Project.

Community Development Liaison – Anderson stated that the trees at 479 Russell

TYPE I REVIEWS

PLANNING ACTION: TREE-2020-00093

SUBJECT PROPERTY: 470 Applegate Way

OWNER: Applegate Industrial Arts

APPLICANT: Bill Robertson

DESCRIPTION: A request to remove three Raywood Ash trees along a sidewalk. The applicant states that the species selection and location are inappropriate as these trees are causing uplift on the sidewalk. The applicant

submitted a brief narrative prepared by Casey Roland Tree Care. **COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DESIGNATION:** Employment; **ZONING:** E-1; **ASSESSOR'S MAP:** 39 1E 13 BB; **TAX LOT:** 800

There was no conflict of interest or ex-parte contact indicated by the Commission.

Anderson gave staff report for TREE-2020-00093.

Bill Robertson, applicant, spoke on his own behalf and is concerned with the damage that these trees may cause to the sidewalk. Casey Roland, project arborist, also spoke about the project. Mr. Roland made the similar point that the species selection was inappropriate for the area.

Gould suggested that this wasn't emergent and why not allow the trees to continue to grow until it creates a hazard problem. John stated that Raywoods are problematic. There was discussion with the applicant about alternative options including removing these trees in phases. The applicant stated that this project was developed in 2003 so these trees are only 17 years old and already causing problems. Cates stated that these trees are on private property and that his feeling might be different if they were street trees.

John/Cates m/s to approve the application with two trees mitigated on site (acer Grisium), and one large heritage tree mitigated off site (on city property). All Ayes. Motion Passed.

PLANNING ACTION: TREE-2020-00094

SUBJECT PROPERTY: 1825 Siskiyou Blvd.

OWNER: June Mikkelsen & James Douglass

APPLICANT: Casey Roland

DESCRIPTION: A request to remove one hazard tree which is identified as a white oak. The applicant submitted a brief narrative prepared by Casey Roland Tree Care. **COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DESIGNATION:** Multifamily Residential; **ZONING:** R-3; **ASSESSOR'S MAP:** 39 1E 15 AD; **TAX LOT:** 1801

There was no conflict of interest or ex-parte contact indicated by the Commission.

Anderson gave staff report for TREE-2020-00094.

Casey Roland, applicant, spoke about the condition of the tree and that it was unsteady enough that he wasn't willing to "pull test". He conducted other tests to determine the amount of wood remains. In terms of assessing the hazard of the tree this satisfies target, opportunity, and likelihood.

Cates felt that the tree absolutely represented a hazard.

Cates/Neff m/s to approve the application as presented with the requirement to mitigate with a medium stature tree at maturity. All Ayes. Motion Passed.

PLANNING ACTION: PA-T1-2019-00083

SUBJECT PROPERTY: 1320 Oregon St.

OWNER/APPLICANT: Verity Construction

DESCRIPTION: A request for Physical and Environmental Constraints Review Permit for Hillside Development to build a new 2,062 square foot single family home at 1320 Oregon Street. The application includes a request for a variance to side-yard setback based on the narrow property configuration, an exception to street standards to seek relief from the installation of park row and sidewalk, and an exception to the hillside design standards. The application includes a requires to remove one 8-inch DBH pine tree that is in the building envelope. The application includes a report prepared by a geotechnical engineer with demonstrable expertise in development of Hillside Lands. **COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DESIGNATION:** Single Family Residential; **ZONING:** R-1-7.5; **MAP:** 39 1E 15 BB; **TAX LOT:** 8700

There was no conflict of interest or ex-parte contact indicated by the Commission.

Anderson gave staff report for PA-T1-2019-00083..

Amy Gunter, applicant's representative, provided an overview of the application and tree protection materials.

Cates expressed concern regarding trees on the adjacent properties.

Cates/Gould m/s to approve the application as submitted with the recommendation that the project

manager pay close attention to the tree protection and removal notes (specifically with regard to the trees on adjacent properties) and that they implement supplemental irrigation for any trees that are stressed due to construction with particular attention to trees 12, 13, & 15. Further recommending that compliance with wildfire standards for pruning be allowed to happen after construction is complete but before C of O. All Ayes. Motion Passed.

STREET TREE REMOVAL PERMITS

PLANNING ACTION: TREE-2020-00092

SUBJECT PROPERTY: 310 Granite St. (Lithia Park)

OWNER: City of Ashland

APPLICANT: Ashland Parks and Recreation

DESCRIPTION: A request to remove an approximately 35' tall and Sixteen-inch DBH green mountain sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*) in the park row along Lithia way at the entrance to Lithia Park. The tree has been declining for several years. Last year the top third of the canopy died and was removed. It has been determined by Parks arborists that it is time to remove this tree based on its advanced disease. **COMPREHENSIVE PLAN**

DESIGNATION: Downtown / Single Family Residential; **ZONING:** C-1-D & R-1-7.5; **ASSESSOR'S MAP:** 39 1E 09; **TAX LOT:** 100

There was no conflict of interest or ex-parte contact indicated by the Commission.

Anderson gave staff report for TREE-2020-00092.

Peter Baughman, Liaison for the Parks Department, spoke about the application. Baughman acknowledged that the tree does continue to shade the street, and that if the Commission would prefer, Parks would keep the tree for a few more years. Baughman indicated that it was their intention to mitigate with an identical species.

Cates/John m/s approve the application as submitted with the recommendation that APRC choose an appropriate mitigation tree. All Ayes. Motion Passed.

PLANNING ACTION: TREE-2020-00095

SUBJECT PROPERTY: 802 Mountain Meadows Dr.

OWNER: Lewis Living Trust Et. Al

APPLICANT: Mt. Meadows HOA

DESCRIPTION: A request to remove an 8" DBH 20' tall cherry plum tree (*Prunus cerasifera*). The tree is prohibited by the adopted street tree guide and creates a slipping hazard from excess fruit that falls on the sidewalk. **COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DESIGNATION:** Healthcare; **ZONING:** HC; **ASSESSOR'S MAP:** 39 1E 04 AD; **TAX LOT:** 229

There was no conflict of interest or ex-parte contact indicated by the Commission.

Anderson gave staff report for TREE-2020-00095.

The applicant was not present.

John mentioned that the park row is narrow which makes species selection difficult.

John/Neff m/s to approve the application as submitted with the requirement that it be mitigated. Vote 3-1. Motion passed.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Earth Day – Potential share with wildfire – general agreement.

Tree of the year – nominations next month.

ADJOURNMENT:

Meeting adjourned at 8:15p.m.

Next meeting will be March 5, 2020.

Respectfully submitted by Regan Trapp