



CITY OF ASHLAND



Ashland Tree Commission
Minutes
September 9, 2021

Call to Order

Commission Chair Chris John called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm via Zoom.

Commissioners Present:	Council Liaison
Christopher John	Stephen Jensen
Asa Cates	
Vacancy (3)	Park Liaison
Eric Simpson	Peter Baughman
Vacancy (5)	
Cat Gould	Staff Present:
Vacancy (7)	Aaron Anderson: Associate Planner

Approval of Minutes

Commissioners Cat Gould / Eric Simpson m/s to approve the minutes of August 5, 2021. Voice Vote: All Ayes. Motion passed

Liaison reports

Council Liaison – Stephen briefly discussed staff departures and recruitment and gave a brief overview of the overall budget situation that the city is facing and detailed some of the different funds and the fact that the fundamental problem lies with the general fund.

Parks & Recreation Liaison – Peter gave an update on the pickleball courts in lithia park which are nearing completion. The Japanese garden has made significant progress with some large concrete pours recently. Finally the parks Dept did work down at the Ashland Ponds to clear the infill channel.

Community Development Liaison – Aaron reported on the Tree of the year web app is ready to be deployed using 'survey 123' rather than forms. Also reported on an emergency removal that took place at 132 Van Ness

Public Forum

Peter Finkle spoke to inform the commission about his most recent article about the first TOY at Brisco which was also published in the Mail Tribune. And teased his upcoming article about the 1989 tree of the year (plaza tree of heaven). Finally Peter remarked that there were many TOY's in town that do not have plaques. Anderson replied that this is largely a budgetary issue.

Type I Reviews

None

Type II Reviews

None

Street Tree Removal Permits

SUBJECT PROPERTY:374 Helman

APPLICANT/OWNER: Canopy

DESCRIPTION:A request to remove a Dead 13.5" DBH Maple Tree

Commissioners Cat Gould / Asa Cates m/s to approve the application with a condition of approval for a mitigation tree to be planted. Voice Vote: All Ayes. Motion passed

Discussion Items

Electrical line clearance

Cat wanted input on a photo of a particularly hard pruned tree with regard to line clearance. Chris John remarked that Ashland's line clearance guys tend to do a good job and have to make difficult decisions

Invasive Species conversation (see attached)

- Risa Buck, Kristina Lefever and Amy Gunter were present to present on challenges with regard to the tree of heaven (see attachments). At the conclusion of the presentation councilor Jensen asked a clarifying question about if the code makes any reference to invasive trees. Liaison Anderson replied that with the exception of the exemption to remove invasive trees there is nothing with regard to mitigation. Commissioner John asked if there had been any conversations with weed abatement, Risa replied that yes there had been conversations and their only concern was mitigation of fire risk.
- Amy Gunter spoke about the issues relating to Tree's of Heaven. There was discussion about the pros and cons of herbicide and that it is essentially required to kill the root system. The conversation continued to return to the topic of education and outreach. John encouraged Risa to put together a handout.
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Asa Cates suggested that we discuss a subcommittee at the next meeting.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 7:26p.m.

Next Meeting: October 7, 2021

Respectfully submitted by Liz Hamilton