



# CITY OF ASHLAND



Ashland Tree Commission  
Minutes  
November 4, 2021

## Call to Order

Commission Chair Chris John called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm via Zoom, Ashland, Oregon, 97520.

<b>Commissioners Present:</b>	<b>Council Liaison</b>
Christopher John	Stephen Jensen - <b>Absent</b>
Asa Cates	
Vacancy (3)	<b>Park Liaison</b>
Eric Simpson	Peter Baughman
Vacancy (5)	
Cat Gould	<b>Staff Present:</b>
Vacancy (7)	Aaron Anderson: Associate Planner
<b>Members of the Public:</b>	
Amy Gunter	
David Waldron	

## Approval of Minutes

*Commissioners Cat Gould / Eric Simpson m/s to approve the minutes of October 7, 2021. Voice Vote: All Ayes. Motion passed*

## Public Forum

There was no one in the audience wishing to speak.

## Liaison reports

**Parks & Recreation Liaison** – the APRC has been working with the Ashland woodland trail assoc. on an improvement on the waterline trail. The ice rink is being prepared, however there is a concern about interested volunteers to operate. There was additional conversation about watershed trail maint.

**Community Development Liaison** – Anderson noted that the covid emergency ordinance continues to remain in effect and that the city offices are still closed to the public. The Council will be reviewing the emergency ordinance again in early December.”

## TYPE I REVIEWS

**PLANNING ACTION:** PA-T1-2021-00162

**SUBJECT PROPERTY:** 192 Clear Creek Drive

**APPLICANT/OWNER:** Rogue Planning & Development Services for Anasazi West LLC

**DESCRIPTION:** A request for a Minor Modification of Subdivision to adjust existing and dedicate new easements as well as to receive Site Design Review approval to construct a 7,893 square foot, three-story, mixed-use building consisting of commercial tenant space on the ground floor, 2 residential units on the second and third floors for the property located at 192 Clear Creek Drive. The proposal seeks to modify the five-foot public pedestrian access easement along the east property line by adding a public utility easement and providing a 10-foot wide, 8-foot stamped concrete centralized pedestrian walkway between the subject lot and the adjacent lot to

the west.

**COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DESIGNATION:** Employment; **ZONING:** E-1 ; **MAP:** 39 1E 09 AB; **TAX LOT #:** 6603

Staff briefly presented the application and introduced the applicants. Amy Gunter and David Waldron presented a brief power point presentation highlighting the landscaping requirements and the proposed plan. Gould asked about the presence of bark mulch on the plan and its compatibility with wildfire standards. Simpson remarked that the building is concrete sided. John said that the plan overall looked good but remarked that the pear trees were a problematic species selection and said instead should consider a native oak rather than a maple. Cates asked about the tree located in the SE corner. Gunter replied that that tree location will need to be modified due to the location of a power vault that has since been installed. Gunter remarked that the species for the parking lot shade trees will be changed to a larger shade tree. There was additional conversation about the modification of the easements.

The public comment period was closed, and the tree commission discussed what the motion should be with regard to the species selection without being too specific. It is understood that they will see the landscape plan again at building permit. Cates stated that there are too many Raywood Ash. Both John and Cates suggested that native oaks would be ideal.

***Commissioner Chris John / Asa Cates M/S to approve application with the condition that the tree selection be altered to not include the pear trees and consider larger stature long lived species and that the final plan shall be reviewed by the TC at the issuance of building permit. Voice Vote: All Ayes. Motion passed***

**PLANNING ACTION:** PA-TREE-2021-00172

**SUBJECT PROPERTY:** 545 Holly St.

**OWNER/APPLICANT:** Eric Recors / Quality Tree Service

**DESCRIPTION:** A request to remove one large cottonwood tree at the property located at 545 Holly St. The tree is estimated to be 16 inches DBH and stands 50' tall. The application states that the tree has a significant lean towards the residence. While the property is single family and is small enough to be exempt because the tree is in an identified Water Resource Protection Zone / Flood Plain Corridor Land a permit is required.

**COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DESIGNATION:** Single Family Residential; **ZONING:** R-1-7.5; **MAP:** 39 1E 09 DB; **TAX LOT:** 8900

Anderson gave a brief background on the removal and the reason for the permit. Cates made a site visit and remarked that the tree clearly had a significant lean to the house. It appears healthy but the lean is problematic. The only prune which could help is very problematic. John remarked he would have a hard time living underneath a leaning cottonwood. Gould remarked that she didn't think its removal would have a significant impact on the canopy.

***Commissioners Asa Cates / Eric Simpson M/S to approve Application as submitted. Voice Vote: All Ayes. Motion passed***

**TYPE II REVIEWS** – None

## **STREET TREE REMOVAL PERMITS**

**PLANNING ACTION:** TREE-2019-00055

**SUBJECT PROPERTY:** 119 N. Third St.

**OWNERS/APPLICANTS:** Michael Hoyt

**DESCRIPTION:** A request for a Street Tree Removal Permit to remove one approximately six-inch diameter Acer / Maple tree at 119 Third St. The applicant is proposing to remove the Maple tree out of concern that at maturity, it will conflict with overhead power lines, and proposes to replace it with a tree less likely to be in conflict with overhead lines, a Paperbark Maple.

**COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DESIGNATION:** Low Density, Multi-Family Residential; **ZONING:** R-2; **ASSESSOR'S MAP:** 39 1E 09BA; **TAX LOT:** 3700

Cates stated that a paper bark maple would have the same problem. Cates also remarked that the tree is very vertical and doesn't lend itself to pruning into a v to clear under the line, so no matter what this tree will have problems in the future. Cates felt that if they are going to do this right they need to relocate the tree. Anderson asked if two smaller stature trees would be acceptable. Cates stated that it ought to be a relatively small tree. Gould said her paper bark is about 20'. Gould stated she would be open to reviewing this application again.

There was discussion about requirements for irrigation of street trees. Anderson stated that the municipal code does not specifically state that street trees must be watered. **Gould would like to discuss potential code amendments – irrigation, invasive trees, and sidewalk etc.**

### **Discussion Items**

One emergency tree removal approved: 675 East Main St., COA Electrical / Streets

Gould had a question about the Zelkova holding on to their leaves, and for Peter about a maple in Lithia. General agreement that it has been a late autumn.

**Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 7:17p.m.

**Next Meeting:** December 09, 2021

*Respectfully submitted by Liz Hamilton*