



CITY OF ASHLAND



Ashland Tree Commission
Minutes
February 3, 2022

Call to Order

Commission chair Chris John called the meeting to order at 6:02 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 |
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |

Members of the Public in Attendance

William Stephens, Andrew Ballard Joan Holly, Jim Lewis, Amy Gunter, Ian Crumme, Joseph Clarke, Kerry Kencairn, Lewis,

Approval of Minutes

Commissioners Eric Simpson / Asa Cates m/s to approve the minutes of January 6, 2022 as written. Voice Vote: All Ayes. Motion passed

Public Forum

There was no one in the audience wishing to speak.

Liaison reports

Council Liaison - Councilor Jensen gave a brief report including how impressed he is with the new city Manager. Chair John asked about the budget, and Councilor Jensen mentioned that SOU survey that will be upcoming to get an understanding of citizen desire for services.

Parks & Recreation Liaison – Peter gave a brief report on two trees that have been removed from blue bird park and the mitigation plantings that have been ongoing. He also mentioned the APRC commissioner Gardnier is retiring.

Community Development Liaison – The city was awarded Tree City USA for the 36th year and, voting on Tree of the Year has begun and is available online.

TYPE II REVIEWS

PLANNING ACTION: PA-T2-2022-00036
SUBJECT PROPERTY: 329 Granite St.
APPLICANT/OWNER: Rogue Planning Services for Clarke
DESCRIPTION: An application for a Physical and Environmental constraints review permit (P&E) for the construction of a new single-family residential home on hillside lands with severe constraints for the vacant parcel at 329 granite street. The application for the P&E includes a request for six different exceptions to the development standards. The development also requires a limited activity and uses permit in the Water Resource Protection Zone (WRPZ) for a driveway crossing an identified waterway, two variances for an allowance of the maximum grade of a driveway and an allowance to exceed the maximum lot coverage, and finally a tree removal permit for the removal of nineteen significant trees.
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DESIGNATION: Woodland / LDR; **ZONING:** WR / RR-.5; **MAP:** 39 1E 08 EE, **TAX LOT:** 704

Aaron mentioned that only trees that are defined as significant are regulated based on the size and zoning. Amy Gunter from Rogue Development then gave a presentation providing an overview of the project and the number and location of trees to be removed and that all trees proposed for removal are either in the path of the driveway or building envelope. She also provided an overview of the wildfire and fuel reduction plan include in the project. Kerry KenCairn discussed the replanting and mitigation plan. Amy highlighted the unique nature of the site based on the very steep terrain.

Joan Holley, 333 Granite St, had clarifying questions regarding the total number of trees to be removed and if there had been studies done to understand the impacts of removing all the trees. She also had concerns about the location of the driveway and where it will be located on the ground. Kerry KenCairn answered several questions from Ms. Holly and offered to visit with her to answer more of her questions.

After the public hearing was concluded the tree commission deliberated over the application. Asa stated that it was a lot of trees but that this is a difficult project based on the drainage. Asa further stated that the application materials are almost overwhelming. Eric stated that it looked like this project has been in the design process for a long time. Cat expressed frustration that with a project so far along it is hard to provide much meaningful impact. Chris stated that he felt that the development is well thought out. Asa stated that hill side development will ultimately require tree removal. Simpson suggested perhaps postponing a decision so that the tree commission could make a site visit.

Commissioners Asa Cates / Chris John M/S to recommend approval of the application as submitted with the recommendation that the utmost care go into tree protection from construction impacts. Voice Votes, 3 yes-1 no. Motion Passes.

TYPE I REVIEWS

PLANNING ACTION: PA-TREE-2021-00179
SUBJECT PROPERTY: Mountain Ranch HOA open space
OWNER/APPLICANT: Doug Kay for MRHOA
DESCRIPTION: A request to remove one Ponderosa Pine estimated to be 25" DBH and sixty feet tall. The application includes two arborist reports indicating that the tree is a hazard due to its extreme lean over two homes in the HOA with a moderate risk of failure. The report indicates that there is no pruning possible to mitigate the hazard and recommends removal.
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DESIGNATION: Single Family Residential; **ZONING:** R-1-7.5;
MAP: 39 1E 23 BB, **TAX LOT:** 7800

Bill Stephens, from the HOA, owns an adjacent property and spoke in favor of the application as it is adjacent to his home and during high wind events they have become increasingly concerned. Asa felt that the there was no option to prune the tree in a way that would mitigate the hazard. Cat stated that the surrounding canopy is robust and that this loss would not be significant, and that when considering risk posed by falling tree, removal is not too big an issue.

Commissioners Asa Cates / Eric Simpson M/S to approve the application as submitted, Chris John abstains. Voice votes, all Ayes. Motion passes

PLANNING ACTION: PA-TREE-2021-00180

SUBJECT PROPERTY: 664 A St.

OWNER/APPLICANT: Cheryl and James Lewis

DESCRIPTION: A request to remove one large Elm tree at the rear of the property at 664 A Street. The tree is very large and has recently tended to drop large branches during high wind events. The application includes a letter from Mountain Tree Care LLC stating that the tree is a hazard.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DESIGNATION: Employment; **ZONING:** E-1;

MAP: 39 1E 09 AB, **TAX LOT:** 4800

Staff briefly presented the application and handed the presentation to the property owners who were representing the application. Commissioner Gould asked why pruning couldn't be done to keep the tree. Cheryl stated that he pruning expenses have gotten very high, and that based on the large branches that have dropped and that they are afraid of the tree know. (Pruning costs ~\$6k / year). Eric asked if previous branches have caused damage Cheryl replied that yes last year a branch fell and did large damage to a renter's car, and then also damaged the roof and fence in another instance.

The tree commission deliberate about whether the tree was a Siberian Elm or an American Elm and whether it was a volunteer. Asa stated that he felt that the tree is a penultimate stage, and that pruning is simply no longer an option. Peter stated that it is a large awesome tree but based on the location and potential danger it may make sense, but it is regrettable based on its size and stature. Asa stated that considering the history of tree dropping limbs, removal may be best.

Commissioners Cat Gould / Asa Cates M/S to approve the application as submitted with regret, and hope that the applicant may consider pruning instead. Chris John abstains, voice votes, all Ayes. Motion passes.

PLANNING ACTION: PA-TREE-2021-00178

SUBJECT PROPERTY: 260 7th St.

OWNER/APPLICANT: Asa Cats for Ned Shaaf

DESCRIPTION: A request to remove one tree 18" DBH thirty-foot-tall Birch tree at the property at 260 Seventh St. The tree has lost a number of large limbs posing a danger to the parking area and buildings. The application includes an arborist report indicating that the tree is dying, and that removal is recommended.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DESIGNATION: Multifamily Residential; **ZONING:** R-2;

MAP: 39 1E 09AA, **TAX LOT:** 7100

Staff stated that the tree was obviously in decline and that there was nothing else to add.

Commissioners Cat Gould / Eric Simpson M/S to approve the application as submitted. Asa Cates abstains, voice votes, all Ayes. Motion passes.

Discussion Items

- Tree of the year voting - online
- Tree City USA - COMPLETE
- Tree inventory project on GIS – no update

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 8:03p.m.

Next Meeting: March 3, 2022

Respectfully submitted by Liz Hamilton