



# CITY OF ASHLAND



## TREE COMMISSION AGENDA May 3, 2018

<b>Commissioners Present:</b>	<b>Parks Liaison</b>
Christopher John	Peter Baughman
Mike Oxendine	
Asa Cates – Arrived 10 min late	<b>Staff Present:</b>
Russell Neff	Nathan Emerson

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Christopher John called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. in the Siskiyou Room of the Community Development and Engineering Services Building located at 51 Winburn Way.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Neff/John m/s to approve the minutes of April 5, 2018. Voice vote. ALL AYES. Motion passed

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS & LIAISON REPORTS**

- **Council Liaison**

There is no Council Liaison assigned to this Commission yet.

- **Parks & Recreation Liaison**

Baughman announced the formal purchase of Briscoe School to the Tree Commission. Parks intends to make the back half, which has been already acting as a de facto park, a city park. A short discussion ensued as to possible plans for the building and lot.

- **Community Development Liaison**

Emerson asked if there was interest in updating street standards on tree grates. After a short discussion, the Commission appears interested but would like to be adequately staffed before undertaking such a project.

### **PUBLIC FORUM**

There was no one in the audience wishing to speak.

### **TYPE I REVIEWS**

**PLANNING ACTION:** PA-2018-00592

**SUBJECT PROPERTY:** 610 Ashland St

**APPLICANT:** Rogue Planning & Development Services

**OWNER:** Teresa Lockwood and George Schoen

**DESCRIPTION:** A request for Site Design Review to convert an existing garage into a 484 square-foot Accessory Residential Unit (ARU) along with the construction of a new carport

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and garage to provide covered parking. **COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DESIGNATION:** Single-Family Residential; **ZONING:** R-1-10; **ASSESSOR'S MAP:** 39 1E 16 AB; **TAX LOT:** 2000

Chairman John recused himself from the discussion as he had bid on the project.

Kerry Kencairn, landscape architect, of 545 A' Street in Ashland and applicants, Teresa Lockwood and George Schoen residing at 610 Ashland Street in Ashland, addressed the Commission about their project. Kencairn stated that tree #7 on the tree protection plan is actually a Redwood. She went on to say that the applicants would like to save it, but given the code requirement for a driveway turnaround it's very unlikely and the decision was made to ask for removal. Kencairn conveyed that trees #5, #6, and, #7 are slated for removal.

After a brief discussion regarding the large number of existing trees on the property, the Commission rendered their decision.

Oxendine/ Neff m/s to **approve** as presented. Voice vote. ALL AYES. Motion passed

#### **STREET TREE REMOVAL PERMITS**

**PLANNING ACTION:** TREE-2018-00001

**SUBJECT PROPERTY:** 793 & 802 N. Mountain Ave/802 Mountain Meadows Drive

**APPLICANT/OWNER:** Mountain Meadows HOA

**DESCRIPTION:** A request for a Street Tree Removal Permit to remove eight *Prunus Cerasifera* (Cherry Plums) adjacent to the corner of N Mountain Ave and Mountain Meadows Drive. The trees are all approximately eight inches diameter at breast height and approximately 20 feet tall. The application asserts the trees have begun to lean and that heavy fruit production creates a slipping hazard. **COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DESIGNATION:** Single-Family Residential and Healthcare Services; **ZONING:** NM-R-1.5 & HC

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

The applicants were not present.

Commissioners discussed that they had visited trees and generally found them to be in good health. The fruit was not deemed to be an adequate hazard and is part of the essential nature of the trees and can be mitigated by proper clean up.

The Commissioners recommended that if the applicants reapply they should bring a mitigation plan and apply ISA risk assessment criteria by a certified arborist.

Oxendine/Cates m/s to **deny** the request and if the applicant re-applies that they return with a mitigation plan and ISA risk assessment for the trees requested to be removed. Voice vote. ALL AYES. Motion to deny passed.

**PLANNING ACTION:** PA-2018-00002

**SUBJECT PROPERTY:** 20 E Main St

**APPLICANT:** City of Ashland Parks and Recreation

**OWNER:** City of Ashland

**DESCRIPTION:** A request for a Street Tree Removal Permit to remove one Austrian Pine behind the bus stop near the Ashland Plaza. The tree is approximately twenty inches diameter at breast height and forty feet tall. The application asserts the trees is dying and beyond recovery. The demise appears to be caused by soil compaction, limited water, and a possible secondary bark beetle infestation. The applicant has proposed replacing with a tree more tolerant of urban conditions and mitigating soil compaction with plantings or landscaping. **COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DESIGNATION:** Commercial Downtown; **ZONING:**C1D

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

The applicant, Peter Baughman was present for the discussion.

There was a short discussion by the Commissioners on what the cause of death of the tree would have been and, **IF** irrigation was stopped in the summer months, then that brief pause in irrigation may have been enough to kill the tree.

Commissioners discussed replacement tree options and a Giant Sequoia was proposed for its ability to thrive in the region and the visual impact it could have over time.

John/Oxendine m/s to **approve** with recommendation that the tree be mitigated with a Giant Sequoia. Voice vote. ALL AYES. Motion passed.

### **DISCUSSION**

Chairman John alerted staff to a structure potentially being moved through the City that would require trimming of public trees.

Cates mentioned that he will be going before the Wildfire commission on May 16, 2018 to give a quick presentation on what the Tree Commission does. He went on to say that this was supposed to happen last month, but the meeting was cancelled.

Cates passed around a flyer for the Silva Cell planting system and Commissioners discussed merits and expressed interest in a demonstration. Oxendine will pursue a demonstration on SOU campus in regards to this.

## **1. Earth Day Event Report**

Cates and John both attended the Rogue Valley Earth Day Event and they discussed what worked and what didn't. It was reported that the kids really enjoyed the box with pine cones and everyone enjoyed plant giveaway.

It was discussed by Commissioners that the Tree Commission acquire a banner of their own so they can more easily announce presence at special events.

## **2. Bellview Arbor Day Tree Planting Report**

Baughman and Cates reported on tree planting at Bellview Elementary. Approximately 50 kids took turns digging and planting 3 apple trees. It was considered a successful event by all.

## **3. Event Reminders**

Commission discussed the tree climbing event on May 12, 2018 in Medford and SOU will hold its Arbor Day celebration the same weekend. It is encouraged that all Commissioners attend these events if they are able.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:59 p.m. Emerson noted that the next regular meeting would be held on Thursday, June 7, 2018 at 6:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Regan Trapp.