



EDMONDS CITIZENS' TREE BOARD APPROVED MINUTES

October 1, 2015

The Edmonds Citizens' Tree Board Meeting was called to order at 6:09 p.m. by Chair Steve Hatzenbeler in the Brackett Room, 3rd Floor City Hall, 121 5th Avenue North, Edmonds, WA.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Steve Hatzenbeler, Chair
Barbara Chase
Barbara Durr
Albert (Jed) Marshall
Rick Zitzmann (arrived 6:25 p.m.)

STAFF PRESENT

Julia Munger, Consulting Arborist
Rich Lindsay, Park Manager
Jeannie Dines, Recorder

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Crane Stavig
Renee Travis (Alternate)

ELECTED OFFICIALS PRESENT

Joan Bloom – City Councilmember

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Hatzenbeler called the meeting to order.

2. ROLL CALL/INTRODUCTIONS

Board Members, staff and visitors identified themselves.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

At Board Member Chase's request, an agenda item was added under New Business: Replacing Vegetation Removed during Public Works Projects.

Board Member Chase moved to approve the agenda as amended; seconded by Board Member Marshall. Motion carried unanimously.

4. AUDIENCE COMMENTS

Mary Bell, Edmonds, explained she purchased her home a year ago. After an arborist certified two trees on the property in a critical area (Shell Creek) were dead/hazardous trees, the trees were cut down. She was informed by staff that she was required to replace each tree with two trees and staff directed her to the Washington Native Plant Society website to select a native tree. Discussion followed regarding appropriate trees for the site. Mr. Lindsay offered to visit the site and make a recommendation with regard to replacement trees.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Board Member Durr moved to approve the September 10, 2015 minutes; seconded by Board Member Marshall. Motion carried unanimously.

6. DISCUSSION

a. **Arbor Day Event – October 17, 10:00 a.m.**

Board Member Chase reported she and Board Member Zitzmann met with Mr. Lindsay and visited the site where non-native plants will be removed and trees and plants planted. Mr. Lindsay explained three trees fell in this area during the windstorm which provided an area for replanting. He reviewed plans for the event:

- He and another staff member will be there
- City will supply tools, plants, gloves, water, table for materials, volunteer form
- Staff will dig holes prior to event for volunteers to plant
- Will likely plant Western red cedar trees as summer drought has made it difficult get Douglas fir and Hemlock. The intent is to plant native trees originally in Yost Park before it was logged.
- Will also plant Huckleberry and Elderberry plants
- Only need 5-8 people for planting
- Bring Tree City USA flag

Discussion followed regarding publicity prior to the event, information to include in article (planting native trees, removing laurel), limited area in Yost Park for planting, doing this smaller event now and planning a larger event in the future such as Earth Day, and Ms. Munger organizing educational materials to be available at the event.

Suggestions for future events included:

- Developing a scalable event template that includes outreach
- Outreach to service groups
- Refreshments
- Do planting at a school site (College Place Elementary?)

Board Members Durr, Chase, Marshall, Zitzmann, Chair Hatzenbeler, Ms. Munger and Councilmember Bloom advised they planned to attend.

Mr. Lindsay offered to contact My Edmonds News. Board Member Chase offered to work with Mr. Lindsay on an article for the Beacon and send a draft article to board members for feedback.

b. **Tree City USA Certification 2015**

Chair Hatzenbeler reported former Tree Board Vice Chair Anna Heckman provided information from past Tree City USA certifications.

Ms. Munger reported she has perused the website and the online application; per Ms. Heckman, the most challenging part is determining that the City spends \$2/citizen on tree-related work in the City. Mr. Lindsay said he assists with gathering that information.

Ms. Munger reviewed information required for Tree City USA:

- General information about the City (population, etc.)
- Arbor Day Event and proclamation (Chair Hatzenbeler will confer with Council President Fraley-Monillas about scheduling on Council agenda)
- \$2/citizen spent on tree-related activities

Ms. Munger will determine whether volunteer hours count toward \$2/citizen.

7. NEW BUSINESS

a. Tree Board Member Turnover

Chair Hatzenbeler expressed concern there has been a lot of turnover on the Tree Board. Board Member Brightman resigned following the last meeting. Chair Hatzenbeler encouraged board members to be involved and to submit agenda topics to him.

Board members identified the following reasons for turnover:

- Negativity from citizens toward the Tree Board regarding the proposed Tree Code
- Frustration with lack of action on ideas

Board members discussed ways to keep members engaged/what members are interested in:

- Existing Tree Code is flawed, needs to be updated
- Connect with community groups
- Need to feel like what the Board is doing is worthwhile
- Don't take comments personally
- Tree Board needs to distance itself from the Tree Code
- Work with Public Works on replanting
- Improve outreach
- Brainstorm board members' ideas
- Schedule speakers
 - Board Member Durr will contact Cass Turnbull
- Investigate what other Tree Boards do
 - Board Member Marshall will contact Lake Forest Park Tree Board

Discussion continued regarding the need for an Urban Forestry Plan to provide policy for the Tree Code, the need for staff assistance to develop a Heritage Tree Program, lack of staff support for the Tree Board, and educating the community about trees. Ms. Munger was asked to inquire with staff what elements of the Tree Code will be incorporated into the code rewrite.

Board Member Chase moved that each board member come up with one thing to do and send it to all board members and Ms. Munger before the next meeting; Board Member Durr seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Chair Hatzenbeler suggested discussing the ideas at next month's meeting and scheduling them on future agendas and making goals.

b. Replacing Vegetation Removed During Public Works Projects

Board Member Chase circulated a picture of an area near Daley Place & 8th where trees were removed during installation of a sewer line; the area is now bare with stormwater waddles and would be an ideal place for native planting to prevent blackberries from growing. Mr. Lindsay will confer with Public Works staff regarding plans for vegetation.

8. TREE BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Board Member Zitzmann relayed he has thought about resigning primarily due to the negative comments

from citizens following the presentation of Tree Code. He now thinks he will remain; he has learned a lot and enjoys serving on the board.

Board Member Durr expressed appreciation for Mr. Lindsay attending tonight's meeting and for the City hiring Ms. Munger. Board Member Marshall agreed.

Board Member Zitzmann offered to contact former Board Member Brightman to obtain the list of important trees that he developed and his list of recommended street trees.

Chair Hatzenbeler offered to forward the list of Tree Board members and contact information to board members. He looked forward to seeing board members at the planting event on October 17.

9. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

Next Meeting: Thursday, November 5 6:00 p.m., Brackett Room, City Hall