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# EDMONDS CITIZENS' TREE BOARD

## APPROVED MINUTES

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February 5, 2015

The Edmonds Citizens' Tree Board Meeting was called to order at 6:04 p.m. by Chair Steve Hatzenbeler in the Brackett Room, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor City Hall, 121 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue North, Edmonds, WA.

### BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Steve Hatzenbeler, Chair  
Barbara Durr  
Rick Zitzmann  
Ronald Brightman

### STAFF PRESENT

Jeannie Dines, Recorder

### ELECTED OFFICIALS PRESENT

Lora Petso, City Councilmember

### BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Barbara Harrell  
Anna Heckman, Vice Chair  
Darcy MacPherson  
Renee Travis, Alternate

### ALSO PRESENT

Janice Freeman, Sustainable Edmonds

## 1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Hatzenbeler called the meeting to order.

## 2. ROLL CALL

All board members were present with the exception of Board Members MacPherson, Harrell, Heckman and Travis.

## 3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chair Hatzenbeler advised Item 6b, Right-of-Way and Easement Tree (not Street Tree) List, will be rescheduled.

Board Member Zitzmann moved to approve the agenda; seconded by Board Member Durr. Motion carried unanimously.

## 4. AUDIENCE COMMENTS - None

## 5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

### a. January 8, 2015 Minutes

This item was delayed to the March meeting.

## 6. DISCUSSION

### a. Tree City USA Certification 2014-15

Chair Hatzenbeler relayed information from Vice Chair Heckman that she had officially applied

with the State and expected the City's certification to be renewed this year. She had also emailed Parks about improving City leadership related to tree activities but had not received a response. Assuming the Tree Code is updated in 2015, Chair Hatzenbeler said the City may be eligible for a growth award next year; he will confirm that with Vice Chair Heckman.

**b. Rights-of-Way and Easement Tree (Not Street Tree) List**

This item will be postponed to a future meeting agenda when Board Member MacPherson is present. Discussion followed regarding the difference between street trees and right-of-way trees. Chair Hatzenbeler relayed his understanding this is a Right-of-Way Tree List, not a Street Tree List. He will confirm that with Board Member MacPherson, and if so, request that she change the title.

Board members were asked to provide feedback to Board Member MacPherson regarding trees on the list.

**c. Goals for 2015, including:**

- Heritage Tree Program – Next Steps

Board Member Zitzmann said he plans to meet with Senior Planner Kernen Lien during February to discuss the mechanism of establishing a program. A code change will be required to implement the program.

- Outreach and Education

Chair Hatzenbeler described past education and outreach such as the Watershed Fair and a booth at the Summer Market to answer questions. The Tree Board also inventoried the size and species of trees on a few downtown streets and utilized a software program to determine the benefits the trees provide. On Arbor Day the trees were labeled with the benefits.

Chair Hatzenbeler invited board members to inform of events that may be of interest to Tree Board, and the Board will determine whether to have a representative at the event. Events are a good opportunities to get out the "right tree, right place" message. He anticipated the Board will participate in the Watershed Fair and the Arbor Day event in the fall.

- Tree Board Website Update – Suggestions?

Chair Hatzenbeler asked board members to visit the Tree Board website and provide suggested improvements such as adding resources of interest or use to the public, tweaking the mission, etc.

Chair Hatzenbeler described the Tree Board's ability to forward concerns regarding trees to the appropriate staff member. He will contact staff regarding how to edit the Tree Board website.

- Staff Arborist

Chair Hatzenbeler explained since the employee who was an arborist retired, the City has not had an arborist on staff. When an issue arises regarding tree health, either the citizen or the City hires an arborist. There is a significant level of interest in having a staff arborist, a staff member with arborist training or on-call arborist. Councilmember Petso suggested a staff person who is an arborist is a greater possibility than a staff arborist.

- Tree Code

Chair Hatzenbeler relayed Mr. Lien's response regarding review of the Tree Code update:

- Introduced to the Planning Board February 25.
  - Tree Board representative encouraged to attend to discuss the Tree Board's review and recommendation.
- Planning Board work session March 25
- Planning Board public hearing April 9
- Planning Board recommendation to Council May 13
- Full Council June 9

## **7. NEW BUSINESS**

### **a. Arbor Day Observation and Proclamation – When, Where, What?**

Chair Hatzenbeler offered to research what the Tree Board has done in the past for spring or fall Arbor Day observations and he invited board members to provide input regarding potential Arbor Day events. As spring is not a good time to plant trees, the Tree Board's observance of Arbor Day is usually done in October. He will check when the proclamation needs to be approved.

Councilmember Petso relayed the code requires the Tree Board provide an annual report to the Council in December. She suggested amending the code so the annual report is provided at a time that is more convenient time for the Council and the Tree Board such as coinciding with Arbor Day.

## **8. TREE BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Chair Hatzenbeler encouraged board members to contact him with any questions/concerns, or items for the agenda (1½ weeks before the meeting).

Board Member Durr reported she recently had arborists from Seattle Tree Preservation assess several large trees on her property.

Board Member Brightman suggested considering "Champion Trees of Washington State" by Robert Van Pelt in regard to the Heritage Tree Program. He referred to several large, older trees in the north end of the Evergreen Cemetery in Everett.

Chair Hatzenbeler reported he lost a battle with a developer to save a large Pine tree on 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue. The required location of the curb and sidewalk would have significantly affected the critical root zone.

Janice Freeman remarked on the planting of trees in the right-of-way and removal of trees to construct sidewalks.

## **9. ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business, the Edmonds Citizens' Tree Board adjourned at 7:29 p.m.