
EDMONDS CITIZENS' TREE BOARD

Meeting Notes

April 28, 2016

The Edmonds Citizens' Tree Board Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chair Steve Hatzenbeler in the council chambers' Jury Room, 250 5th Avenue North, Edmonds, WA.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Steve Hatzenbeler
Barbara Chase
Barbara Durr
Albert (Jed) Marshall
Vivian Olson
Doug Petersen

STAFF PRESENT

Jeanie McConnell, Engineering Program Manager

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Crane Stavig
Rene Travis (alternate)

ELECTED OFFICIALS PRESENT

Diane Buckshnis – City Council liaison

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Hatzenbeler called the meeting to order at 6:00.

2. **ROLL CALL/INTRODUCTIONS**

Guests introduced: Wendy Kendall, Brian Borofka of the Edmonds Architectural Design Board, and Ken Peirce.

3. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Approved, with the addition of a discussion item about topping of trees.

4. **AUDIENCE COMMENTS**

- a. Wendy Kendall raised concerns about trees on a neighbor's property affecting her home. Diane Buckshnis referred her to the City Council since it is an administrative concern.
- b. Brian Borofka was in attendance to observe the meeting.
- c. Ken Peirce shared a non-significant tree list from the City of Lynnwood.

5. **APPROVAL OF MEETING NOTES**

April 7 meeting notes were approved.

6. **OLD BUSINESS**

- a. Barb Durr and Doug Petersen discussed the May 5 event with Cass Turnbull, from 7:00 to 9:00 pm. Doug is in charge of refreshments. Steve will introduce Cass and take care of details such as the podium and set up. Barbara Durr will work on having handouts. Members will arrive after 6:00 pm. My Edmonds News will record the talk and post the video to their website afterward. Barbara has sent notices to the Seattle Times, the Herald, and My Edmonds News, garden clubs, and about 12 other entities.

Multiple copies of the flyer were given to Edmonds Climate Protection committee, perennial alliance, Micki McNaughton, Master Gardener Speaker series and intern class, Edmonds Community College Horticulture Program. Tree Board members Vivian Olson, Barbara Chase, and Barbara Durr distributed them in the community. Sandy Chase sent out press releases to the newspapers and posted it on the City's website.

- b. Steve Hatzenbeler recapped the Tree Board report to the City Council. City Council members Fraley-Monillas, Johnson, Nelson, and Teitzel made comments about trees on private property, unintended consequences, incentivizing tree planting, and "Right Tree, Right Place."
- c. Diane Buckshnis and Steve Hatzenbeler commented on changes for the Tree Board: change the meeting notice from being a "Special Meeting;" change report time to first quarter rather than December (per the current ordinance); emphasize the word "assist" in the current ordinance and Tree Board mission statement; emphasize education about trees for citizens. Vivian Olson suggested the possibility of simplifying the Tree City USA application.

7. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Steve reported on the meeting with Micki McNaughton of the WA Department of Natural Resources. She gave good advice such as referencing already existing documents such as the City's Comprehensive Plan to tie our suggestions for tree ordinances etc. That gives more weight and credibility to Tree Board recommendations.
- b. Steve recommended that Tree Board members take the Tree Board University online program to pursue a Tree City USA Growth Award.
- c. The June meeting will feature City Attorney Jeff Taraday. The board is encouraged to suggest questions or concerns to Jeff. Give them to Steve to pass on to Jeff.
- d. Jed Marshall will research the EPA Water Quality Scorecard and bring a summary to the Tree Board June meeting.
- e. The Tree Board is interested in posting recommended tree lists for view and non view areas on our web site. These lists should come from other existing standards, rather than creating our own. These lists should be consistent with other city policies already in place such as the Street Tree Plan (part of the Comprehensive Plan).
- f. An article about Leyland Cypress and alternatives was posted on My Edmonds News. There was a question asked about the legality of topping trees. Kernen Lien answered via email that the topping of a tree is regulated by ECDC 18.45. Topping is an alteration and is subject to critical areas regulations. There are exemptions if a tree or trees were topped previously. Cutting them to a previously topped level is considered "ordinary maintenance" so a row of Leyland Cypress can be topped to maintain as a hedge, for example.

8. TREE BOARD MEMBERS COMMENTS

Edmonds Engineering Program Manager Jeanie McConnell informed us of the Green Resource Center which is in the final stages of completion. It is on the 2nd floor of City Hall and will be available to the public for more information about various ecology related subjects and environmentally friendly development approaches.

ADJOURNMENT

The Edmonds Citizens' Tree Board adjourned at 7:55 pm.

Next Event: Cass Turnbull speaks at the City Council Chambers from 7:00 to 9:00 pm on Thursday, May 5. Topic will be the *Seven Myths of Site, Selection, and Care of Trees*.

Future Meetings: June meeting, Thursday, June 2, 2016
July meeting, Thursday, July 7, 2016

Notes submitted by Barbara Chase, Secretary