



EDMONDS CITIZENS' TREE BOARD APPROVED MINUTES

November 5, 2015

The Edmonds Citizens' Tree Board Meeting was called to order at 6:03 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

STAFF PRESENT

Jeannie Dines, Recorder
Julia Munger, Consulting Arborist

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

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The following items were added to the agenda under New Business:

- Planting Event This Weekend Hosted by Barbara Chase
- Development Services Director's Suggestion for the City Attorney to Provide Legal Training to the Tree Board
- Quorum at Non-scheduled Events
- Table at Holiday Market

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

4. AUDIENCE COMMENTS

Scott Blomenkamp, Edmonds, provided an update on his Hearing Examiner case. The Hearing Examiner ruled in his favor that the developer behind his property caused a nuisance and a hazard and should replace the damaged trees with one 10-foot tree for each 160-foot Douglas fir. The City said the Hearing Examiner did not have authority to hear his permit review as City administration has sole authority for enforcement. He requested reconsideration which the Hearing Examiner granted. Mr. Blomenkamp expected to have resolution or a final determination by Monday. If the decision is not in his favor, he will proceed with a LUPA action or a lawsuit. He requested the City follow its code, citing 18.45.070 which states replace each tree with three trees equal to the diameter of tree. It has been six months since the trees were damaged and three months of hearings. In response to board member questions, he reported on the condition of the damaged trees: standing, at least one

needs to come down, half the root system has been torn out, and soil compaction has damaged other trees to an unknown extent. To illustrate his point, he commented the permit for the Woodway Fields used a 1993 critical areas checklist instead of checklist that was prepared within five years as the code requires. He responded to questions regarding what he hope to get out of Hearing Examiner process and he provided additional details regarding the trees removed on the site adjacent to his property.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

August 7, 2015

Board Member Durr moved to approve the August 7, 2015 minutes; seconded by Board Member Marshall. Motion carried unanimously.

October 1, 2015

Board Member Zitzmann moved to approve the October 1, 2015 minutes; seconded by Board Member Durr. Motion carried unanimously.

6. DISCUSSION

a. Recap Arbor Day Event, October 17

Chair Hatzenbeler commented it was a fun event; it was nice to do something that got positive press as well as to plant trees and shrubs. He looked forward to bigger, better and more frequent events in the future. He was hopeful Ms. Munger would develop a template for future events such as contacts for volunteers, checklist for organizing the event, etc. Ms. Munger suggested attaching pictures of the event as well as the My Edmonds News article to the Tree City USA application.

b. Tree City USA Certification 2015 Update

Ms. Munger reported everything related to the 2015 Tree City USA application has been completed except for the hours related to \$2/capita for forest management and tree care, approximately \$94,000 for Edmonds. Qualifying activities include tree planting (materials, labor), maintenance and removal, management (public education, memberships, salaries, and inventories) etc. She has drafted an email to departments to inquire about activities that would qualify. Board member suggestions regarding eligible expenditures included arborist training for the Parks employee, fee for the consulting arborist, Tree Board volunteer hours, door monitor during Tree Board meetings and the minute taker and inquiring with the Council's Executive Assistant Jana Spellman regarding time board members spend at meetings and costs related to the minute taker, door monitor, and Ms. Spellman's assistance with the Tree Board.

Ms. Munger will email board members to inquire about volunteer hours outside Tree Board meetings. She will also confirm with the State's Tree City USA representative regarding eligible expenses such as hours board members spend at other meetings. Board Member Chase has provided Ms. Munger the hours for citizen volunteers at the Arbor Day event.

7. NEW BUSINESS

a. Tree Board Member Input on Events/Activities in Coming Year

Board members suggested the following:

- 2-3 guest speakers/year*
 - Cass Turnbull
 - Debra Dill
- Planting Event on School District Property*
- Larger Arbor Day Events*
- Subcommittee regarding Education & Outreach*
 - Publicize Good Street Trees
 - Encourage Ivy Removal
 - Talk About Problem Trees – City has list of poor trees
- Awards for Good Plantings/Trees
- Partner with Public Works & Parks
- Joint Events with Floretum Garden Club or Edmonds in Bloom*
- Series of Talks on Trees
- Heritage Tree Program*

*priorities

Discussion included educating parents via their children, avoiding turnover by engaging board members, Arbor Day event on a school district property, coordinating events/activities with teachers, Master Gardeners' work with schools, publicizing a planting event, subcommittees to do work outside meetings, coordinating with other organizations such as scouts, formalizing a partnership with Public Works to revegetate areas where water and sewer lines are installed, planting trees near Shell Creek access road, the City's list of poor trees, the City's street tree list, Everett Arboretum Urban Tree Walk, other cities' street tree lists, and the formal/legal process to develop a Heritage Tree Program and the need for staff time to administer it.

Board members prioritized events, education/outreach, speakers and Heritage Tree Program for 2016. The December meeting will include discussion about setting up 1-2 subcommittees to work on gathering information; top priorities will be determined in 2016.

b. Update on Development Code Rewrite and Portions of Tree Code to be Incorporated

Ms. Munger reported the Urban Forest Management Plan is scheduled to be drafted next year. Before an Urban Forest Management Plan is adopted, relevant definitions, right-of-way permitting processes, tree protection measures, subdivision tree plan requirements, application requirements, unauthorized tree cutting penalties, tree retention standards, etc. may be updated in the ongoing Development Code re-write. A code update is underway to address those and other pressing issues. The code update will not include a private property tree permit process and tree density standards. The Board will be able to provide input on the draft, expected late this year or early next year.

c. Possible Partnership with Edmonds Climate Protection Committee

Chair Hatzembeler relayed the Climate Protection Committee invited the Tree Board to their meeting for an introduction and to discuss how the two groups could work together. He informed the Committee what the Tree Board does and its goals. He suggested next month's Tree Board meeting include discussion regarding the Commission's priorities and ways the groups could work together in 2016.

d. Planting this Weekend Hosted by Barbara Chase on 8th & Daley, Saturday, 10 am to 12 pm

Board Member Chase displayed a photograph and map of the area to be planted this weekend and invited board members to assist with the planting. Board members commended Board Member Chase for championing this project. Chair Hatzenbeler suggested she email board members if she needs help the following Saturday.

e. Development Services Director's Suggestion for the City Attorney to Provide Legal Training to the Tree Board

Chair Hatzenbeler relayed Development Services Director Shane Hope's suggestion for the City Attorney to provide the Board a 30-40 minute presentation regarding legal requirements. The Board agreed to add this to the December 3 agenda.

f. Board Quorum at Non-scheduled Events

Chair Hatzenbeler explained if a quorum of members participates at a group event, it needs to be noticed as a meeting. The workaround is board members cannot discuss Tree Board business. Subcommittee meetings with three or less members do not need to be noticed.

g. Tree Board Table at Holiday Market

Councilmember Bloom announced the Holiday Market on five Saturdays November 21 – December 19 in the parking lot next to City Hall and under the City Hall awning. There is space under the awning for a Tree Board table; this would be an opportunity to provide educational materials, display the Tree City USA sign, talk about the Tree Board, identify trees that are good to plant in this area, etc. She recalled the Tree Board had a table at the Saturday Market in the past.

Discussion followed regarding what information could be provided at a booth (Living Christmas trees, hazardous trees, educational materials) and where to obtain educational materials. Chair Hatzenbeler suggested scheduling further discussion on the December agenda.

Councilmember Bloom suggested Ms. Munger gather educational materials. Ms. Munger said her focus is submitting the Tree City USA application and coming to the Board's next meeting. If she has enough remaining budget, she will work on education/outreach and event planning.

8. TREE BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Board Member Zitzmann asked who will be the Council liaison to the Tree Board. Councilmember Bloom explained the liaisons are assigned by the new Council President at first meeting in January.

Board Member Durr offered to contact Cass Turnbull about speaking to the Board at the December or January meeting. Councilmember Bloom suggested advertising that meeting as well as an article in My Edmonds News.

9. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the Edmonds Citizens' Tree Board adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

Next Meeting: Thursday, December 3 6:00 p.m., Brackett Room, City Hall