



City of Edmonds Citizens' Tree Board

APPROVED MINUTES

November 7, 2013

Meeting Date: November 7, 2013

Meeting called to order at 6:05 by Steve Hatzenbeler, in the Brackett Room at Edmonds City Hall

Appointed Members Present:

Darcy McPherson
Barbara Harrell
Roy Smith
Rick Zitzman
Steve Hatzenbeler

Appointed Members Absent:

Susan Paine
Anna Marie Heckman
Rene Travis

City Staff Present:

Joan Bloom (Edmonds City Council)
Rich Lindsay (Edmonds Parks Manager)

Guests Present:

Janice Freeman (Sustainable Edmonds)
Bill Weaver (Edmonds resident)

Discussion:

1. Roll Call
2. Agenda: Agenda was amended to delete approval of previous months' meeting minutes because none have been received for review. Rick moved to approve amended agenda, and Darcy seconded; motion passed unanimously.
3. Audience Comments:

Bill Weaver, 19632 84th Ave W, was at the meeting to discuss a large tree in his front yard. Originally Bill believed the tree was on his property, but in his review of the plat map, it appears the tree is actually in the City right of way. The tree has a history of dropping large limbs, including several recently that fell near his automobiles. He is concerned about the hazard of the falling limbs, and also about the damage to his driveway due to root uplift, and potential damage that may occur to his home when the roots reach the other walkway(s) and the building foundation. Bill has contacted the City and sent some information to Chris Rivera, who has reviewed the tree's condition. Bill is asking for the City to maintain the tree and/or to pay for removal, since it is in the City right of way.

Rich Lindsay said he would visit the site to review the condition of the tree and get back to Bill with advice regarding next steps. Steve commented that if the tree gets removed, the Tree Board would encourage Bill to consider planting some new smaller trees in its place to improve tree canopy coverage.

4. There was a short discussion of the Heritage Tree Program. Rick has not received any comments on the draft resolution he sent out to the group. Steve noted that he is aware that Susan has some thoughts on it, but since she was not at the meeting, we agreed to postpone further discussion to next

month. Rick will re-send the document to the Tree Board for review.

5. We discussed the City's draft Procedures for Obtaining Permitting and Approval for Tree Removal or Trimming within City of Edmonds Rights of Way, which was distributed to the Tree Board for review prior to the meeting. The following comments were discussed, and we agreed that further discussion would be added to the December meeting agenda:
 - There is unusual wording in the 5th bullet item in Section 1 – Permit Required. The sentence "...any branches or portions of the tree exceeding six inches (6") in diameter falling within the traveled way..." should be re-worked to be more clear.
 - In Section 3, 5th bullet item, the arborist should be a Certified Tree Risk Assessor.
 - In Section 3, 5th bullet item, there needs to be clarification added regarding who is responsible for paying for the arborist evaluation.
6. There was discussion about the Trees for the Planet speaker for January. Nobody present had any information to share, so we agreed to postpone the discussion until the December meeting.
7. Rich Lindsay presented a memo he prepared in response to a Craig and Cathy Colbert's inquiry about the existing Corkscrew Willow trees in the Elm Place development. Rich asked for Tree Board members to review the memo and bring comments to the December meeting. Steve asked Rich to send a pdf of the memo to the Tree Board so that Anna and Susan can review it.
8. Darcy raised some questions about the Tree Board Mission Statement. We did not discuss it in detail and agreed that it could be a discussion item at the December meeting or another upcoming month.
9. Joan discussed the City Council's allocation of \$75,000 for a code rewrite, which does not include the Tree Code. Joan is considering proposing \$15,000-25,000 from the City, with pursuit of a matching grant, for a Tree Code rewrite. Joan asked if that is enough money for the Tree Code and we agreed it would be good to get Susan's input because of her experience working on Seattle's code.

Meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:45.

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