



**TREE BOARD MEETING NOTES
REGULAR MEETING OF FEBRUARY 27, 2013**

Board Members Present		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Paula Waters	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jey Manickam	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Thomas Quigley
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Michael Munniks	<input type="checkbox"/> Steve Yabroff	
Staff Present		
Dave Kuhl, Sarah Ruether, Sandy Guinn		
Guests/Public in Attendance		
None		
Called to Order at:	Meeting Location:	Chairperson:
5:30	Council Chambers	Thomas Quigley
Agenda	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Approved	<input type="checkbox"/> Modified
Board Member Waters moved to excuse Board member Manickam. Commissioner Munniks seconded the motion.		
PUBLIC COMMENTS		
None		
BUSINESS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS		
<p>1. Approval of Minutes a. January 23, 2013</p> <p>Board Member Waters moved to approve the minutes of January 23, 2013. Board member Manickam seconded the motion. Vote: All voted in favor of the motion and the motion passed, 3-0.</p> <p>2. Proposed Arbor Day Events for Year 2013 The Tree Board wanted to know when Earth Day was and determined it to be Monday, April 22nd. The event for 21 Acres is being held on Saturday April 20th. Planner Ruether has talked to Deb of 21 Acres and she welcomes City participation. The Tree Board agreed they would like to participate. Ms. Ruether to check with Arbor Day and DNR for brochures that could be distributed at the upcoming events. Board members asked for staff to bring a map of the City to the events where we have a booth. Also, Commissioner Munniks asked if Staff could obtain information from Arbor Day about receiving 10 free seedling trees when someone joins and becomes a member. He did this last year and most of the planted tree seedlings lived.</p> <p>There was, also, a discussion of how to incorporate the SRS habitat restoration. The Tree Board asked what was done for habitat restoration and Staff said it is removing invasive plants. Sarah suggested Tom Quigley do a demonstration on pruning that day in coordination with the SRS event. Board member Quigley said he would do the pruning demonstration, but he was not sure that property along the Sammamish would have enough diversity of species for a pruning demonstration and there may be less parking available. He suggested we do it on City Property if we have it on that date. Ms. Ruether said she would talk with Brenda Eriksen, who communicates with SRS to see if we can coordinate a date to have the demonstration pruning on the same date.</p> <p>At the next meeting, the Tree Board will discuss more details about the 21 Acres event.</p>		

3. Review of Tree Regulations and Proposed Recommendations

In a review of the proposed modifications to the tree density worksheet, Chair Quigley discussed his recent experience with the tree removal process and applying for a tree removal permit. Chair Quigley said he was surprised at how many tree credits are required and wonders if this requirement is reasonable. In a 7,200 sq ft lot, the trees required to meet code would not survive. In a well treed area that he did the permit for they barely made the credit requirements. This needs to be considered in the modification of the tree density worksheet.

Looking at the proposed draft form (Attachment C), the inches on the form should be feet. Diameter should be explained as half of 3.14 instead of the way it is defined on the form. Another suggestion was to do a demonstration form that had all of the explanations and include a definition of dbh. Change type to size. Also, change the categories so they are not decimals and delete 66.1 inches from the extra large tree category. Board member Manickam suggested that a way to simplify the form would be to go digital and citizens could calculate tree credits online. It would, also, be nice if the tree application could be connected to GIS so that Staff could look online and see how many trees the applicant has without having to do a site visit. Person applying places marker on email and GIS maps can capitalize on. This type of system would be more green and would allow someone not to even have to come into the city. Ms. Ruether said that she would talk with Gene from the City's IT department about this possibility.

Tree board discussed ways to make large trees more important. How do you get people to designate their trees and heritage trees. Board member wondered what would be the advantage of having a heritage tree.

In a discussion of the tree credits on the new draft form, Staff advised that the new draft form averaged credits and, therefore, diluted the credits in each category. Tom said he was afraid that this might make it even harder for someone to plant the required tree credits and that having the more detailed sheet may be more desirable for that reason. Board member Manickam suggested keeping the new draft worksheet form, but break up the categories in each so as not to dilute the tree credits. Chair Quigley suggested looking at various sizes of lots with the tree credits to see if this is even possible for a lot that does not have any trees.

Board member Manickam suggested giving more credits for the large trees and more of a reward for planting certain types of trees, especially native trees. The current formula does not give any rewards for planting certain types of trees. He expressed we should give more credit for trees with larger caliber and reward when replanting trees that are more sustainable.

The board members agreed that the form needs improved language and should be more understandable. Planner Ruether said that she could make the form less complex and improve the language to make it more understandable for the homeowner.

Looking over the flow chart, suggestions were made for changing the threshold of what triggers the requirement for a permit. A suggestion was made to make an exemption for when removing two or fewer trees with a diameter of less than 12 inches. Then a citizen would not need to come in for a permit.

Planner Ruether to explore how feasible it is to get 30 credits on a standard lot. For next meeting, staff to look at credits, different ways to group the credits, and how feasible is it to achieve and provide example form.

Chair Quigley and other Tree Board members complimented Planner Ruether on how much she has accomplished in a relatively short period of time.

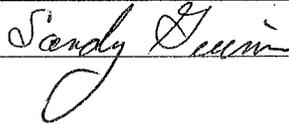
PUBLIC COMMENTS – None

DIRECTOR'S REPORT – None

Next Meeting: 3/27/13

Meeting Adjourned at: 6:30 PM

Notes Prepared by: Sandy Guinn



Date: 3/1/13