



**TREE BOARD MEETING NOTES  
SPECIAL MEETING OF APRIL 17, 2013**

<b>Board Members Present</b>		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Paula Waters	<input type="checkbox"/> Jey Manickam	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Thomas Quigley
<input type="checkbox"/> Michael Munniks	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Steve Yabroff	
<b>Staff Present</b>		
Sarah Ruether, Dave Kuhl		
<b>Guests/Public in Attendance</b>		
Eli Kunzmann		
<b>Called to Order at:</b>	<b>Meeting Location:</b>	<b>Chairperson:</b>
5:30	Council Chambers	Tom Quigley
<b>Agenda</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Approved	<input type="checkbox"/> Modified
<b>PUBLIC COMMENTS</b>		
<p>Mr. Kunzmann introduced himself as a tree professional who has worked with various tree permitting regulations from various different cities. He thinks there is a gap between the intention and result of the tree regulations. He would like to see tree regulations more market driven. One acre lots have already historically had great trees and are great wilderness corridors. Presently, there is a lot of sewage from septic going into the ground producing diseases like laminated root rot as a result of these failures. In the last 3 years, he feels like the tree regulations have come between him and his clients. They have disrupted his course of business because now he spends a lot of time going to chase permits. Permits are extreme in Woodinville. It doesn't address the issue of not enough qualified people to do the work. High-end pruning could prevent many of the problems. He would like to see changes and would like outreach to tree services. He introduced himself as a certified arborist and big tree climber, a Washington State champion.</p>		
<b>BUSINESS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS</b>		
<p>For Arbor Day, Chair Quigley and Tree Board Member Paula Waters will show up at 10:30 am. Planner Sarah Ruether told them that the Arbor Day materials that were at the meeting would be at 21 Acres with Deb Crawford. Tree Board Member Steve Yabroff asked if copies of the Woodinville Plant Species List could be included in the Arbor Day supplies. He, also, asked if smaller pieces of paper with a web link to the species list could be provided. Chair Quigley volunteered to bring arborist chips for the kids to play with.</p> <p>The Tree Board discussed the tree density worksheet and the need to further clarify on the form instructions on how to take diameter at breast height. A suggestion was made to put on the form the equation that diameter equals circumference multiplied by pie.</p> <p>Board Member Yabroff asked whether it would be possible to have a GIS system to electronically map tree credits. Ms. Ruether told him that this was on the work plan agenda and that this is something that will be looked at in the future. Gene Powers, IT division, is busy working on making the entire permitting process electronic so, at the moment, he does not have time. Board Member Yabroff, also, discussed making the flow chart more detailed to assume</p>		

that the reader did not know anything to further illuminate the process.

Eli Kunzmann mentioned that he would like to see some exemptions for invasive species like cottonwood. The regulations need to have some kind of workability about these type of species. Chair Quigley said that ideally each location would be able to be considered separately, but that is hard to do when you are making regulations that have to work for every situation. Board Member Waters mentioned that if we up the thresholds for removing trees that some of the tree types and sizes that Mr. Kunzmann mentioned could be removed if tree sizes below 12 dbh were permitted to be removed.

A dialogue followed regarding having some sort of approved City list of arborists to help applicants out in which arborists to choose. Planner Ruether discussed trying to create some kind of roster similar to the small works roster for public works because, as it stands now, the City is not supposed to endorse any particular arborist.

The Tree Board discussed where the 40% canopy coverage goal came from and how that goal was formed. Chair Quigley thought maybe understanding this could improve our tree regulations. Planner Ruether suggested that for commercial properties a landscaping code would be a better fit for regulating the trees that are placed in the site rather than the tree credit system. All of the tree board members agreed that this would be a better system for commercial property owners.

Board member Yabroff asked how a tree removal was handled in a NGPE area. Planner Ruether told him that if a tree was removed in this area that the dead tree had to remain in the NGPE for habitat. A permit was required for this tree removal, but Ms. Ruether said she would have to check if there were special requirements.

Mr. Kunzmann mentioned how having snags and habitat trees would be beneficial and asked if there was a way that our tree regulations could encourage this. Planner Ruether thought maybe there could be credit given for this. Board Member Waters thought that this would add to the complexity and that the tree regulations are already too complex.

Eli Kunzmann discussed how he thought it was unfair to have private homeowners manage all of the forest cover because with urbanization that is who would have the forest coverage. Chair Quigley said this is a given in urban forestry; the neighborhoods are the places that have the tree coverage. Board Member Yabroff said that a property owner with one acre could typically do this. Mr. Kunzmann said that there is opportunity to change. He thinks there are east coast standards on the west coast and it incentivizes people to hate trees. He thinks there is a middle ground and that changes are needed so they can have a relationship with their client.

In terms of tree credits, the Tree Board expressed concern that the amount of tree credits required for a small lot was onerous and should be reconsidered. For a one acre lot the amount is reasonable, but there should be more exemptions for smaller lots.

At the next meeting, the discussion will continue with how to make the system more user friendly and build more flexibility into the regulations and a discussion of the landscaping code and using this as sole means for tree regulation for commercial properties.

<b>PUBLIC COMMENTS</b>	
Eli Kunzmann	
<b>DIRECTOR'S REPORT</b>	
No Director's Report	
Next Meeting:	May 22, 2013
Meeting Adjourned at: 6:30 PM	
Notes Prepared by: Sarah Ruether	Date: 4/18/13