



THE CITY OF **MADRAS**

City of Madras
Urban Forestry Commission
216 NW "B" Street

March 1, 2016
6 P.M.

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Urban Forestry Commission meeting was called to order by Chair Bill Donaghu at 6:00 p.m. on March 1, 2016 at the Public Works Building located at 216 NW B Street.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Brad Jorgensen
Rob Osborn
Tom Brown
John Arena
Rebekah Burchell
Bill Donaghu

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

Parks Supervisor; Jon Burchell
Public Works Administrative Assistant; Michele Quinn
Community Development Director; Nicholas Snead

VISITORS PRESENT

Councilor Gary Walker

II. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of Agenda
- B. Minutes for the February 3, 2016

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

A motion was made by Rob Osborn; seconded by Tom Brown; to approve the February 3, 2016 minutes, and agenda as presented, motion passed unanimously.

1- Urban Forestry Commission Meeting
March 1, 2016

216 N.W. "B" Street, Madras, OR 97741 Telephone (541)475-2622 – Fax (541)475-1038

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III. VISITOR COMMENTS

Tom Brown introduced Gary Walker and explained to the Commission that Gary Walker would be replacing him on Urban Forestry Commission.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Billboard/Sign Code (Nicholas Snead, Community Development Director)

Jon Burchell reminded the Commission that Carlson Sign had asked about replacing some of the street trees that they feel is blocking their billboard. Jon told the Commission that Nicholas Snead, Community Development Director was here tonight to give them some information on the sign ordinance and to answer any questions they may have.

Nicholas Snead told the Urban Forestry Commission that Carlson Sign and Meadow Outdoor have a settlement agreement with the City which limits the amount of billboards in our community. This settlement says that no additional billboards will be installed in the City including the Urban Growth Boundary. The current sign ordinance says if you remove a billboard for any reason including wanting to move the sign; this would be in violation of our ordinance. Nick also told the Commission that Carlson Sign could increase the height of their sign as long as it did not exceed 35 feet in height.

Nicholas Snead further told the Commission that he had the discussion with the City Attorney regarding Carlson Signs wanting to replace the trees with a different species. The trees that are in question are older established trees, and if they were to be replaced it could be requested that they be replaced with the same diameter at breast height (DBH) caliper tree. Usually all replacement or new construction uses a two inch caliper tree. There are things that can be done on site to the billboard to address the ability to see the billboard. If you want to allow Carlson Sign to replace the trees with a different tree species, that is within your authority.

Rebekah Burchell asked Nicholas Snead if he knows how high the billboard in question currently is. Nicholas Snead replied he does not, but probably under 35 feet. The Commission discussed the height of the billboard and other billboards in town.

Jon Burchell said if you are willing to allow Carlson Sign to remove and replace trees and we choose to go with the same diameter what are we really solving? How hard would a tree that is 6" DBH grow in the narrow strip of grass? How long would it take to settle, acclimate, and extend its roots so it does not topple over? Older trees take a longer time to adapt to the area they are planted compared to a younger tree that is a two inch caliper. (This is the minimum tree size required by the City)

There was continued discussion about the revenue that is generated by the billboard.

Brad Jorgensen said the whole point in planting the trees is to beautify the City.

Rob Osborn said he would rather see the sign be raised instead of replacing trees.

The Commission discussed that if they start making exceptions and allow trees to be replaced, what kind of precedence does that set. We don't allow any trees downtown to be removed for signs. What will happen if we accommodate the billboard company and who else would want to remove and replace trees?

Jon Burchell said we can allow pruning that would give people short windows of opportunity to view the billboard while driving as long as it does not damage the tree. He mentioned that this is what he does to the trees downtown. The Commission discussed that we are not willing to take any existing trees out, but as the trees die we can consider replacing them with a different species.

Jon Burchell said he is getting a sense of where the Commission wants to go with this and could draft a letter stating the intent of the Commission; include language in the ordinance that would support the Commission's decision and have the Commission look at it next month. The Commission decided to table the Carlson Sign decision and revisit this topic next month.

B. Arbor Day Activities

Jon Burchell reminded the Commission that we needed to decide on a theme and we had discussed trying to get some teachers involved. Rebekah Burchell told the Commission her contact never got back with her. Rob Osborn asked about getting some classroom curriculum from the Arbor Day Foundation.

The Commission discussed the theme for this year and where we will be planting the trees.

A motion was made by Brad Jorgensen; seconded by Rebekah Burchell; to recommend "Celebrate Trees in Our Community" as the 2016 Arbor Day Theme, motion passed unanimously.

The Commission discussed getting kid's involved from the elementary schools and also contacting the kids club. Last year they didn't have a large amount of kids involved from the Kids Club.

Jon Burchell explained the City's history of Arbor Day activities to Gary Walker.

Rebekah Burchell suggested that in April a couple of Commissioners go to the Kids Club and talk to the kids about trees. This might help spark their interest to do a poster and then give them the week to make their posters. She suggested the UFC needs to get more involved with the Kids Club. Jon Burchell said he would talk to the Kids Club about the UFC coming and talking with the kids about Arbor Day. Rebekah Burchell and Bill Donaghu agreed to go to the Kids Club the week of April 4, 2016.

The Commission decided to change the date of their next meeting to April 11, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. so they can judge the posters.

The Arbor Day trees will be planted in the 9th to B Street Park replacing some trees that have died. Jon Burchell told the Commission we would probably plant five trees depending on how many kids we think will show up.

Bill Donaghu will work on getting the bird houses and tree saplings.

V. Updates

A. Downtown Sidewalk Grant Program Tree Approval

Jon Burchell told the Commission that the Prunus species that died last year downtown at the corners of D and 5th Streets will be replaced. Some of the trees will be planted using the Downtown Sidewalk Grant Program money. He is recommending we replace the trees with the following species: Bowhall Red Maple, and Crimson King Maple.

Jon Burchell explained we need to start thinking of downtown trees in a seven to ten year life span cycle. We should pull them out and replace them before the sidewalks buckle or the pavers are lifted. The Commission discussed replacing the downtown trees possibly every ten years. Bill Donaghu mentioned the amount of money that would be required to accomplish this. Jon said he will look into funding sources for the future of the downtown trees.

A motion was made by Brad Jorgensen; seconded by John Arena; to recommend the removal and replacement of the trees on 5th and D Street as presented by Jon Burchell, motion passed unanimously.

B. Hwy 97 and L Street Pedestrian Improvement Project Tree Approval

Jon Burchell told the Commission that his recommendations are based on the trees that have been planted in the new South Y. His recommendation is going to be a European Hornbeam. The Commission discussed the European Hornbeam and if they are an approved tree on our list; they were planted in the South Y.

A motion was made by Rob Osborn; seconded by Brad Jorgensen; to approve the European Hornbeam as the tree specie for the Hwy 97 & L Street Project as recommended by Jon Burchell, motion passed unanimously.

C. Update Urban Forestry Management Plan

Jon Burchell gave an update on the update of the Urban Forestry Management Plan for Bill Donaghu and Gary Walker.

VI. ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION

- Rebekah Burchell told the Commission that it is time to clean the UFC's section of trail. The Commission decided to clean their section on March 8, 2016. Jon Burchell mentioned to Bill Donaghu and Gary Walker that the UFC has given up another section of trail to the Middle Deschutes Watershed Council for adoption.
- Jon Burchell told the Commission that Mountain Sky will be back next week to finish the Hwy 26 Industrial Tree Strip.

VII. ADJOURN

The Urban Forestry Commission Meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted



Michele Quinn

Public Works Administrative Assistant