



City of McMinnville
Planning Department
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MINUTES

January 27, 2021
Landscape Review Committee
Regular Meeting

12:00 pm
ZOOM Meeting
McMinnville, Oregon

Members Present: Carlton Davidson, John Hall, Patty Sorensen, and Rob Stephenson
Members Absent: Josh Kearns
Staff Present: Jamie Fleckenstein - Associate Planner
Guests Present: Scott Hill - Mayor

1. Call to Order

Chair Stephenson called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

2. Citizen Comments

None

3. Election of Officers

Chair Stephenson moved to nominate John Hall for Chair. The motion was seconded by Committee Member Sorensen and passed unanimously.

Committee Member Sorensen moved to nominate Rob Stephenson for Vice Chair. The motion was seconded by Committee Member Davidson and passed unanimously.

4. Approval of Minutes

- June 17, 2020
- December 16, 2020

Committee Member Stephenson moved to approve the June 17 and December 16, 2020 minutes. The motion was seconded by Committee Member Davidson and passed unanimously.

5. Action/Docket Item (repeat if necessary)

- A. L 38-20 (continued) – Street Tree Removal - 2608 NW Pinehurst Drive

Associate Planner Fleckenstein said this application was continued from the December meeting. The application was for removal of a cherry tree on NW Pinehurst Drive. It was lifting and damaging the sidewalk and was too close to utilities. The Committee supported removal of the tree and had discussed the replacement location. Staff did not recommend a replacement in the right-of-way. The Committee suggested the replacement go on private property, but staff questioned whether that was in the City's purview. The application was continued to see if the applicant was willing to plant a replacement tree on their private property. The applicant did plan to plant a medium sized ornamental tree near the location of the removed tree. Staff had also consulted the City Attorney about the issue, and the City Attorney thought requiring a street tree on private property might create a takings issue. He did not recommend pursuing a condition that would require it. Staff recommended approval of the application.

Committee Member Sorensen suggested providing the applicant with the street tree list to use for choosing the replacement tree.

Chair Hall noted there were no other street trees on the block. Associate Planner said that was correct, there was no planting strip.

There was discussion regarding the ownership of the trees further up the street that were covered in ivy.

Chair Hall moved to approve L 38-20 with conditions. The motion was seconded by Committee Member Stephenson and passed unanimously.

B. L 2-21 – Street Tree Removal - 1445 SW Shirley Ann Drive

Associate Planner Fleckenstein presented the street tree removal request on Shirley Ann Drive. The tree was lifting the sidewalk and trimming the roots to replace the panels would severely damage the stability of the tree. Staff recommended approval. There was an approved street tree plan for this subdivision and a replacement tree would be required. The replacement would be an October Glory Red Maple.

Committee Member Sorensen confirmed there would be a root barrier so this would not be an issue with planting the same type of tree. Associate Planner Fleckenstein said yes, there would be a root barrier.

Committee Member Stephenson commented on the cost burden on the home owner to replace the sidewalk and tree. He would like to have a discussion about helping in some way.

Committee Member Sorensen moved to approve L 2-21 with conditions. The motion was seconded by Committee Member Stephenson and passed unanimously.

6. Discussion Items

Associate Planner Fleckenstein shared an idea with the Committee about a possible funding source to help with the cost of tree replacements. The idea was a developer fee for trees being removed on a project that would go into a tree fund. Citizens could apply for that fund and a City approved contractor could put in the trees until the fund was expended each year.

There was discussion regarding how there was currently a shortage of land to develop in McMinnville and the land that might come in through the Urban Growth Boundary expansion did not have a lot of trees.

Associate Planner Fleckenstein said while there might not be much development to build a robust program now, it could be set up for the future when larger areas of land came in for development. There were other avenues that could be explored.

Committee Member Davidson thought the Committee should be involved in guiding developers in planting the right trees in the right places so it would not become an issue.

There was discussion regarding the effectiveness of watering tubes, possible grant funding, creating an Urban Forest Plan, and a monthly HOA fee to put towards this type of repair.

7. Old/New Business

None

8. Committee/Commissioner Comments

Committee Member Sorensen was interested in creating a heritage tree program.

9. Staff Comments

None

10. Adjournment

Chair Hall adjourned the meeting at 1:00 p.m.