

# MINUTES

**March 20, 2024**  
**Landscape Review Committee**  
**Regular Meeting**

**12:00 pm**  
**ZOOM Meeting**  
**McMinnville, Oregon**

**Members Present:** Brain Wicks, Eva Reutinger, Carlton Davidson, John Hall, and Jessica Payne - Council Liaison

**Members Absent:** Jamie Fleckenstein

**Staff Present:** Taylor Graybehl – Senior Planner and Heather Richards – Community Development Director

**Guests Present:** Kellie Menke and Mellony Hotskin

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## 1. Call to Order

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

## 2. Approval of Minutes

None

## 3. Citizen Comments

Mellony Hotskin had some questions about a tree removal and replacement. Senior Planner Graybehl said he would contact her at a later time.

## 4. Action Item

A. L 8-24: Street Tree Removal, 573 NW Mt Mazama Street, Tax Lot R4524AD00800

Senior Planner Graybehl reviewed the request for removal of two trees on NW Mt. Mazama Street due to the trees being in conflict with public improvements. The applicant had also requested no replanting. He described the subject site, how there was no street tree plan for the neighborhood, review criteria, how replanting was required, photos of the trees and tree roots pushing up the sidewalk, public agency comments, and missing information in the application. He was unclear whether both trees needed to be removed. The tree hazard report recommended not replanting in the planter strip due to the soils, but replanting somewhere else on site.

Kelly Menke, representing the applicant, said Engineering thought both trees should be removed. However, the southern tree had not lifted the sidewalk as much and the concrete could be shaved down.

There was discussion regarding the distance from the driveway and spacing standards, how the developer should have amended the soil to support the street trees, the monoculture design of the neighborhood, how the trees were a problem through the whole neighborhood, root barrier pros and cons, and how these were small planter strips.

Community Development Director Richards said if this was not the right species for the neighborhood, the Committee could pick a different one and create a Street Tree Improvement District so all the replacement trees would be the same.

There was consensus that a smaller variety of flowering tree was recommended, particularly the *Cercis canadensis* tree.

Committee Member Davidson noted there were empty planter strips where more trees needed to be planted in the neighborhood.

Committee Member Hall moved to approve L 8-24, removing both trees and replacing them to the City's standards with *Cercis canadensis*. The motion was seconded by Committee Member Wicks and passed unanimously.

Committee Member Wicks moved to create a Street Tree Improvement District for this neighborhood to replace trees with *Cercis canadensis*. The motion was seconded by Committee Member Reutinger and passed unanimously.

## **5. Committee Member Comments**

None

## **6. Staff Comments**

Community Development Director Richards discussed the appeal of a landscape plan decision due to not reviewing it in 30 days and how the approval included items not relative to the landscape plan code. The appeal was approved, and the application was approved as presented. She explained how the process for review would change and the landscape review chapter standards would come back to the Committee to make them more clear and objective.

## **7. Adjournment**

Vice Chair Wicks adjourned the meeting at 12:56 p.m.