



**CITY OF FOREST GROVE
COMMUNITY FORESTRY COMMISSION
COMMUNITY AUDITORIUM CONFERENCE ROOM, 1915 MAIN STREET
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2020 - 5:30 P.M.**

Council Liaison: Kristy Kottkey
Members Present: Mark Nakajima, Chair; Bruce Countryman; David Hunter, Jen Warren
Members Absent: Michael Howell, Vice-chair, Lance Schamberger
Student Liaison: Declan Lynch
Staff Liaison: Dan Riordan

Call to Order and Role: Chair Nakajima, noting a quorum present, called the November 18, 2020, meeting to order at 5:37 pm. The meeting was held virtually via Webex due to the COVID-19 situation.

Citizen Communication: Dale Virden, property owner at 1040 Hartford Drive, was present for agenda item #1.

Minutes Approval: Declan moved, and Jen seconded a motion to approve the June 17, 2020 minutes. The motion was approved unanimously.

Action Items / Discussion

1. **Request for Removal of Street Tree Located at 1040 Hartford Drive – Referred by Staff:** Mr. Dale Virden, owner of property located at 1040 Hartford Street, requested permission to remove a 11.5" Maple planted as a street tree in front of his home. Mr. Virden provided a report prepared by Northwest Tree Specialists stating the tree is up against the sidewalk which is slightly lifting. The report noted the professional opinion of the arborist that the tree should be removed, and the stump ground out.

Staff reviewed the information provided by the arborist and concluded the evidence did not seem to support removal of the tree since the sidewalk did not seem to be lifting and the sidewalk did not seem to be a safety hazard. The report was referred to the Commission for further review.

Mr. Virden stated his concern that the sidewalk expansion joint is separating, and he wants to be proactive and remove the street tree and plant a new tree before further damage occurs. Mr. Virden noted the adjacent property owner is responsible for the street tree and sidewalk as well as costs for repairing damage.

The Commission weighed the arguments for and against approving removal of the tree including setting a possible precedent for other requests for removal based on

concerns over future damage to the sidewalk. The Commission also discussed the need to avoid creating a disincentive for property owners to seek removal of trees and that a balance must be struck.

Commission Action: After careful deliberation, Declan made a motion, seconded by Bruce, to approve the property owner's request to remove the street tree with the condition that another tree be planted in its place within 12 months. The motion was approved on a 4-0-1 vote with all members voting in the affirmative except for David who abstained from the vote.

2. Request for Removal of Giant Sequoia on Register at 2923 17th Place: Dan brought forward a request from the property owner at 2923 17th Place for approval to remove a Sequoia listed on the City's Register of Significant Trees. Dan noted the tree is near power lines and a power pole. The tree appears to be deteriorating.

The Commission discussed the merits of approving removal noting the tree is near the power lines and is close to adjacent homes. The Commission expressed that the tree is an example of a wrong tree in the wrong place. The Commission also noted homes should not have been built so close to the tree.

Commission Action: The Commission reached consensus that the property owner should be granted approval to remove the Sequoia.

3. Tree City USA Recertification Application: Dan noted the annual Tree City USA recertification application is due on December 15th. Dan mentioned staff is finalizing the application and asked if Commission members would like to include specific information supporting recertification including any continuing education completed. David noted he participated in many webinars and trainings and will provide information to include in the application.
4. Year 2021 Planning: Dan requested the Commission consider how to approach Arbor Day 2021 given the ongoing pandemic situation. Jen suggested the Commission consider a webinar on tree topics similar to a TED Talk with various speakers. Jen also mentioned providing links to Arbor Day Foundation videos for people to access. Declan suggested an Arbor Day celebration with activities the community can get involved with on their own. Declan recommended working with the sponsor of the oak tree acorn planting project and providing acorns to students attending local schools for planting. The Commission agreed the ideas have merit and to continue discussions at future meetings.

Announce Next Meeting and Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 pm. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled to occur on December 16th.

Respectfully submitted, Dan Riordan, CFC Staff Liaison