

Tree Board Meeting Minutes

March 1, 2017

10:30 – 11:30 am

Headwaters meeting room

600 Cregg Ln.

Missoula, MT 59801

Committee Members Present – Dale Harris, Ross Mollenhauer, Chris Ryan

Others Present – Chris Boza, Urban Forester; Jera’le Smith, Elite One; Peter Malika, Elite One; Marie Ferkovich; Dr. Ralph Matuska; Betsy Willett, Administrative Manager

- Public/Guest comments on items not on the Agenda

Action Items:

Dale Harris was nominated as Chair of the Tree Board.
Nomination passed unanimously.

Tree Board appeal process

Recommended motion: I move the Tree Board recommend the Missoula Parks & Recreation Board votes to accept the proposed Tree Board appeal process.

Chris Boza gave a brief background on the purpose of the Tree Board and that it was established by MMC 12.32.020. Tree Board has code authority to hear appeals and make decisions.

Chris Boza presented an appeal process to the board. Prior to an appeal, the Urban Forester meets with the property owner adjacent to the tree(s) in question. Reviews the condition of the tree(s) and site and explains the issues to the property owner. If they property owner disagrees with the decision, they may appeal to the Tree Board.

Chris Ryan moves to approve the recommended motion.
Motion passed unanimously.

Tree removal denial appeal for Nutritional Labs 1001 South 3rd St W

Jera’le Smith and Peter Malika of Elite One Source, Nutritional Labs presented their appeal. Elite One Source is a contract manufacturer of homeopathic and dietary supplements. The products they produce are designed for human consumption.

The company is tasked with constantly monitoring process control, looking for possible risks and contaminants. Industry standards are changing to improve safety. One of these standards involves possible exposure to pathogens such as e-coli and salmonella. These pathogens can be carried by rodents or birds. The exposure possibility increases when you have trees near a laboratory, making trees a public safety issue.

Elite One Source is requesting the approval to remove 18 trees all located within 50 feet of their facility. They are willing to then donate 18 trees to be planted in any location directed by the City of Missoula Urban Forester.

Chris Boza presented that all but 1 of these 18 trees are in fair or very good condition. They are not designated as a hazard per MMC code. Chris did note that the code does not address health as a part of public safety hazard. Chris stated that these trees were planted as a requirement of a building permit in early 2000. Since then, new landscape standards have been implemented and the current spacing would not meet the current standards.

Staff recommendation is to utilize the option provided by Elite One Source, and work on a plan for the 18 trees that will be provided to the City for future planting.

Ross Mollenhauer moved to affirm Elite One Sources' appeal with the addition of a plan setup with the Urban Forester. Chris Ryan seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously.

Tree removal appeal 3827 England

Marie Ferkovich stated that she accepts the Urban Foresters decision to remove the previously bolted tree. She is cancelling her appeal, but would like to know what happens next.

Chris Boza discussed the process that follows a removal.

No vote necessary.

Adjournment

Respectfully Submitted

Betsy Willett
Administrative Manager