

Tree Board Meeting

May 25, 2017

10:30 am – 11:30 am

Headwaters meeting room

600 Cregg Ln.

Missoula, MT 59801

Tree Board Members Present: Chris Ryan, Dale Harris, Ross Mollenhauer

Staff Present: Chris Boza, Urban Forester, Corena Maurer, Administrative Assistant

Minutes

- Public/Guest comments on items not on the Agenda - None

Action Items:

- Tree removal appeal 732 Howell, Brooks Priest – Mr. Boza discussed the trees at this property. 2 of the trees were topped by an arborist that is not on the City approved list. Mr. Boza states the bud set of the trees warrant removal. Ms. Ryan asked about the possibility of boring trees to determine health. Mr. Boza says this is not done by the City. The trees in question are roughly 30-40 years old. Mr. Harris asked for clarification on the condition 30 rate. Mr. Boza states condition 80 is very good and condition 30 is very poor. Mr. Boza pointed out some indicators that the trees are dying. Mr. Harris asked about possible homeowner action to save trees. Mr. Boza says that heavy fertilizer, cutting off the dead parts and increasing water might buy a couple years. One tree in question dropped a dead branch on the homeowner's camper during a snowstorm. There is a history of limb breakout. Mr. Boza pointed out decay pockets in the trees. Mr. Mollenhauer asked what would happen to the stumps. Mr. Boza states they would be ground out. Mr. Mollenhauer asked if the City were to keep the trees, would they be more liable for anything that would happen? Mr. Boza answered that yes, the City would be more liable. We have consistent notice and history indicates poor condition. Mr. Boza explained the risk and states it is time to remove the trees and get replacements going. Ms. Ryan asked about temporary mitigation. Ms. Ryan moved to accept the recommendation of the Urban Forester to remove the black cottonwood and place F1 and F2 on a monitoring program to give the trees a couple of years. There was some discussion on the motion. The motion was not seconded. The motion did not pass. Mr. Mollenhauer moved to accept the recommendation of the Urban Forester. There was some discussion on the motion. The motion was not seconded. The motion did not pass. Mr. Mollenhauer and Ms. Ryan discussed their reasoning for their motions.

Ms. Ryan moved to accept the recommendation of the Urban Forester to remove the black cottonwood (L1), high risk tree and to work with the landowner to have trees F1 and F2 on a monitoring/mitigation plan.

Mr. Mollenhauer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- Tree removal appeal 1702 S 2nd St W – Mr. Boza states that these trees are in very poor condition and are at a very high risk.

Mr. Boza has worked with the owner in the past to try and save the trees. The trees were recently reassessed and due to the amount, size and location of the dead wood plus the bud set they warrant removal.

The fence is encroaching on the right of way.

The stump that is currently on the property was left at the request of the ditch rider as they stated that removal would cause leakage in the ditch.

Mr. Mollenhauer asked if deadheading a tree would help the tree. Mr. Boza answered it would not.

Mr. Boza also pointed out several mushrooms on the trees that indicate root rot.

Mr. Mollenhauer moved to accept the Urban Foresters recommendation and remove both trees.

Ms. Ryan seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Mollenhauer asked about the fence. Mr. Boza states the contractor will remove and replace the fence.

Mr. Harris states he did not feel comfortable that the appellants were not present. Ms. Maurer stated that both had been notified by phone.

Discussion Items: None

Future items: None

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 am.

Submitted by: Corena Maurer
Parks & Recreation
Administrative Assistant
