



**TREE BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
**6101 Johnson Creek Blvd. Milwaukie, OR 97206**  
**08.21.2024**  
**Hybrid / In- Person and Zoom Video Conference Meeting**

**Board Members Present:**

Alexis Barton  
Kathleen Brennan - Hunter  
Jon Brown  
Olivia Padilla

**Board Members Absent:**

Ley Garnett  
Camden Mckone  
Gina Dake

**Guest:**

None

**Staff Members Present:**

Peter Passarelli, PW Director  
Courtney Wilson, Urban Forester  
Katie Gavares, Climate and Natural Resources Manager

**MEETING NOTES**

Peter Passarelli provided a review of accomplishments to date. The Tree Board discussed the desire to increase the number of tree plantings. However, they identified a challenge in the limited resources available, particularly funding and staffing capacity, which makes it difficult to achieve this goal. There was also a brief discussion on whether the city could capitalize on trees under the government accounting standard as a way to address funding gaps.

Staff presented an Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) grant opportunity to the Board. Board members raised questions about forecasting and the competitiveness of the applicant pool. They also discussed their capacity and willingness to support staff with the development and editing of the grant application.

The Tree Board expressed interest in setting specific goals at the September meeting. In preparation, the Board revisited the priorities identified in August 2023. Among the priorities discussed were education and outreach, developing a commercial tree code, creating a heritage tree program, and implementing an Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) management plan. Under education and outreach, the Board highlighted goals such as engaging schools, organizing tree walks, creating a preferred list of tree contractors, and improving storytelling to emphasize the city's accomplishments. Board members

noted that the current community perception views the city primarily as the "tree police" and emphasized the importance of sharing positive stories to showcase the benefits of urban forestry rather than focusing solely on code enforcement.

When discussing the development of a commercial tree code, the Board reflected on the processes that led to the creation of both public and private tree codes. The private tree code was developed in collaboration with the comprehensive planning process and robust community engagement, while the public tree code update was largely driven by the Tree Board and Public Works. To advance a commercial tree code, the Board emphasized the need to identify key collaborators and experts, including the City Planning Department, Public Works staff, DLCD (Department of Land Conservation and Development), regional experts, and community stakeholders.

The development of a heritage tree program was reaffirmed as a priority, along with the need for targeted outreach and maintenance efforts in neighborhoods impacted by the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB). To effectively prioritize these initiatives, the Board stressed the importance of aligning their work with the guiding framework of the Urban Forest Management Plan and applying an equity lens. Staff agreed to provide an update report at the September meeting to outline how the Urban Forest Management Plan aligns with both staff and Tree Board priorities.

The Tree Board meeting adjourned at 7:15 PM.