

Joint Planning and Zoning Board and Ad Hoc Tree Ordinance Committee Workshop Minutes

6 pm September 20, 2023
Council Chamber

Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 6:30 pm

Pledge of Allegiance

The committees recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the USA Flag

Roll Call

Planning and Zoning Board

Present: Dan Green; Scott Syring; Veronica Selivanova; and (staff) David Wiles, Building Official

Excused: Bruce Moia, Jose Fuenmayor; and Sisi Packard

Ad Hoc Tree Ordinance Committee

Present (Voting Members): Anastasia Doshna; Linda Cohen; Neil Yorio; David Botto; Lisa Rehm; (staff): John W. Coffey, ICMA-CM, City Manager; and Orrie Covert, Management Analyst

Excused: Krista Ellingson (Alternate)

Review of Draft Tree Preservation Ordinance

(comments by the Planning and Zoning Board members with responses by the Ad Hoc Tree Ordinance Committee members in parentheses)

- Question of why fruit trees were not included in recommended list (Fruit trees are exempt from ordinance)
- How does this relate to tree regulations in LDRs? And why do we need this? Is this more regulations (This augments current LDRs regulations. Ordinance is one requirement to being a Tree City USA member. Explanation of how this initiative got started.)
- Discussion of single family detached homes being required to follow the ordinance (Concern expressed about overreach of city regulations)
- What is the benefit to the City of the Ordinance? (Would preserve some of the trees in the City and trees canopy is preserved within the City.)
- Focused on cutting down trees...part of the problem is planting wrong trees in wrong places (Ordinance addresses replacement trees)
- How many problems occurred in the City of trees being cut down? (Preserving trees and encouraging native trees enhances food web for wildlife)
- This seems like just more punitive red tape for government telling folks what to do with their property
- Not sure single family detached is exempt (If the City is exempted why do property owners have to follow it.)
- Permit process? If you give government power, eventually someone might be too vigorous in enforcement of the ordinance. Homeowners should not have to follow the permit process if the City does not have to follow the process too.
- I like IHB because the City is not very intrusive into people's lives and property....I do not want to see IHB to become that way.
- City should not be exempt.
- Is the punitive part of the ordinance? Can the ordinance focus just on education? (Yes just like fertilizer ban ordinance.)
- Should focus on public properties versus private property
- We do want more trees and bigger trees but also concerned about trees falling on homes
- Concerned about Building Official and designee having the qualification to determine if trees are dead or need to be replaced

Review of Ordinance

(comments by the Planning and Zoning Board members)

- Page 1: Focus on existing native trees
- Page 3: add native tree definition
- Page 4: what are the protected trees? Gap between 4 and 10 inch trees
- How many certified arborists are in the area? What is the cost of a certified arborist to come out and assess a tree?
- Discussion of where mitigation trees are planted?
- Is it possible to revise whole ordinance to be “encourage” versus “required”?
- Need to think of way to incentivize planting and maintenance of desirable trees versus mandating behavior
- Prefer no permitting process
- Prefer incentives instead of rewards

Adjournment

Adjourned at 7:42 pm