

## Philomath Heritage Tree Program

### MINUTES

March 30, 2023

#### CALL TO ORDER:

City Councilor Ruth Causey called the meeting to order at 5:37 PM. The meeting was held at the City Hall Council Chambers.

#### ROLL CALL:

Committee: Councilors Ruth Causey and Matt Lehman, Citizens Giani Bernardini and Graham Seaders, Arborist John Simonson and, remotely, Arborist Eric Wiggins. Also present, Resource Persons Public Works Director Kevin Fear and Public Works Operations Supervisor Garry Black. Councilor Christopher McMorran was absent.

#### HERITAGE TREE NOMINEES DISCUSSION AND VOTING:

1. 1050 Applegate St., Library. Mr. Wiggins identified the tree as an American Elm, 70 years old. Age confirmed by Mr. Seaders. Discussion was had about determining the tree age. APPROVED 6-0 (Yes: Causey, Lehman, Bernardini, Seaders, Simonson, Wiggins; No: None.)
2. 1101 Main St., Benton County Museum, Giant Sequoia. Citizen Jackie McDougall Weiner spoke about the tree and gave a history on the tree/species and how it got here. APPROVED 5-1 (Yes: Causey, Lehman, Bernardini, Seaders, Simonson; No: Wiggins.)
3. 300 S. 11<sup>th</sup> St., Marys River Park, Giant Sequoia. Ms. Bernardini spoke on her nomination. Mr. Black spoke of vandalism of the signage of the Sequoia. FAILED 0-6 (Yes: None; No: Causey, Lehman, Bernardini, Seaders, Simonson, Wiggins.)
4. 24930 Grange Hall Road, White Oak. Ms. Bernardini spoke on her nomination. Mr. Wiggins and Mr. Seaders estimated the age to be less than 500 years old. Councilor Causey asked about the hole in the center. Mr. Wiggins and Mr. Seaders explained that the tree is still strong and there is nothing to be done to slow the deterioration of the tree. APPROVED 6-0 (Yes: Causey, Lehman, Bernardini, Seaders, Simonson, Wiggins; No: None.)
5. 1506 Applegate St., Cedar. Councilor Lehman spoke in support of it. Mr. Seaders asked for better photos to publish if confirmed. Mr. Wiggins explained how to tell if it is a deodar or atlas cedar, as the Arborists think it could be either type. Mr. Black asked about the power lines in it and if it needed trimmed for clearance. The answer was it shouldn't hurt tree if no leaders were removed. APPROVED 6-0 (Yes: Causey, Lehman, Bernardini, Seaders, Simonson, Wiggins; No: None.)
6. 400 S. 9<sup>th</sup> St., Black Cottonwood. Mr. Black spoke about the new intake not interfering. Discussion was had by Mr. Wiggins and Mr. Seaders that it most likely will affect the trees. Voting decision was postponed until more information on pump station can be given to the committee. Ms. Bernardini asked about getting a better picture of the tree.

#### OTHER DISCUSSION:

- Mr. Seaders noted that annual meetings for Heritage Tree Nominations are probably okay.
- Mr. Black asked about the next steps, one of them being to notify the owners of the trees.

- Ms. Bernardini said the certificates should be ready by Arbor Day, April 28<sup>th</sup>. She will also write what will be posted on the City website regarding the Heritage Trees.
- Mr. Seaders stated the owners should be invited to the Arbor Day celebration and receive their certificates then. He will notify the owners of the trees regarding the decisions made on their Heritage Tree nomination.
- Mr. Black talked about purchasing plaques and installation.

Meeting adjourned at 7:08 PM.