



City of Oregon City

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Staff Report

File Number: 19-636

Agenda Date: 11/13/2019

Status: Agenda Ready

To: Natural Resources Committee

Agenda #: 5a.

From: Sr. Planner Pete Walter

File Type: Report

SUBJECT:

Preliminary Discussion of Review Process for Tree Removal on City-Owned Land

RECOMMENDED ACTION (Motion):

No action requested at this time.

BACKGROUND:

In response to the recent tree removal at the Swimming Pool, City Manager, Tony Konkol has directed staff to work with the Natural Resources Committee to prepare code amendments and/or policy that address the removal of trees on public property. The proposed code amendments and/or policy would address:

Process Improvements

- Utilizing the existing Heritage Tree type and size requirements, or other type and size requirements as determined through the review process, as a trigger for further analysis of alternative methods to retain healthy trees.
- Determining a public notification for the removal of trees on public property that meet the new requirements for further analysis.
- Determining an internal approval process for the removal of trees on public property that meet the new requirements for further analysis.
- Review the Public Works sidewalk standards to determine which alternative construction types and sidewalk re-routing would be acceptable.
- Staff in the Community Services Department, Public Works Department and Community Development Department have been updated on the current code requirements for tree removal and the land use application forms have been updated to reflect current code.
- Representatives from each department will be involved in the code amendment and/or policy creation and staff will be updated to the new procedures and policies once implemented.

Staff Training

- Management staff in the Community Services Department will be working with a leadership and organizational consultant to address communication and deficiencies within the Department.
- Appropriate training, clarification of expectations and as warranted, corrective action, will occur.

We work diligently as a City to protect the tree resources of our community and take seriously the task of maintaining a healthy tree canopy while balancing the needs of a safe community. Staff looks forward to working with the NRC, Commission, the Community to make improvements to our process to better meet the expectations the Community.