

LORAX Task Force
August 7, 2017, 6:30 PM

Attendees: Chairman Eppley, Councillor Dibble, Chris Burke, Flora Tonthat, Barbara Warren, Polly Wilbert

Observers: Jeff Cohen, Sandi Power

Permits: Discussion of whether tree permits should be submitted through Inspectional Services.

Jeff: Start with tree warden, to prevent Inspectional Services acting before tree warden.

DE: Issue of 10-hour tree warden.

JC: Rowley same scenario. Apply for a permit, line on the permit that requires the tree warden's signature.

SD: Add tree warden signature to routing slip.

FT: Tree warden full time desired (David: reality of today re full time position)

Extended discussion of exemption of residential category 1-4/5... Removal of residential language....

DM: Notify city when you are taking down a tree (to track urban tree canopy). No permit required. Penalty if you remove without notice (\$ per DBH).

CB: Commercial tree contractors know about Salem's ordinance....

DM: Notice requirement to tree warden.

BW: Need for a tree ordinance that has some teeth, but also that will be passed by City Council.

DM: Promote trees, not penalize for tree removal.

SD: Non-residential/commercial: Example Global gas station in Vinnin Square (becoming a Valvoline service outlet) is an exempt project by right by zoning – large tree there could not be saved. Future situations will be the same unless we provide protection in the ordinance. Need to cover in ordinance language that we develop.

CB: Concern that we are not encouraging, rather we are penalizing...

FT: General statement of not a concrete jungle.... Strive for better tree management.

DE: Aspirational language desired/needed

DM: Language for ordinance Kinder gentler.....

Next Meeting: 2 weeks out.... 8/21st