

## **LORAX Task Force**

September 18, 2017

**Attendees:** David Eppley, Chairman, Steve Dibble, Kirt Rieder, Polly Wilbert

**Observers:** Sandi Power, Jeff Cohen, George Dietz ([gsdietzart@gmail.com](mailto:gsdietzart@gmail.com)), Flora Tonthat

### **Introductions**

KR: Phone call from Tom Daniel. Responding to letter to Mayor from Kirt. Interested, supportive. Cautious about having Amanda overburdened (3 parts over a period of time). Helping to clarify how PUD, site plan review by Planning Board, Planning Dept. purview, NOT controls on private property, outside the public way. Step beyond what Planning Dept. would cover.

Kirt will continue to be the point person. A lot in document, maybe some could be pulled out to tree manual. Three different things in there to be broken out.

DM: Sit down and focus on what Amanda can help with.

DM: Language on membership of Tree Commission. Majority vote of the City Council for appt.

JC: Committee with experience nominated by the Mayor and approved by the City Council.

DE: Board appts. happy from LORAX

JC: How to be apptd. by City Council

DE: City Council would set up the process, submission letters of interest or applications to the City Clerk. Most of the appts. do go through the Mayor's office, but for a select group of boards there are Council appts. Cheryl took applications/letters of interest.

DE: Should be sharing information re interest.

DM: Language expanded for definition of landscape expertise. Staggered terms to ensure coverage.

(Language about pesticide licensing expertise at golf course was noted).

SP: Landscape work means nothing in terms of expertise.

JC: Alternates, there are times when you want someone on the Commission who cannot be official because of a conflict.... His experience could make a quorum. Alternates make a quorum possible.

DE: Population now, allows for interest by a larger number of people.

GD: Travels in other states. Road-related expertise could value add. Type of tree planted and view of construction expertise can be helpful.

DM: Discussion of having city engineer send a representative.

DE: City staff assist but not a voting member. Steer clear of staff voting. Heavy contracting brings an important expertise that others may not bring to the table.

KR: Relative costs/roadways experience.

JC: Tree root grows into sewer pipe. Cost of homeowner value of perspective. How can we save the vegetation? View of a different expertise. Like Tom Mackey.

FT: Public path/right of way discussion.

DE: Leave to Beth Rennard to determine whether we have used correct language. Right of way covers wider than the actual street or path. Use city definition.

FT: Systematic assessment of trees.

JC: Have a category assigned value of tree. Fall into categories. Not look at every tree.

GD: Tree Warden is a certified arborist, assumes knowledge.

DE: Requirements within the tree manual. So responsible to have systemic review on some basis. Reviewing the inventory and caring for the trees. Any specific sick trees.

PW: What's appropriate for an ordinance?

DE: Reasonable systematic Separate set of recommendations/letter recommending funding. Viable systematic plan for checking trees regularly and periodically.

KR: Heard from Dick Rennard, even to indicate trees that need to be removed is time intensive.

Reviewed language of Tree Warden's duties and responsibilities.

Next meeting: 1-5 residential. How to incentivize. Owned and cared for by the city of Salem forever. Needs to be tracked. Cannot take it down because it's a city owned tree.

DM: Owner should have the right to take down that tree.

DE: Release/contract in general. If tree costs a thousand. If they choose to take down the tree within 5 year, penalty.....

Language for tree release form. Sandi to try to get a copy of old form from Jane Guy.