



TREE AD HOC COMMITTEE
MEETING NOTES
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 15, 2016
3:00 – 5:00 PM
COUNCIL CONFERENCE ROOM
280 MADISON AVE N
BAINBRIDGE ISLAND, WA 98110

COMMITTEE MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Jon Quitslund, Mack Pearl, Ron Peltier, Kol Medina
COBI STAFF: Jennifer Sutton
PUBLIC: Katy Bigelow

In Sarah Blossom's absence, Kol chaired the meeting. The Committee welcomed Katy Bigelow, an arborist with credentials for and experience with the ISA Valuation process.

We began with a review of Notes from the June 1 meeting. While Kol was anxious to avoid a rehashing of business from the preceding meeting, it took some time to get over and done with particulars of the COBI *Administrative Manual* related to Landscape Plans. The notes that follow are Kol's, modified in a few places and added to.

In regards to requiring ISA Valuation of trees and the penalties for damaging or destroying retained trees, the Committee recommends that the Council take the following actions:

1. Amend the COBI *Administrative Manual* relating to Landscape Plans to require ISA Valuation only for trees that are (a) contained on properties in residential zones 4.3 and denser, and all non-residential zones except for B/I; and (b) used to meet tree unit requirements, or at risk due to proximity to construction/grading.
2. Amend the code enforcement section of BIMC 18.15.010.C to base the fine for harming retained trees for which there is no ISA valuation on a table of fines related to tree size and species. Staff has been asked to develop the table of fines and present that to the Committee.
3. Amend the BIMC, as appropriate, to make it clear that the ISA Valuation, for purposes of fines and penalties, applies throughout a property's 5-year maintenance period. Staff has been asked to determine what specific actions are needed to implement this recommendation. {The committee will revisit this at the next meeting.}

Katy Bigelow commented on situations where the proposed regulations might require more than a few 'special' trees to be valued: the ISA methodology would make this burdensome and costly, and only a large Seattle-based firm would be equipped to take the job.

In regards to its next major area of focus, the Committee, by consensus, made or re-affirmed the following decisions:

1. The Committee wants to create a new BIMC chapter that deals with all tree and vegetation issues other than the BIMC 18.15.010 regulations. This chapter will take the place of the current vegetation management chapter, the land clearing chapter, and possibly other parts of the Municipal Code (e. g., Subdivision Design Standards) that relate to trees and vegetation retention and management.

2. The Committee wants to change the paradigm within which trees and vegetation, and the environmental elements that support trees and vegetation which include water and soil, are managed. In particular, the Committee agreed that its overriding goal is to thoroughly revise the BIMC so that our land use planning and permitting process have the primary purpose of maximizing protection of the Island's environmental functions and resources. The regulations will be science-based and protective of community interests in the long-term value of community forests and open space.

3. The Committee agreed that its method of proceeding with the development of one or more new BIMC chapters would be as follows:

A. Develop high-level policy goals for each of the following zoning categories. These policy goals will be based on the City's comprehensive plan.

Zoning category 1: R-0.4, R-1, and R-2, with the understanding that some R-2 properties are in Neighborhood Centers and the SMP applies to some.

Zoning category 2: NSC, MUTC, High School Road, and any other mixed use zones.

Zoning category 3: B/I districts.

Zoning category 4: Winslow residential zones.

B. Expand the scope of work for the consultant that the Council intends to hire to develop the LID chapter, to include completing a draft of the new chapter related to trees, vegetation, and protection of ecological functions.

The assumption here is that the new chapter related to trees, vegetation management, and related ecological functions will probably be highly related to the LID chapter. In fact, some Committee members wonder if the LID chapter itself could be expanded to become the new chapter related to tree, vegetation, and ecological function protection.

The Committee agrees that choosing the "right" consultant is of utmost importance. The Committee desires a consultant that will assist the Committee by drafting Code language that implements its policy direction and provides new ideas. The Committee has no intention of ceding its authority to the consultant; rather, the Committee's goal is to use the consultant as needed to achieve the Committee's goals.

Notes Approved: July 12, 2016