

Ad Hoc Tree Committee
Meeting Notes
July 14, 2015

Committee members in attendance: Sarah Blossom, Mack Pearl, Jon Quitslund
COBI Staff: Jennifer Sutton
Public: Olaf Ribeiro, Carolyn Boyd, Charles Schmid

Notes from the June 16 meeting were approved; notes from June 30 had not yet been prepared.

Jennifer had prepared several pages summarizing recommendations to date, modifying Tables 3, 4, and 5 in BIMC 18.15.010 and incorporating Table 6 in Table 4; also, several changes to the language in BIMC 18.15.010.D.4 (Perimeter Buffer Descriptions).

Olaf expressed concern over a failure to preserve valuable trees. Jennifer said that the trees were in the right of way, with roots interfering with water/sewer utility lines. Olaf also commented that in the case of the black locust tree at Wyatt and Grow, the hearing examiner's decision was in favor of preservation.

With reference to a passage in the draft Ordinance 2015-04 (p. 4, top, allowing the director to "elect not to seek penalties"), Jennifer said that the City attorney declined to advise the committee. (In email after the meeting, Mack and Jennifer reached agreement on language that describes limits to the director's discretion with civil penalties.)

Jon's notes do not record further modification of requirements for perimeter buffer screening. We gave some attention to trees and vegetation that are 'internal,' adjacent to development. Jennifer observed that there are no tree unit requirements in residential subdivisions, although attention is paid to 'open space features.' Perhaps we need to work on the 'Tree Clearing' chapter. How much deference is due to the aesthetic and practical considerations of individual property owners? Landscaping has to respond to existing conditions, case by case.

Jennifer brought up the case of redevelopment at Wilkes School, where 40 tree units per acre were required, and there were enough trees in the south and west buffer areas to meet the requirement.

Mack spoke to the circumstances of redevelopment when the status quo is zero trees in the interior of a site: shouldn't there be a minimum tree unit requirement?

Notes Approved: August 4, 2015