



Tree & Low Impact Development
Ad Hoc Committee
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, July 5, 2017

Committee Members Attending: Kol Medina, Mack Pearl, Jon Quitslund, Ron Peltier, Sarah Blossom

COBI Staff: Marilyn Guthrie, Jennifer Sutton

Public: Paul Bonham, Katy Bigelow, Mike Juneau, Charles Schmid, Debbie Vancil

Items 1 & 2: The minutes from June 14 were approved as distributed. The agenda was reviewed and approved with two modifications: Mack asked for time at the end to speak of a problem, and we agreed that the policy recommendations being reported to the Council on July 18 (item 5) would need more than 20 minutes.

Item 3, Public Comment: Charles passed around some photos taken on a Manitou Beach property. Debbie warned against focusing tree retention policies exclusively on percentages. Paul reminded the committee of his interest in a policy that would limit the height of a perimeter hedge that impacts a neighboring property.

Item 4.A: Marilyn spoke briefly about the scope of contract services in LID Phase 2: how to use GIS data is being studied. Mack asked about the time frame for completion of Phase 2 work, to which the answer is “by the end of the year.” Jennifer mentioned that the Council is scheduled to take up the Site Assessment Review ordinance in the second half of July.

Item 4.B, the New BIMC 16.18: Jon’s draft of a portion of the revised chapter had been distributed; it will be revised. Jennifer will work on remaining sections. We agreed that the current definition of “Clearing activities not requiring a permit,” which allows removal of up to six trees in a 12-month period, is too liberal, but Jon’s proposed remedy is too strict: a practical and innocuous action by a homeowner who didn’t know about the new permit requirement might result in a complaint and a citation for noncompliance. We need to find a “happy medium.” Jennifer observed that regulations in BIMC 16.18 need to be aligned with the threshold (7000 sq. ft.) for land disturbance that determines when a Site Assessment Review is required. Further, if a level of tree retention is required to maintain canopy cover, on some properties this will limit what can be removed, with or without a permit, unless trees removed are replaced.

Item 5, Recommendations to be reported for discussion with Council on 7/18: Jennifer distributed copies of a draft document summarizing recommendations to Council, which was modified in discussion. Another version is to be included in the agenda packet for the 7/18 Study session. Kol will discuss some issues with the City attorney. The ‘Progress Report’ that Jon had prepared was also discussed, and will go to the Council after some revision to make clear that it represents one person’s perspective on the issues and further work of the committee.

The issue of concern to Mack was the lack of clarity on the status of trees in the right of way: he has observed well-established and healthy trees being cut down along the road on a single family lot, and it is detrimental to the neighborhood.

Item 6, Public comment: Katy spoke in favor of canopy cover standards and a replanting requirement – also in favor of hiring a municipal arborist. Paul said that a hedge 20 ft. high is a problem that needs a solution, prompting Debbie to ask if there is an ordinance dealing with views, and blocked views. Mike spoke of circumstances and trimming practices that render trees not wind firm.

Item 7, Agenda for next meeting, 7/19: The agenda was discussed briefly but notes do not preserve any specific plans.