



MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 24, 2012

TO: Tukwila Tree and Environment Advisory Committee

FM: Carol Lumb, Senior Planner
Sandra Whiting, Urban Environmentalist

RE: September 26, 2012 Advisory Committee Meeting

Hello everyone, and welcome to the Tukwila Tree and Environment Advisory Committee. I am enclosing a copy of the agenda for our first meeting and some materials for your review. Please note that the meeting will start at 6:00 p.m. in Conference Room 2 of the Department of Community Development, 6300 Southcenter Blvd (the white building next to City Hall) and one of the items we will discuss is revising the start and end time of future meetings. We are trying to accommodate everyone's schedule and the desire on the part of many of you to start the meetings earlier, however, one Tree and Environment Advisory Committee member is participating on the City's Strategic Plan Steering Committee, with meeting times that overlap somewhat with ours (4-6 p.m.) for the first couple months.

We have included a variety of readings for your review. One of the tasks of the Advisory Committee will be to advise the City on revisions/additions to two of the chapters of the City's Comprehensive Plan on goals and policies related to trees and the natural environment. I have included the two chapters of the current Comprehensive Plan that address these two issues and identified the relevant goals and policies with either an arrow or checkmark next to the number.

- Community Image Chapter: Goals 1.3, 1.4, 1.6, 1.7, 1.8, 1.10
- Natural Environment Chapter: there is minimal mention of trees and vegetation protection in this chapter – see goals 4.1, 4.2 and 4.3 and policies 4.1.7, 4.2.2 and 4.3.3 and the references under Implementation Strategies for policies 4.1.1 and goal 4.2. We would like the Committee to help us expand the goals, objectives, policies and implementation strategies to incorporate trees and urban forest management into this chapter.

I have also included the regulations from the City's Zoning Code that implement the existing goals and policies.

- TMC 18.45, Environmentally Sensitive Areas, (TMC 18.45.070 B. 9.)
- TMC 18.50, Landscape, Recreation, Recycling/Solid Waste Space Requirements
- TMC 18.52, Tree Regulations

The Committee will recommend revisions to the Comprehensive Plan chapters that will go to the Planning Commission and City Council. The policy recommendations from the Committee will be used

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by staff to then revise the implementing regulations, create new regulations and/or develop new programs. We don't expect you to be conversant on these materials – instead, we hope that it will help familiarize you with the policy and regulatory context that we currently have in the City. We will be providing you with a detailed table that summarizes all the existing regulations the City now has related to trees and vegetation for a later meeting that should help to guide the Committee's discussions.

The final group of reading materials provides some background information on the biology of trees, and the benefits trees provide to communities.

- The Benefits of Trees
- Trees are Good, But...
- The Case for More Urban Trees
- Primer on Tree Biology (from Trees and Development, by Nelda Matheny and James R. Clark)

At our first meeting, we will give you a three ring notebook and dividers in which to keep the materials we provide you for each meeting.

We look forward to seeing you on September 26, 2012 – please call or e-mail if you have any questions in the meantime.

Enclosures

cc: Nora Gierloff, Deputy Director, Department of Community Development
Kimberly Matej, Council Analyst