

Tukwila Tree and Environment Advisory Committee

Meeting Notes

Meeting 3, November 28, 2012

Committee Members in Attendance: Sean Albert, Nancy Eklund, Christian Faltenberger, De'Sean Quinn, Stephen Reilly, Don Scanlon, David Shumate, Kathleen Wilson

Committee Members Absent: Heidi Watters

Members of the Public in Attendance: Daryl Tapio

Staff in Attendance: Carol Lumb, Sandra Whiting, Nora Gierloff

The meeting began at 6:05 p.m.

Topics of Discussion:

1. Welcome to Committee members and visitors.
2. Public comment: (Time will be set aside at the beginning of each meeting for brief public comments; the Committee is meeting in work session format, therefore, questions or comments from the public that come up during the course of the meeting should be directed to staff via e-mail or telephone calls after the meeting.)

There was no public comment.

3. Check-in with Committee members: The Chair asked if Committee members have any questions or comments from the previous meeting that they wanted to discuss
 - The Committee asked whether staff agreed with Linden Mead's comments about use of native trees (that due to their size at maturity they often are not a good fit for urban settings) - staff agrees with Ms. Mead's comments and the general rule of thumb "right tree, right place" – being sure you think about what the appropriate tree is for the space that you have.
 - There was general discussion that studies have shown that much wetland mitigation is not successful, how the Federal and State governments have revised wetland mitigation requirements and actions to improve success and the extent to which there is follow up after mitigation is in place.
4. Housekeeping:
 - The Committee discussed possibly meeting on either Tuesday, December 18th or Thursday, December 20th instead of Wednesday, December 19th because two Committee members have a conflict with the 12/19 meeting. Staff will check with Committee member Heidi Watters on her availability for the alternate dates.
 - The Committee approved the meeting notes from the 11-1-12 meeting with no corrections/revisions.
5. **Powerpoint** presentation by Sandra Whiting, Urban Environmentalist, on the City's Sensitive Area Ordinance (SAO), found in TMC 18.45, to provide background information to the Committee since the current goals and policies in the Natural Environment Chapter of the Comprehensive Plan largely address sensitive areas issues. Sandra discussed the federal and

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state context for the local regulations (Federal Clean Water Act, Washington State Growth Management Act, Tukwila Comprehensive Plan goals and policies, SAO) purpose of the SAO, general standards and requirements, how the ordinance is working, and issues on which the committee might want to provide policy guidance. The powerpoint included photos of several mitigation project sites in the City and Sandra discussed the City's experiences with carrying out volunteer restoration projects in sensitive area buffers on public properties.

6. Key Natural Environment Topic Areas for the Natural Environment Chapter of the Comprehensive Plan: Committee consensus was that the list provided by staff captured the key natural environment concepts except that for wildlife habitat "and corridors" should be added to broaden this key topic area.

7. Natural Environment Chapter Goals: The Committee began to review the existing Natural Environment goals and discuss possible revisions to the goals. The committee provided the following direction:

- The Committee recommended that the archaeological/paleontological goals and policies be moved to the Community Image chapter, to be grouped with the historic resource goals and policies, but include a cross reference in the Natural Environment chapter to recognize that many natural areas have archaeological and paleontological resources. A question was raised about whether there are policies on culturally significant resources (for example places important in Native American traditions, such as North Winds Weir), and if not, it was suggested that this topic be added to the Comprehensive Plan. Nora Gierloff clarified that the recently adopted regulations for historic resources apply to the built environment and not to other types of cultural resources. The Committee discussed whether a stewardship goal (referring to trained volunteers that work on restoration projects) was needed. It was decided that the proposed staff policies related to this topic would be evaluated and then a decision would be made about whether an additional goal was needed.
- The Committee discussed whether there should be public access to public mitigation sites, where appropriate, (for example direct public access might not be appropriate if the goal of the mitigation was to enhance wildlife habitat, but some access feature like a viewing platform might be useful for educational purposes). Staff will come back with proposed language for a goal on this topic.
- The Committee recommended revising the language of the goals to change the action verbs to "end statements" – i.e. statements of what outcomes we want to achieve. For example, the first goal initially read: "Restore and protect the quality of the City's air, land and water resources for future generations." The revised goal, based on Committee direction, would read "The City's air, land and water resources are restored and protected for future generations." The Committee continued review of the remaining goals and provided guidance on end statement wording. Staff will revise all the goal language for the Committee's review for the 12/19 meeting.

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8. Check in – the Chair asked if there were any questions that the Committee has that need to be addressed before the close of the meeting.
9. The meeting closed at 8:00 pm.
10. **Action Items for staff follow-up:**
 - a. Staff will provide the Committee with proposed revisions to Natural Environment goals based on the direction provided on wording (end statements rather than action verbs).
 - b. Staff will provide a cross reference in the Natural Environment chapter regarding the archaeological/paleontological goals/policies in the Community Image chapter.
 - c. Staff will research whether there are policies or regulations on culturally significant resources and will prepare a draft goal to that effect for inclusion in the Community Image chapter.
 - d. Staff will come back with proposed language for a goal or policy on public access to public mitigation sites.