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Tree Ordinances

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Tim

Thank you for resending the 2018 Tree Ordinances. I have no experience in this area and nothing with which to compare our policies. I read the 13 pages and took notes and do have some questions. Before I ask those questions and for clarification on some points, I have realized that, unfortunately, our western culture does not typically view our environment in a way that respects its value as it should. There's "mutual responsibility" (pg 42 from Braiding Sweetgrass - A Hymn of Love to the world, Robin Wall Kimmerer) between us and nature. We depend on it for so much, including the air we breathe and it depends on us to protect and preserve it. The Western mindset still favors development and progress, often at the expense of nature. And so I am not optimistic that anything will change in Camas with regards to prioritizing tree preservation soon enough, or at all, to protect our shrinking tree canopy and animal habitat. But I will ask my questions and ask for assistance in clarifying some things I've read in the 13 pages and make some comments. I will do this in the order the ordinance is written.

1. **18.03.40.** Environmental Definitions- **"Significant Trees" = Evergreens that are 8" DBH** (diameter of tree measured at breast height 4'6" from ground

The tree that prompted me to write in the first place is an evergreen in the McIntosh Subdivision and I believe fits this criteria especially because there are not many trees on this property which makes it even more **significant. It is also astonishingly tall!**

2. **18.13.010.** Purpose

B. To. implement the city's comprehensive plan goals which include **preserving natural beauty** in the city and **protecting Camas' native landscape** and **mature tree cover**. CAN YOU TELL ME WHERE THIS IS BEING DONE? For example, I can see clearcutting being done on the other side of the lake. This evergreen on the McIntosh Subdivision certainly is part of our natural beauty.

3. **18.13.020.** Scope

The term "unless otherwise exempted" is used. What does this refer to and does this relate to the trees in the McIntosh Subdivision?

D.Removal of trees on parcels of less than 1 acre in size shall be limited in proportion to 6 trees per acre (ex. a 1/2 acre parcel can remove 3 trees)----But McIntosh Subdivision's land does not have many trees so shouldn't its mature trees be preserved to be in line with section 18.13.010 under #2B above?

4. **18.13.045.** Tree Survey

A. Tree survey prepared by a certified arborist or professional forester.

What is the outcome of this survey for McIntosh Subdivision?

B. Tree survey must contain an Inventory and Assessment. And part of the assessment is (d) Recommendation for preservation or removal. This section appears to favor the development project by stating "The recommendation WILL consider proposed grading, trenching, paving, fencing and other construction plans." Again, referring to 2B above the tree I'm concerned about is a **mature tree** on land without many trees to consider.

5. **18.13.051.** Minimum Tree Density Requirement

A. Tree Density - A minimum tree density per net acre is required and must be incorporated within the overall landscape plan. The tree density MAY consist of existing trees *** How does the city ensure mostly, if not all existing (mature) trees remain and are not replaced with replacement trees OR a combination of existing and replacement trees? *** PURSUANT TO THE PRIORITY ESTABLISHED IN THE FOLLOWING SECTION

6. **18.13.052.** Tree and Native Vegetation Preservation

A. When determining where to retain or plant trees, locations with healthy soils, native understory vegetation, and **mature trees shall have priority** when there are feasible alternative locations on site for proposed buildings and site improvements to achieve the minimum tree unit density per acre. This may require site redesign. Provided, where necessary, density transfer areas may be used to ensure protection and retention of trees. --**WHAT DOES THIS LAST LINE MEAN?**

*****I believe Robert Maul said in a voicemail (9/27) "spacing issues that are a requirement from the city and transportation & the road access points kind of fixed right in the middle which is right where the tree is of course....been through multiple designs...." This was from the transcript of the voice mail. This is probably where protecting/preserving the tree will lose out unfortunately. **And also where the language can be in favor of the tree.**

B. In designing a development project and in meeting the required tree density, the applicant must provide a Landscape, Tree & Vegetation Plan **that retains healthy, wind firm trees in the following priority**

1. Trees located within critical area buffers. Trees must be identified within a protected tract.
2. **Significant** wildlife habitat, or areas adjacent and buffering habitat. -HOW DO YOU DEFINE

SIGNIFICANT HERE?

This tree may house nests (potentially of owls) so has it been checked? And Klinkit Park is adjacent and has signs delineating its "Habitat Area"

3. Significant trees that are greater than 36" DBH. WHAT ABOUT MATURE TREES OF A CERTAIN HEIGHT? This tree on McIntosh subdivision is massively tall and has probably been there for close to 100 years.

C. Mitigation and Replacement. In areas where there are currently **inadequate numbers of existing trees to meet minimum tree density**, where the trees are inappropriate for preservation, the soils are poor, or there are significant invasive species, then mitigation shall be required to meet the minimum tree density. The bolded part of this sentence should then defer to healthy mature trees being preserved due to the limited number of trees present in the first place.

The applicant's proposed location for replacement trees or mitigation shall be subject to the city's approval of the Landscape Plan. WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN REPLACING TREES AND MITIGATION? IS MITIGATION PRESERVING EXISTING TREES/VEGETATION?

So I thank you for taking the time to read my concerns. I hope it was readable!! We all live in Camas and cannot deny the change in our natural environment due to many mature trees being taken down and clearcutting permitted to make way for development. Without our natural beauty, Camas would be just a community of subdivisions with a quaint downtown. But we are more than that, and so it's our responsibility to grow conscientiously by preserving our mature trees, tree canopy, animal habitat and amazing beauty.

****None of my emails about this particular tree in the McIntosh Subdivision, nor my attendance and comments at past council meetings or meetings with city planners regarding tree preservation has mentioned anything that would require money from the budget. My point of view is about stronger wording that prioritizes tree preservation and policies that prohibit clear cutting. So I don't know why Tim and Leslie, you both mention the city's budget. This is policy and Robert also said in his voicemail,**

"....going to be up to Council to direct staff on if they want to pursue policy changes.."

[Quoted text hidden]