

Consider Ordinance
Amending Duties of the Tree Advisory Board

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City Council Meeting March 7, 2023

Purpose

- To consider approval of an Ordinance amending LVCC, Chapter 1 General Provisions, Article 1.06 Boards, Commissions, and Committees, Sec. 1.06.002 Tree Advisory Board, (e) Duties
- The amendment would revise the duties of the Park Commission in their role as the Tree Advisory Board

Background

- The Tree Advisory Board Ordinance was created in 2009/2010 and, with one exception, hasn't been updated since that time
 - Exception was to sunset the Board and assign duties to the Park Commission
- Ordinance contains a list of duties
- The Park Commission has reviewed the duties and made recommendations for change

Proposed Revisions to Duties

- Changes are shown in red, additions in blue
 - (1) Study the problems and determine the needs of the city in connection with the development and execution of a tree planting program, specifically ~~Resolution 09-012~~, the Leon Valley Tree Challenge Initiative, working toward the city's goal to plant 10,000 trees by the year 2020⁵, a goal which supports the efforts of El Verde by 2020⁵;
 - (2) Review and monitor enforcement and application of the city's existing tree ordinances;

Proposed Revisions to Duties

- (5) Create educational programs and encourage local schools and other public and private agencies/organizations to ~~conduct~~ participate in city-sponsored tree planting and give away ~~Arbor Day~~ events and other similar campaigns to meet the Leon Valley Tree Challenge;
- (6) Provide regular and special meetings at which the subject of trees, insofar as it relates to the city, may be discussed by the members of the Park Commission ~~tree advisory board (TAB)~~;

Proposed Revisions to Duties

- (7) Coordinate ~~the board's~~ efforts with related projects by the public works department, ~~park commission~~ and earthwise living day committee, and other similar committees;
- ~~(8) Communicate with the state department of transportation as to any highway projects which would affect public trees;~~
- (9) Review, with the mayor and city council, all plans for preserving existing public trees and planting new public trees;

Proposed Revisions to Duties

- ~~• (10) Recommend with the assistance of the selected arborist the removal of any public tree or part thereof which is in an unsafe condition or is affected with any injurious fungus, insect or other pest, or which by reason of its nature is injurious to sewers, electric power lines, gas lines, water lines, or other public improvements;~~
- (11) Recommend to the proper authority the type and kind of public trees to be planted upon city-owned streets or parts of city-owned streets or in parks as is designated. Recommendations will be appropriate for the south Texas area ~~visibility requirements of existing on- and off-premises business signage. The types and kind of trees will be responsibly chosen to avoid materially obstructing the property by impairing the visibility of business signage;~~

Proposed Revisions to Duties

- (12) Provide periodic reports to the city council and community regarding the program and its progress;
- ~~(13) Submit the annual renewal application to Tree City USA.~~

Fiscal Impact

- None

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Recommendation

- At their February 9, 2023, meeting, the Park Commission recommended approval of these changes to the duties

S.E.E. Statement

- Social Equity – Providing for the planting of trees assures a better quality of life for all citizens
- Economic Development – Proactively planting trees creates a better quality of life, which may attract residents, which in turn may attract new residents
- Environmental Stewardship – Trees help clean the air we breathe, filter the water we drink, and provide habitat to over 80% of the world's terrestrial biodiversity