

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

DATE: March 7, 2023
TO: Mayor and Council
FROM: Melinda Moritz, Public Works Director
THROUGH: Crystal Caldera, City Manager

SUBJECT: Presentation and Discussion 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 (1st Read as Required by City Charter)

SPONSOR(S): Park Commission

PURPOSE

This item is to consider amending the duties of the Park Commission as they relate to their actions as the Tree Advisory Board. The proposed changes are noted in red and are struck out and any additions are in blue. The reasons for such changes are listed in italic below each duty:

(e) Duties. The Park Commission, acting as the city tree advisory board (TAB), shall serve with the following duties:

(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;

The City changed the El Verde by 2020 program date to 2025, as we were not able to meet the challenge in that period of time; therefore the date in the Ordinance should be changed. Taking out the reference to a specific Resolution allows the City to be more flexible with future mandates.

~~(2) Review and monitor enforcement and application of the city's existing tree ordinances;~~

The Park Commission should not be tasked with monitoring enforcement or application – this is the job of the Planning and Zoning Department and Code Enforcement.

(3) Organize a community tree survey that identifies the location of all heritage

trees in the city;

No change.

(4) Inform the public and provide education regarding the importance of trees and the care, preservation, pruning, removal, selection, planting and maintenance of such;

No change.

(5) Create educational programs and encourage local schools and other public and private agencies/organizations to ~~conduct~~ participate in city-sponsored Arbor Day events and other similar campaigns to meet the Leon Valley Tree Challenge;

This has not been successful in the past, so it is thought to just encourage other agencies and groups to participate in city-sponsored events.

(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 ~~tree advisory board (TAB);~~ **Park Commission**

Housekeeping changes.

(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;

Housekeeping changes.

~~(8) Communicate with the state department of transportation as to any highway projects which would affect public trees;~~

Bandera Road does not have room for trees along the right of way. There are electrical lines, cable and fiber lines, and gas, water, and sewer mains the entire length of the roadway and it would be inappropriate to plant trees in this area. The City will coordinate with TxDOT on other types of plantings. There are trees planted on private property along the roadway, but they are cared for and managed by the private property owners, with approval from the Planning and Zoning Department.

(9) Review, with the mayor and city council, all plans for preserving existing public trees and planting new public trees;

No changes.

~~(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;~~

The Park Commission is not the appropriate party to make these decisions. The Public Works Crews are in these areas on a weekly basis and remove dead or diseased trees. In addition, for trees that we are unaware of, the public will notify Public Works.

(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 to 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;~~

The Zoning Code has a list of acceptable plantings as recommended by the Texas Forest Service for our area. In addition, the Planning and Zoning Department is the responsible party for assuring the correct amount and types of plantings are installed with each development.

(12) Provide periodic reports to the city council and community regarding the program and its progress;

No changes.

~~(13) Submit the annual renewal application to Tree City USA.~~

This is performed by the Public Works Department.

SEE LEON VALLEY

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.

FISCAL IMPACT

None.

STRATEGIC GOALS

N/A.

RECOMMENDATION

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

APPROVED: _____ DISAPPROVED: _____

APPROVED WITH THE FOLLOWING AMENDMENTS :

ATTEST:

SAUNDRA PASSAILAIGUE, TRMC
City Secretary