Summary of Recommended Changes to Rollingwood Tree Maintenance Ordinance from CRCRC

These recommendations are based on a careful analysis of the community survey done by the CRCRC in Fall 2023, where 74% of respondents stated that maintaining the current tree canopy was of either high or very high priority.

- Rename ordinance section to "Residential Landscape and Tree Canopy Management"

- Introduce "Heritage Tree" definition
    - One of the protected species and 24 inches or larger in diameter at 4 ½ feet above natural grade
    - May be removed from the building footprint area through normal permitting process.
    - Removal from yard setbacks and unused buildable area is prohibited unless by BOA special exception
    - Ordinance establishes Heritage tree replacement requirements

- Tighten protected tree replacement guidelines
    - Protected trees removed from yard areas (setbacks) must be replaced by protected species trees
    - May be replaced with trees from alternative replacement list if removed from an area 20ft from utility lines.
    - Protected trees removed from a lot must be replaced on that lot unless a special exception is obtained to plant on an adjacent lot with that owner's permission.
    - Protected tree diameters that are 25% or greater in the yard setback but straddling the line between yard setbacks and buildable areas, are considered removed from the yard setbacks

- Introduce Critical Root Zone (CRZ) and identify such on tree removal permits and add specific CRZ protections

- Add building permit application requirements
    - A protection plan to ensure the survival of all protected trees during construction
    - Survival of replaced trees will be assessed at 3 years after OC obtained; non-surviving trees must be replaced
    - Protection specifics are in the works

- Reassign current code's "city arborist" tasks not requiring certified arborist expertise to a city building official.

- Include a statement encouraging, but not mandating, xeriscape landscapes and drought tolerant grasses be used on 50% or more of landscape area