



ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MOTION 20180418 007a

Date: April 18, 2018

Subject: Street tree regulations in CodeNEXT Draft 3

Motion by: Peggy Maceo

Seconded by: Marisa Perales

RATIONALE:

WHEREAS, in seeking to create a compact and connected city, Imagine Austin encourages the use of sidewalks and a walkable city; and

WHEREAS, Austin's hot climate makes shade beneficial, valuable and necessary to encourage walking; and

WHEREAS, Austin's Urban Forest Plan, unanimously approved by Council, lists tree plantings and landscape on public property, sidewalks, and transit corridors as a priority; and

WHEREAS, utilities have increased the distance for planting trees in the Right Of Way to 10 feet; and

WHEREAS, Subchapter E has been removed from CodeNEXT Draft 3, which establishes site development standards for tree planting and ensures high quality street environments to support pedestrians (walkable) and provide shade and it is not clear whether all of these provisions have been replaced in other parts of Draft 3; and

WHEREAS, seventeen zoning categories are listed in CodeNEXT Draft 3 and many aspects of CodeNEXT Draft 3 are unfinished and incomplete.

THEREFORE, the Environmental Commission makes the following recommendations concerning street trees:

Reinstate Street Tree Requirements, 23-9E-5050, (B) (1), as written in Draft 2, which states "The width requirements for street tree planting shall apply regardless of the available right-of-way; the street tree planting area shall extend onto private property, within a public access easement, to fulfill the width requirement when sufficient right-of-way is not available."

Furthermore, when Subchapter E transitions to CodeNEXT Draft 3, staff will provide the Environmental Commission with the locations of Subchapter E in the new code at an Environmental Commission meeting to ensure consistency and reflect the general intent that has been captured in the new draft.

The Environmental Commission recommends clarifying who is responsible for installing and maintaining street trees regardless of where they are located on a property; and
The Environmental Commission recommends adding a cross reference in the Landscaping Section to refer to the street tree requirements in the Transportation code.

VOTE 9-0

For: B. Smith, Thompson, Istvan, Maceo, Perales, H. Smith, Neely, Coyne, Guerrero
Against: None
Abstain: None
Recuse: None
Absent: Creel, Gordon

Approved By:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marisa Perales". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Marisa Perales, Environmental Commission Chair