

Winston-Salem / Forsyth County Tree Ordinance Committee Meeting Summary

November 15, 2006

City Hall South, Winston-Salem, NC

DRAFT (Do not circulate)
Draft Date: 12/11/06

APPROVED (For general distribution)
Approval Date: 01/24/07

Attendance

Glenn Cobb	<i>Winston-Salem Regional Association of Realtors</i>
Melynda Dunigan	<i>Winston-Salem Neighborhood Alliance</i>
Fred Holbrook	<i>Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Inspections Division</i>
Kieth Huff	<i>City of Winston-Salem, Stormwater</i>
Glynis Jordan	<i>City-County Planning Board</i>
Paul McGill	<i>McGill Realty</i>
James Mitchell	<i>City of Winston-Salem, Vegetation Management</i>
Jamie Moore	<i>Community Appearance Commission</i>
Elizabeth O'Meara	<i>Sierra Club</i>
Bob Ragland	<i>Forsyth County Environmental Affairs</i>
Keith Rogers	<i>Keith Rogers Homes</i>

Alternates

Nancy Gould	<i>Winston-Salem Homebuilders Association</i>
Kaila Hires	<i>Winston-Salem Neighborhood Alliance</i>
Robert Vorsteg	<i>Winston-Salem Neighborhood Alliance</i>

Meeting Agenda

1. Agenda review; approval of meeting summary
2. Information sharing
3. Generate issue categories and potential options
4. Create discussion agenda
5. Identify information needs for option discussion and development

Handouts Provided

Tree Ordinance Committee Draft Charter Draft 2.1, October 2006
Tree Ordinance Committee Vision Statements, October 2006
Tree Ordinance Committee Interests, October 2006
Biological, Management & Community Issues, October 2006
Interests Worksheet

Actions and Future Tasks

Tasks Remaining from previous meetings:

1. Develop new language on pp. 16 and 17 of the Committee Charter
2. Review actual site plans to evaluate existing ordinances with respect to tree conservation and protection.
3. Keith Huff to report back on Incentives for Density Bonus, Protection of Steep Slopes (Chapter 2-5.60 (G)).
4. Keith Huff to report back on Floodway Fringe Limits of Encroachment (Section 2-3(B)(3)(b)).

New Actions & Tasks

1. Committee specified a framework for a tree conservation program; identified options for maintaining trees in a healthy condition
2. Committee members to identify and prioritize their own interests.

I. Introductions, Agenda Review, Information Sharing

- A. The facilitator, Steve Smutko, welcomed the committee members and reviewed the day's agenda.
- B. The committee approved the August 30 meeting summary with the following changes:
 - 1. Change date to October 25, 2006
 - 2. Evie Katsoudas, Winston-Salem Chamber of Commerce was not present
 - 3. Steve Lyda, Forsyth County Environmental Affairs was present.
 - 4. P.1, New Actions & Tasks, 2, changed as follows: "Developed interest statement and ~~interest~~ vision statements that will guide future direction of the committee.
 - 5. p.2, II, 10, replace possible with possibile (indicating that the committee agreed to strike the word 'possible' from that section of the charter).
- C. Melynda Dunigan provided a handout from the presentation by City of Charlotte Senior Urban Forester, Laura Brewer. Ms. Brewer spoke to the Neighborhood Alliance in October.

II. Issue Categories

- A. Steve Smutko briefed the committee on the process that they will use to generate substantive components of a tree conservation program. The first step is to develop a scheme to categorize the topical issues of this rather complex problem.
- B. Smutko presented a draft categorization scheme for the committee to react to and amend. These categories were derived from the interviews he conducted with the committee members in the Spring of 2006 and from the ISA "Guidelines for Developing and Evaluating Tree Ordinances." The categories outlined by Smutko were:

- 1. Promoting conservation of tree resources
 - Protecting the canopy
 - Establishing and maintaining tree cover
- 2. Establishing and maintaining age and species diversity
 - Specifying trees, tree type and species
- 3. Selecting, situating and maintaing street trees
- 4. Replanting trees
- 5. Maintaining trees in a healthy condition
 - Pruning trees
- 6. Developing lots
- 7. Providing incentives
- 8. Identifying location and scope
- 9. Identifying the value and benefits of trees
- 10. Specifying implementation and enforcement
 - Review site plans and enforcing tree standards.

- C. Smutko asked the committee to react to the categories placed on the board. After some questions and discussion about the process of identifying categories, committee members went to work renaming, adding and removing categories until they arrived at an acceptable framework.
- D. A point of discussion was how to incorporate actions that are designed to conserve trees together with actions that are designed to implement a tree conservation program. Several combinations of issue categories were discussed.
- E. Another discussion item was how to include the objective of minimizing cost. Was cost minimization a criterion to evaluate other actions, or was it an objective of its own? The committee decided that it should be considered an objective along with other objectives like "providing incentives." The understanding is that the topics identified in this exercise will remain as 'actionable

items' until such time that the committee has a better idea.

- F. The committee eventually settled on a framework that depicts the members' views of this multi-dimensional decision problem and contains the key issues they feel they need to address. The framework is identified as Figure 1 in the appendix to this meeting summary.

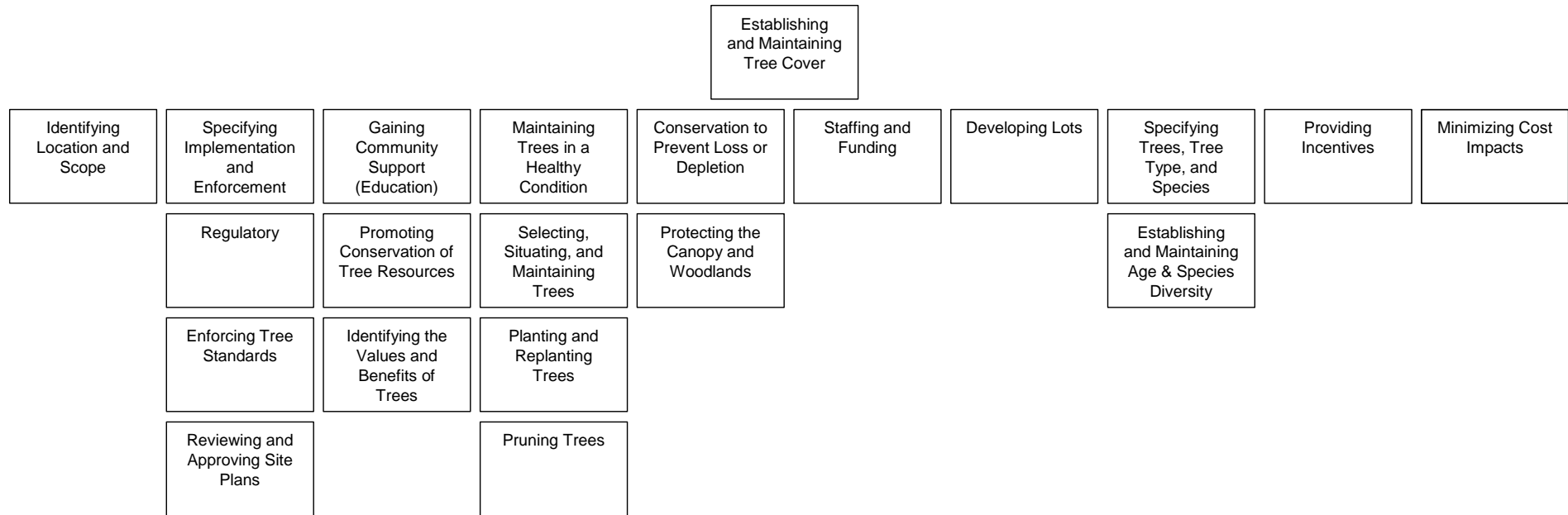
III. Options

- A. The committee engaged in a brainstorming exercise to develop options to achieve one of the framework objectives. Options were defined as the substantive actions that constitute the tree conservation 'product.'
- B. Before beginning the brainstorming exercise, smutko identified several roadblocks to option generation:
 - 1. Anchoring on quantities
 - 2. Anchoring on similarities
 - 3. Sub-optimal starts
 - 4. Anchoring on recent events
 - 5. Past practices (it's worked once before)
 - 6. Organizational rigidity
- C. The group chose to develop options to "Maintain Trees in a Healthy Condition." These are contained in Figure 2 in the meeting summary appendix.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Figure 1

Winston-Salem / Forsyth County Tree Program Framework
(as identified by the committee)



Draft 1.0, 11/15/06

Figure 2

Options for Maintaining Trees in a Healthy Condition

Draft 1.0 11/15/06

