

5. Code Heritage Tree Ordinance

Amendment:

Location: Citywide
Agent: City of Austin (Planning and Development Review Department)
Request: Discussion and possible action on the Heritage Tree Ordinance.
Staff: Michael Embesi, 974-1876; Michael.embesi@ci.austin.tx.us;
Planning and Development Review Department

Motion made to approve staff's recommendation with the following amendments:

- 1) 25-8-602 (1) HERITAGE TREE means a tree that has a total diameter of 24 inches or more, measured four and one-half feet above natural grade, and is a species prescribed by ordinance as eligible for heritage tree designation.
- 2) As noted above, the list of species will be prescribed by ordinance.
- 3) In 25-8-624 (A) (4) and 25-8-642 (A) (1), delete reference to "dying or" in "dying or dead."
- 4) Revise 25-8-621 (B) to specify "...damaged protected tree that is an imminent hazard..."
- 5) Specify that the ordinance pertains to all CoA departments to the same extent it pertains to citizens.
- 6) Delete 25-8-642 (C)
- 7) The review process for 25-8-642 (D) should be amended to state that the director may grant a variance from Sec. 25-8-641 to allow removal of a heritage tree ... only after receiving a recommendation from the Urban Forestry Board and after determining, based on the city arborist's recommendation...
- 8) Revise 25-8-624 (A) (2) prevents all reasonable use of the property;
- 9) Also directed the PC Codes & Ordinances Subcommittee to consider the mitigation and enforcement issues to be added later to the HTO, but this should not hold up the current ordinance.

Motion made by Commissioner Jay Reddy, Commissioner Dave Anderson second the motion on a vote of 7-1; Commissioner Clint Small voted nay; 1 vacancy on the commission,