



The Planning Commission provided direction to staff on amendments to the Heritage Tree Ordinance: Last night was the 3rd study session on the matter and the Commission directed staff to come back with an amended Ordinance and Tree Preservation Guidelines and Specifications document for their consideration and recommendation to the City Council that includes the following revisions:

- Revise current definition of heritage trees to also include:
  - o Add multi-trunk trees measuring 15" measures where the stems begin (tally of stems).
  - o Begin measurement of a heritage tree at 4.5' above the natural grade instead of 4'.
- Add native redwood trees 15.2" in diameter or greater as an additional protected tree in the buildable area
- Reduce the Tree Protection Zone (TPZ) from 12 times to be 10 times the diameter of the tree. A TPZ must be free from any development or development activities (such as grading, etc).
- To not add or remove any trees from the existing list of non-classified heritage trees.
- Require a tree inventory with photos and appraisal prior to site demolition permit issuance.
- Require a refundable bond be posted to assure tree protection measures are met throughout construction.
- Enhance the definition of what kind of work is prohibited within the TPZ.
- To require the requests for an exception to the TPZ standards or to move a heritage tree require review by the Planning Commission.
- Incorporation ANZI standards and BMP's for tree pruning to be required, topping, and lions tailing.
- Other textual additions made by the Ad Hoc Committee and Town Arborist.

**Next Planning Commission Meeting is February 28<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm.**