

SWNI NEWS Oct 2016

The news from Collins View Neighborhood Association
By Jim Diamond, Chair, CVNA and Maryellen Read, Secretary, CVNA

Paul Newman said, “What we ’ve got here is a failure to communicate.”*

We’re not thinking of *particularly* slamming the City for its delayed response to our request to talk to Collins View Neighborhood Association (CVNA) about our concerns with the Tree Code.; *nor* for no-announcements to the neighborhood of imminent tree removals; *nor* for the non-enforcement of posting requirements.

Mentioning all of this is prelude to the point that the city is not doing an adequate job of publicizing the Tree Code, <https://www.portlandoregon.gov/trees/article/507996> despite the first paragraph of that site which acknowledges: “...Community members complained that the City’s tree regulations were confusing and did not adequately preserve and protect trees, particularly large trees and tree groves...”

Heads up! Community members are still complaining, because there have been numerous instances of unpermitted tree removal that have substantially altered the neighborhood tree canopy. This has led us to ask several questions about Urban Forestry and the city tree code.

1. How is unpermitted tree removal addressed by the city?
2. Are fines administered for removal without a permit?
3. What are the other consequences of noncompliance?
4. Are neighbors abutting the proposed tree removal informed of the permit application?
5. Are these abutting neighbors able to comment on the permit application in any substantive way?
6. What is the real purpose of the tree code?
7. Is the city going to enforce the tree code?

Newcomers to the neighborhood and longtime residents need to be made aware that the trees on their property are not theirs to do exactly what they want with. Some "violators" of the Tree Code (inadequate as it is) may be genuinely ignorant of its restrictions. Newcomers are forced into a neighbor triage mode after neighbors become incensed with trees taken down. This failure to communicate the Tree Code is sandbagging new residents and getting them off on a major wrong foot with their neighbors.

The City needs help to facilitate Collins View’s and all neighborhoods' protection of the iconic Portland tree Canopy.

Because of its spending priorities, the City has privatized many of its public parks responsibilities (Duniway et al) and privatized police duties in the business district (Portland Patrol [<http://www.portlandpatrol.com/>]). Putting a positive can-do perspective process on this Tree Code compliance problem, rather than continual griping, and blaming, we suggest the City

reach out again to the private sector. A City-sponsored outreach would provide realtors with attractive, attention getting CLEAR concise Tree Code information for all their clients and potential clients. A bright flyer mailed to all homeowners would put everyone on notice that we are the responsible stewards of our environment.

Without serious efforts to educate the public and enforce the regulations, the City's rules are just palliative political ink.

**Cool Hand Luke, 1967.*