Winston-Salem / Forsyth County Tree Ordinance Committee Meeting Summary

May 30, 2006
City Hall South, Winston-Salem, NC

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Draft Date: 06/05/06  Approval Date: 06/06/06

Attendance
Glenn Cobb  Winston-Salem Homebuilders Association & Winston-Salem Regional Association of Realtors
Melynda Dunigan  Winston-Salem Neighborhood Alliance
James Mitchell  City of Winston-Salem, Vegetation Management
Fred Holbrook  Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Inspections Division
Glynis Jordan  City-County Planning Board
Jamie Moore  Community Appearance Commission
Paul McGill  McGill Realty
Elizabeth O'Meara  Sierra Club
Bob Ragland  Forsyth County Environmental Affairs
Keith Rogers  Keith Rogers Homes
Lynda Schwan  City-County Planning Board
Tamieka White  Neighbors for Better Neighborhoods

Meeting Agenda
1. Welcome, introductions, agenda review
2. Review and edit Committee Charter
3. Review of reading materials (homework)
4. Information needed by the committee
5. Dates for future meetings
6. Agenda items for next meeting
7. Adjourn

Handouts Provided
1. Winston-Salem / Forsyth County Tree Ordinance Committee Charter
I. Introductions, Agenda Review

A. The facilitator, Steve Smutko, welcomed the committee members. Committee members introduced themselves and included an explanation of their interests in tree conservation and the specifics of the committee.

II. Review and Edit of Committee Charter

A. Steve Smutko introduced a draft committee charter for the group to discuss and change where needed. The charter is the document that defines and governs the committee’s deliberation process in connection with discussing and (potentially) developing a tree ordinance. Specific changes to the draft charter were:

1. Purpose of the Stakeholder Process.
   a) The committee agreed that the purpose would be to first investigate whether an ordinance is necessary, and if so, to work in collaboration to develop one.

2. Language alluding to “tree preservation standards” was changed to read “tree ordinance.”

3. Stakeholder Participants
   a) Resource advisors will attend meetings at the invitation of the committee
   b) Secondary Stakeholders will be kept informed of committee progress and will receive regular updates. A list of secondary stakeholders will be kept by the City-County Planning Department and the facilitator.

4. Interacting with the Media
   a) Official committee spokespeople are Glynis Jordan and Melynda Dunigan

5. The Committee’s Final Product
   a) If the committee decides to recommend the development of a tree ordinance, the committee will approve ordinances as drafted by the City-County Planning Department.

III. Review of Reading Materials

A. Steve Smutko introduced the reading material, a copy of the book *Getting to Yes* by Fisher and Ury, and a primer on negotiation written by Smutko. He reminded committee members to read pages 1-24 in the negotiation primer by the next meeting. Information in the primer will be used in associated training in negotiation skills provided by Smutko. Members should try to read *Getting to Yes* by the August meeting.

IV. Information Needed by the Committee

A. Committee members generated a list of information they felt would be important to gather to guide them in their decision making. A draft list was generated but not discussed. The following list of items was generated:

1. Economic value of trees and tree conservation.

2. Economic impacts of tree protection and tree maintenance.

3. Environmental value of trees
   a) Amount of human built infrastructure needed to replace the benefits of a tree canopy.

4. Ordinances and policies currently in effect in Winston-Salem and Forsyth County that address tree conservation in one fashion or another. Included are watershed protection, street tree ordinances, stormwater regulations, etc.
5. Tree science – the technical aspects of tree growth
6. Building around trees
7. List of desirable tree species
8. Tree ordinances of other municipalities including Greensboro, Raleigh, Charlotte, and municipalities in other states.
   a) Content of ordinances
   b) What works and what doesn’t
   c) NCSU’s tree ordinance project
9. Logging, landowner rights and forestry
   a) Legal issues
10. Ordinance language including penalties, variances, etc.
11. Analysis of existing tree canopy in Winston-Salem and Forsyth County.

B. The committee agreed to gather the following information for the next two meetings:

1. Ordinances and policies currently in effect in Winston-Salem and Forsyth County that address tree conservation in one fashion or another.
   a) Fred Holbrook will summarize and present ordinances under his purview for the June 6 meeting
   b) James Mitchell will summarize and present vegetation management ordinances for the June 6 meeting.
   c) Lynda Schwan will summarize stormwater and other regulations for the July meeting
   d) James Mitchell will present information on CITYgreen, software designed for measuring tree cover at the June meeting.

V. Future meeting Dates
A. The committee selected a series of dates for future meetings (facilitator’s note: in an email dated May 31, Glen Cobb identified scheduling problems with those dates. The committee will select new dates at its next meeting).

Meeting was adjourned at 6:10 p.m.