



Land Use, Transportation & Infrastructure Committee Summary Minutes

Tuesday, September 17, 2013 10:30 AM City & County Building, Room 391

Committee Members: Robb, Chair; Montero, Vice-Chair; Brown; Lehmann; López; Shepherd

Committee Staff: Gretchen Williams

Council Members Present: Lehmann, Lopez, Montero, Robb, Shepherd, Susman

Members Absent: Brown

Presentations

1 **Approved Street Trees**
Rob Davis, Denver Forester

The Committee had requested Rob Davis, City Forester, come to Committee and discuss the best trees for Denver, with emphasis on approved street trees. The complete list of approved street trees (in the tree lawn or parking strip in the public right-of-way) is attached, as is the PowerPoint presentation. Mr. Davis said there is no magic tree for Denver, but there are several varieties that will do well in this climate.

His Top Ten list of large shade trees in Denver are:

- Kentucky Coffeetree
- English Oak
- Bur Oak
- Chinkapin Oak

- American Sycamore
- Sugarberry/Hackberry
- Honeylocust
- Elm
- Northern Catalpa (bean tree)
- Japanese Pagodatree

His Top Ten ornamental trees in Denver are:

- Crabapple
- Hawthorn
- Ornamental pear
- Bigtooth Maple
- Japanese Tree Lilac
- Eastern Redbud
- Golden Rain Tree
- Magnolia
- Cornelian Cherry
- Waveyleaf Oak

A free permit is required for planting or removing trees in the public right-of-way (tree lawn). The permit to plant is required so that Forestry can check on the location (to be sure it won't block a traffic sign, etc.) and to ensure that the tree is an approved species. The list of approved street trees is attached.

The Forester also has a list of trees that do not do well in Denver and are NOT ALLOWED as street trees:

- Autumn Blaze maple
- Ash
- Poplar and Willow species

- Silver maples
- Boxelders;
- Siberian elm
- Multi-stem trees
- Weeping trees
- Evergreens of any variety

Councilman Lopez asked about financial support for people who cannot afford to remove dead trees. He also talked about a gap in City policy with regard to street and median tree maintenance.

The full list of Denver's approved street trees and other information is available on the City's website at www.Denvergov.org/forestry homeowners information).

Bill Requests

BR13-0589 Amends Chapter 59-2 to assure continuation of certain building and bulk plane limitations when land subject to Former Chapter 59 zoning is mapped next to lower-density "protected districts" under the Denver Zoning Code.
Tina Axelrad, Community Planning & Development

The purpose of the proposed amendment is to ensure continuation of building height and bulk controls on development still governed under Former Chapter 59 when these "old code" districts are adjacent to new Denver Zoning Code "protected districts" (residential).

For example, properties with "R-MU-20" zoning are still regulated under the Former Chapter 59. Where one of these properties is next to properties with a new zoning classification, such as U-SU-C, the intended height/bulk controls of R-MU-20 are not triggered. The proposal is a means of fixing that problem.

The new language is to be added to Denver Revised Municipal Code (DRMC) Chapter 59-2 as paragraph (c), as shown below:

(a) Chapter 59 of the Denver Revised Municipal Code as filed with the Denver City Clerk on the 20th day of May 2010 at City Clerk Filing No. 19-512, ("Former Chapter 59"), shall remain in full force and effect for any land not re-zoned to zone districts in the Denver Zoning Code. No changes shall be enacted to the provisions of the Former Chapter 59 after June 25, 2010.

(b) For lands retaining their zoning designation under the Former Chapter 59, including land zoned Planned Unit Development (PUD), land zoned with waivers and conditions and land subject to a Planned Building Group Site Plan, all provisions of the Former Chapter 59,

including procedures, shall apply.

(c) For purposes of applying the limitations on bulk planes and building heights in Section 59-96 of the Former Chapter 59, the "protected districts" identified therein shall also include the zone districts defined as "protected districts" in Section 23-3 of the Denver Zoning Code.

The Planning Board reviewed the proposed language at its meeting on August 21. Following a public hearing, including positive testimony from the Curtis Park Neighbors organization and from an individual in Jefferson Park, the Board voted 6-0 to recommend approval to City Council.

A motion offered by Councilmember Lehmann, duly seconded by Councilmember Susman, to file the bill carried by the following vote:

AYES:	Susman, Lehmann, Lopez, Montero, Robb, Shepherd(6)
NAYS:	(None)
ABSENT:	Brown(1)
ABSTAIN:	(None)