

Doing Everything Right -- Sticky Note Comments

(Comments grouped by topic)

No Appeals and No Postings:

Appeals and postings needed to keep transparency, prevent corruption, and provide citizen oversight.

- There should always be appeals and postings. This helps with oversight and transparency.
- The TPO w/o the Appeals process will be just a permitting process for developers.
- We need appeals.
- How can argue “doing everything right” if there’s no appeal?
- No posting and no appeals = No trees.
- More appeals.
- There must be an appeals process with the new ordinance! Property owners and residents need an open and transparent process (w/right to participate).
- No postings/no appeal = lots of opportunity for corruption. Protect our right to appeal!
- No! This means no citizen oversight regarding what is acceptable flexibility.
- (Note partially covered) ... balances for this process = Keep the appeals process.
- Appeals are critical – the city doesn’t always have all the necessary information to make a good decision.
- Must keep postings and appeals with transparent log online of each for public review please!

High Value Trees via Affordability/Mobility:

Confusion over how high value trees are designated in relation to affordability and mobility, keeping sustainable footprints, and if City can be trusted to do what’s right.

- High Value determinations: canopy potential, wildlife benefit, pollinator support, native, good for people.
- Please address sustainable (reduced) footprints.
- Some affordability proposals do nothing for affordability due to things like AirBnBs.
- What kinds of exceptions are to be made for affordability & how do we trust it’s truly affordability (eg. AirBnB). Again, the devil is in the details and TRUST is lacking.
- What does this mean if project is w/1 ½ mile of Marta or offers walking, biking alternatives? Devil is in the details.
- If you flex the process, now can you determine you are doing all the rights things? Need details cos the devil is in the details.

Incentives to “Doing it Right”:

Recognize builders and developers who do it right with special signage.

- Create a “doing it right” best practice signage to incentivize and scale best practices.
- For those doing it right, keep the appeals signage, but *signify* best practice. Make it a gold visual instead of (note covered by another note).
- If Energy efficient via LEED Silver/Gold certificates (making buildings, especially multi-family development more affordable through efficiency, then...

Staffing:

Concerns that staff is not adequate for the job, dissatisfaction with Arborist Division Manager.

- Again, does City have the staff?
- “Streamlined?” The process is not inefficient; it’s ineffective! That’s a people problem, not a policy problem.
- Get a professional department head.

Enforcement:

Ensure that the tree ordinance is enforced by increasing penalties and preventing gamesmanship.

- STOP WORK would be a deterrent. (Financial penalty doesn’t work. It is actually incentive because the cap is only \$5K; it’s cheaper to chop them all).
- System/accountability in place to preserve integrity of these sorts of allowances. How to prevent them from being take advantage of.