

HAPPY WOW TREES NOW

The two bigleaf maples outside of the WOW Hall aren't going anywhere. They will still rustle their leaves in Eugene's warm summer breeze, provide concertgoers and musicians with shelter from the sun and rain, and shade the historic venue, keeping energy costs at a minimum and preserving the area's curb appeal.

After a back and forth between the city

and the WOW Hall concerning the health of these trees and the hazards they could pose, the maples prevailed.

Eugene Parks and Open Space Division Director Johnny Medlin emailed his final decision to WOW Hall Facilities Committee member Jon Pincus June 23. Medlin said that after the trees were pruned and inspected, he felt that the trees could be kept standing with annual inspections.

"I think it was a very good decision on the part of the city and will give us the opportunity to keep these trees for a while

longer while we develop new growth, and will allow us to continue the benefits that these trees give us," Pincus said.

Pincus said the trees owe their happy ending to their association with a building with a historic designation and to an organization's willingness to step forward and lobby for them and pay for their proper analysis and treatment.

"This has been a gratifying collaboration between the city and WOW," Mayor Kitty Piercy told *EW* in an email. She added, "I think everyone

involved was pleased with the result."

According to Pincus, at some point or another the trees will "end up being removed — but we anticipate that will be somewhere between seven and 12 years. That gives us time to get new development happening and make some new growth."

WOW Hall is working with the city to plant new trees to transition the area.

Pincus said a key part of saving the trees was not only the cooperation between the city and the WOW Hall, but the fact WOW Hall used an arborist with access to sonic

CORRECTIONS/CLARIFICATIONS

• In Slant last week we wrote that Lane County is facing a \$3.8 million shortfall, but we heard from Lane County government that the correct number is \$7.8 million.

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