

URBAN FORESTRY COMMISSION



PORTLAND PARKS & RECREATION

Healthy Parks, Healthy Portland



• Nick Fish, Commissioner • Mike Abbaté, Director

URBAN FORESTRY COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

March 16, 2012

Lovejoy Room, City Hall

Commission Members present: Michael McCloskey, Ricardo Moreno, Secretary Catherine Mushel, Stephen Peacock, Chair Joe Poracsky, Dick Pugh, Meryl Redisch, Dianna Shervey, and John Warner.

City Staff present: City Attorney Harry Auerbach; Jennifer Karps, Bureau of Environmental Services (BES); Lola Gaily and Nicole Blanchard, Bureau of Transportation (PBOT); Acting City Forester Rob Crouch, Kathleen Murrin, Deb Lev, Angie DiSalvo, Emily Roth, Autumn Montegna and Anne Kroma, Parks & Recreation.

Guests present: Ricardo Moreno with Verde NW.

Call to Order and Public Comment: Chair Joe Poracsky called the meeting to order at 7:40 a.m. with no public comment.

Review and approval of Minutes: Chair Joe Poracsky requested review and approval of the February 2012 UFC minutes. Meryl Redisch moved to accept the minutes as written. Dick Pugh seconded the motion; it was approved unanimously.

Urban Forestry Report – Rob Crouch

Rob pointed out in the report the failure of Heritage Tree 72 (a large Spanish chestnut), view pruning at Washington Park, arbor work in Pettygrove Park, and the removal of a large cottonwood for BES. The most recent winds did more damage at the Coast and in Salem than in the Portland metro area.

Sellwood Bridge Project – Emily Roth

Emily is the Parks & Recreation Natural Resource Planner, and has been working on this project for almost four years. She remains the point person. She presented a large map of the area, explaining the need for issuance of a non-park use permit. It is a vital construction project to replace a bridge that is in incredibly poor shape with a landslide compressing it.

The Sellwood Bridge replacement project will:

- build in stabilization with cables tied to rods embedded into the bedrock
- will result in 802 trees being removed (many not native; many in only fair condition)
- receive federal funds so there will be mitigation of the loss of park land (possibly Parks & Recreation will receive the former Staff Jennings property)
- help to restore flood plain habitat in Powers Marine Park
- build the regional trail for bicycles and pedestrians on the west side with shared ROW and a green street at Miles Place
- allow Stephen's Creek to become a fish friendly passage with the culvert replaced
- result in some closures and delays on Springwater Corridor
- have some logs removed with root wad intact to be used for stream restoration

Planting for the project will include:

- 1000 native trees (restoration size)
- 5000 native shrubs
- 50 accent trees (2" natives)
- an additional 1000' of mitigation that will go to the tree fund
- 5 year monitoring with 20 % losses allowed
- Parks staff inspecting the stock and the sites under a contract with Multnomah County. Dave Kahler is currently assigned during the City Forester vacancy.

If Staff Jennings becomes Parks property , it will be:

- An active recreation area with canoes and kayaks coming out of the river
- A nice and safe place, with possible Multnomah County Sherriff on site (with 2 structures and boat storage)
- A place where the docks will be rebuilt. There may be a launch built at the end of Spokane Street, possibly on the east side.

The Greenway Trail on the east side is private and does need to be replanted. A permit will be issued next week with tree removals during the next 2 months. The public has been informed with outreach, press releases, and newspaper articles. Hwy 43 expansion portion will also remove trees.

Emily will forward the planting plan and return later in the project with an update.

Committee and Partnership Reports

Heritage Tree Committee – Michael McCloskey

The Committee is considering the request to de-list trees that are no longer good specimens. Michael reported there is a planned tour in May and a meeting in July to propose which trees will be recommended to the UFC at the August meeting.

Nominations Committee – Dianna Shervey

There was a discussion about membership recruitment in relation to diversity and previous requirements regarding the Hoyt Director or a Friends group. Suggestions include looking for forest industry representation, looking at people who have termed out of other boards, or with skill set to complement current members. UFC members will encourage potential candidates to apply during Arbor week.

Policy Committee – Brian Krieg

Brian updated the UFC on state legislation brought by ODOT regarding hazardous tree removal without permits in rural areas. There is a history of cooperation with Portland on this issue, but no clear process or policy. ODOT has land planned out for future freeways that may never be built and controls thousands of acres of barren ground. There have been studies advocating planting the clover-leaves with native trees, but the nursery industry has an interest in selling popular species and to large purchasers.

Discussion included the role of the State Forester in ODOT tree management and of community forest management in Europe. It is felt that carbon sequestration will continue to grow as an issue and Portland and other cities may have a role in leading the way. Changes could be addressed through administrative rules, rather than through legislation.

Appeals Committee – John Warner

John reported on a meeting to review new appeal forms with Catherine Mushel, Kathleen Murrin, and Anne Kroma. There is now a detailed checklist to ensure all steps prior, during, and after the appeal are completed. Early work done by Kristine Karnezis has been used for these forms developed by Urban Forestry and it is hoped the positive non-adversarial approach to appeals will continue.

BES Grey to Green – Jennifer Karps

Jennifer reported that approximately 1000 trees have been planted this season through the Tree Bate program (a one time credit offered on City water bill) and planting another 4000 trees is the goal for Friends of Trees. As Jennifer reported at the UERC conference, there has been a greater than 96% survivability rate for trees planted with Friends of Trees.

PBOT – Lola Gailey

Lola mentioned that ten construction projects will result in about 300 new street trees. Many are community identified sidewalk infill projects. Much of the area does not have adequate ROW to do street tree plantings. Design assessment is done on a site by site basis.

Education & Outreach Committee – Meryl Redisch

Meryl expressed her appreciation to Catherine Mushel for provided the attached committee meeting notes, discussing the Naito Awards. Brian Krieg moved to accept the recommendation of the Education & Outreach Committee and bestow 2012 Naito Awards to Phyllis Reynolds, in memoriam to David Odom, and to the Concordia Tree Team. Dick Pugh seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Prior to a break, Council Clerk Sue Parsons administered the oath of office to Ricardo Moreno, making him the newest Urban Forestry Commissioner.

Tree Inventory – Angie DiSalvo

Angie presented information for the 6 completed neighborhood tree inventories:

- The tree inventories are residential areas and exclude industrial areas.
- The volunteer work has been found to be about 95% accurate in determining species.
- Approximately 25,000 trees were rated for condition: good, fair, poor or dead.
- 95% of street trees are deciduous, with 45% of them medium sized ash.
- Age and age distribution was determined by DBH.
- Less than 1-2% of the trees inventoried were dead standing.
- The data resulted in a map showing available spaces (and their sizes) and stocking levels of the neighborhoods. The data can be used by the NTS or other group to prioritize and set tree goals.
- There have been 6 neighborhoods completed with Hosford, Northwest and Sunnyside scheduled up next. They will need more than 165 volunteers.
- The data falls under the open data initiative, so the information will be public record and available to all to use for grant proposals or analysis.
- Re-surveying in 5 to 10 years could really show changes and trends.
- The neighborhoods that do not have sidewalks need a model other than ROW.
- East Moreland has a 50 year plan with re-inventory every 5 years.
- Inventory data may show particularly lovely groves that could be nominated as a Heritage Tree Grove.

Parks & Recreation Update – Deb Lev

Deb thanked the UFC members who participated in the Recruitment process for the City Nature Zone Manager position. It is progressing and Deb may have an announcement April.

Hannah Kuhn is now full time as Chief of Staff for Commissioner Fish. She was working on Title 11 implementation and has handed it off to Mieke Keenan. There is a budget request to continue the coordination position another year.

BES is funding the tree website with \$75K and will put pruning permits on line. The inter-bureau team has continued meeting and will keep looking at what can be implemented.

Brian Krieg moved to allow Chair Joe Poracsky to draft a letter in support of the implementation delay and expressing continued support of Title 11. John Warner seconded the motion and it was approved 8-0.

Discussion reminded the UFC that there will new members of City Council after the election, some of whom may not be familiar with the urban canopy and tree issues.

Tree Root Barriers – Luke Miller and Nicole Blanchard

The Urban Forestry Commission requested information on root barrier use in the City and PBOT plans to include them. Luke is the Urban Forestry inspector working with PBOT and he and Nicole Blanchard provided hand out regarding root barrier products.

The discussion included:

- 750 root inspections per year (1100 trees) at a cost of \$2400 - \$5000
- PBOT will begin using root barriers in all planting strips less than 5 feet
- Not a silver bullet, but encourage lateral growth and direct roots under sidewalk
- Hope for less damage/injury claims for sidewalks (City is co-defendant with private homeowners)
- Costs: 18” hardscape plastic plate for \$31, herbicide fabric for \$23
- Capitol improvement projects will automatically call for their use
- G2G (Grey to Green) will use in small planting strips
- No intent to change process, no penalty if not done when required by homeowner
- Must be installed correctly, 12” is happy medium - low cost but effective
- Should be future benefit in less infrastructure replacement
- Will be used on new planting, 90% of planted trees are too deep or settled
- Easy sell when homeowners are made aware they are responsible for maintenance costs and sidewalk repair and this can help
- Some projects using barriers are in their second decade so some conclusions
- Street tree grates were intended for pedestrian use and to function as sidewalk (ROW)
- Grates have not had maintenance for years and they are hard to center around tree
- People don't want to walk on the grates and it is no longer a preferred method
- Structural soil was tested in Naito Parkway plots about 9 years ago

Old / New Business:

Dick Pugh reminded everyone of the opportunity afforded by all day Tree School at Clackamas Community College next Saturday, starting at 9 am.

The meeting adjourned at 10:34 am.

UFC, Education and Outreach Committee

7 March 2012

2:00-3:30 pm

Present:

Catherine Mushel, UFC

Jennifer Karps, BES

Kris Day, FOT

Karl Dawson, UF

Autumn Montegna, UF

Joe Poracsky, UFC Chair, and Meryl Redisch, UFC, EOC Chair expressed their wishes through Jennifer.

Arbor Week

We discussed the plans with Autumn. About a week early, colorful price tags will be hung in all the trees in the Park Block between Market and Clay. The festivities will begin Sunday, April 1, with an educational bike ride and will come to a rousing close with a Neighborhood Greenway planting out on 86th Avenue on April 7. Thursday, April 5, should be memorable with a midday ceremony granting the Naito Award and an evening celebration at the Lucky Lab Brew Pub in southwest Portland.

The Bill Naito Community Trees Award

We had excellent nominees which led to a searching discussion regarding the intent of the award and whether we wanted to propose it be given to three classes of recipient: individual, group, and in memoriam. We all understood the intent of the award, which is stated on the Portland Parks and Recreation website: "The Bill Naito Community Trees Award is presented to individuals, organizations or projects that have continued Bill's work and reflect his dedication."

We had many questions. Could a land management or forestry professional receive the award? Would choosing more than one nominee dilute the impact of giving the award? We explored the depth of the impact that individuals had on other individuals and on the groups they taught or cooperated with; we looked at whether a group's accomplishments were worthy not only in and of themselves, but also as examples of what cooperative efforts can achieve. We explored the meaning of steadfast dedication to the urban tree cause over time. We reflected that controversy sometimes is attendant upon advocacy.

We reflected on our process. Some agreed that the committee should discount any additional pages beyond the stipulated five in an application nomination. We intend to review the award application to see whether it can be improved. We agreed invitations to submit nominations should be issued at the fall Dig It event.

We recommend three awards, though we found all the nominees compelling. Indeed, the nominee whom we did not choose, Mark Franklin, PPS Grounds Supervisor, impressed us with his many achievements in working with Urban Forestry, BES, FOT and school partners (PTA's, parents, principals) to plant 714 trees on school grounds with very few resources from the school district itself. With four exemplary nominees, we had a difficult decision to make.

The Awards

Individual Award: Phyllis Reynolds for her four decades of imaginative, accurate, tireless, generous, and outspoken advocacy of urban trees. Examples of her work include her well-known book, The Trees of Greater Portland, her many articles about noteworthy trees in subsequent years, her many tree identification walks, and her many achievements in helping to map trees in both public parks and on private land such as the Reed College Campus.

In Memoriam Award: David Odom for his unselfish dedication to protecting trees, for his generous and articulate way of teaching everything from tree planting techniques to concepts in the study of forestry, and finally, for his willingness to put in long hours of volunteering for groups such as De-pave and Friends of Trees even as he was working as a professional forester and giving a new direction to urban forestry in Lake Oswego and Gresham; for the long hours he logged on the UFC, working on budget and policy, writing the annual report, attending public meetings.

Group Award: The Concordia Tree Team for leadership in their community and the city. We believe they showed their own neighborhood and any other that cares to look what can be accomplished when a handful of people are dedicated to increasing their own understanding, to educating others, and to actions that will benefit future generations who will be caring for neighborhood trees. We laud their remarkable achievement in forming a tree team to begin with, in completing an inventory of their diverse neighborhood's street trees, and in completing a neighborhood tree plan that reflects their neighborhood's needs...all the while, inventing a way to communicate with their neighbors and following through on good communications at every step of the way with vision and imagination.

2012 Inventories

3 neighborhoods completing project in 2012: Hosford-Abernathy, NW District, Sunnyside



Inventory priority	# of neighborhoods
Completed or in process	9
High: neighborhoods with predominately developed ROW	40
Low: neighborhoods with mix of developed and undeveloped ROW	10
Not applicable: neighborhoods with predominately undeveloped ROW	36

