

URBAN FORESTRY COMMISSION



PORTLAND PARKS & RECREATION

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**URBAN FORESTRY COMMISSION**

Meeting Minutes

November 15, 2012

Lovejoy Room, City Hall

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- Commission Members present:** Michael McCloskey, Ricardo Moreno, Secretary Catherine Mushel, Stephen Peacock, Chair Joe Poracsky, Dianna Shervey and John Warner.
- Commission Members absent:** Dick Pugh and Meryl Redisch
- City Staff present:** City Attorney Harry Auerbach; Jennifer Karp, Bureau of Environmental Services (BES); City Forester Jenn Cairo, Angie DiSalvo, and Anne Kroma, Parks & Recreation (PP&R).
- Guests present:** Bryan Burch, Michael Hayes, Kris Day of Friends of Trees (FOT), Ruth Williams of Davey Resources.
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**Call to Order and Public Comments:** Chair Joe Poracsky ascertained there was a quorum and brought the Urban Forestry Commission (UFC) meeting to order at 7:38 am.

The Chair recognized Bryan Burch, a member of the UFC Education & Outreach Committee, for public comments. Bryan stated he wished to speak on the record, not as a Committee member but, as a concerned citizen about the recently announced plan to install parking meters at Washington Park. He expressed apprehension that paid parking might be a deterrent to the public accessing and enjoying the park. He was troubled because projects installing parking meters or signage often include the removal of trees.

City Attorney Harry Auerbach explained that while the Oregon Zoo is a Metro venue, the City owns the property used for the parking lot, as well as the land under the Children's Museum and the World Forestry Center. Metro has been studying and seeking paid parking as a way to manage traffic and parking. There will be a Transportation Management Association formed to oversee the process of implementing the Washington Park Transportation and Parking Management Plan. The meters that will be installed in early 2013 will be the kind collecting for a bank of spaces.

City Forester Jenn Cairo clarified that sign placement would be sited by PBOT with a goal to retain trees. There is an IGA in place with PBOT for pruning around signage and that will help. She gave an example of Police installing a camera and then asking for removal of the tree when leaves blocked the view. The tree was not cut down, camera was moved instead.

Parking meters are also planned for Hoyt Arboretum and eventually on Fairview Blvd. They will not be put at trailheads or where there are less than 6 parking spaces. Washington Park is transforming into a regional destination park.

Chair Joe Poracsky described the public input process as too short. The ordinance is will be going to a second reading, where comment is not accepted. Bryan indicated that Council has agreed to accept more public testimony on the matter at the second reading.

John Warner pointed out that parking revenue goes into the general fund. Harry indicated the ordinance was written to create a separate fund to be used for the infrastructure for and the management of the paid parking program in Washington Park.

Catherine Mushel pointed out that an active Policy Committee would probably be working on this issue within the framework of a regular relationship with Parks & Recreation. Jenn Cairo did not believe there would be a direct impact on any trees from this project, but would follow up with senior management, including the Property, Acquisitions and Services Manager, Todd Lofgren, to assure canopy retention is the aim.

Michael McCloskey moved to authorize a UFC member testify before City Council on November 28th and ask for a delay so that the UFC can be briefed on the tree issues related to the parking ordinance. John Warner seconded it and the motion was approved 6 to 0. Chair Joe Poracsky would not be available to represent the UFC and designated Catherine Mushel to attend and speak on behalf of the UFC.

FOLLOW UP - Have members meet with Todd Lofgren or ask him to address the UFC

### **Review and approval of October UFC Minutes**

There was discussion about changes needed in the minutes, in addition to those provided by Secretary Catherine Mushel in the draft read by the Commission at the meeting. Michael McCloskey expressed concerns regarding the language in the appeal portion and proposed conditional approval with Appeal Chair John Warner working with Anne Kroma on a revision to that portion. Jenn Cairo read a dozen or so small changes she wanted.

There was a question about the type of street trees planted by FOT (referred to in the minutes) and Jenn Cairo explained that those trees are permitted under a blanket tree planting permit granted to BES and use the lists of approved street trees and with stock from local nurseries. Michael McCloskey moved that in light of all the requested changes, the approval of the minutes be delayed until the next meeting. Catherine Mushel moved that the October

2012 minutes be approved with the changes described. Stephen Peacock seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

### **The Urban Forestry Report - Jenn Cairo, City Forester**

Jenn Cairo explained that computer challenges resulted in the absence of the usual statistics in this month's report, but they will return next month. She provided the following update: Neighborhood Tree Steward (NTS) graduation:

- The newest 29 participants graduated as part of the Dig It celebration on Oct 27th
- Staff time (Karl and Autumn's) has been set aside to help with their projects

2012 Tree Inventory Summit held on Saturday, November 10th:

- Approximately 70 people attended at St John's Community Center
- Kudos to Angie for a good presentation
- Many people stayed after the provided lunch to give input on neighborhood tree plans during the workshop

ODOT emergency street response:

- The state legislature has given ODOT blanket authority over ROW emergency hazards. Jenn Cairo and UF staff has been meeting to develop a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for those emergencies within the City limits on streets under State jurisdiction, such as Powell Blvd.
- Harry felt the state bill is too broad, explained that a clarifying amendment didn't happen, and it may be very difficult to put into practice in rural areas.
- ODOT has recognized that the City's efforts align with their work and are developing an agreement that defines emergency as a true emergency, such as a tree failure that is blocking the public ROW.

FOLLOW UP - Catherine Mushel asked that when ready, the signed MOU be brought before the UFC with an explanation of the technical aspects.

Tree Code Update:

- Work on funding continues at the Mayor and City Council level. The budget forecast is dismal and Tree Code funding will compete with other priorities.
- Everyone working toward July 1, 2013 as the implementation date with the tree database and enforcement procedures ready
- There has been a hesitation to do a big outreach plan and develop those materials with uncertainty about the date of implementation
- Commissioner Saltzman asked that the hotline (Single Point of Contact) referred to in Title 11 be instituted now. As a former Parks Commissioner, he understands our process and many of the problems. The contact information for a tree emergency remains 823-4489 with the same after-hours arrangements. The phone tree on that phone number now gives callers an option to report violations, instead of leaving a message in the general mailbox. BDS (Bureau of Development Services) may continue to have a separate phone number to report zoning code tree violations.

## **Committee and Partnership Reports**

### **Heritage Tree Committee – Michael McCloskey**

Michael reported on a rainy field tour to October 30th to inspect six nominations. Two trees were recommended for designation: a 100 year old Pin oak in a NW front yard and an easy-to-see from the road dawn redwood at Hoyt Arboretum. The redwood is a mature tree planted at the time the rediscovered species was brought over from China.

Michael raised the question of whether trees already protected by being part of a collection (like in an arboretum) needed Heritage Tree (HT) designation. The Heritage Tree Committee believed that there should be multiple grounds for including a specific tree as a Heritage Tree.

At the next HT meeting, an indoor one scheduled for November 28th, the HT Committee will conclude the work for the rules delisting trees.

Angie reported that after obtaining one more owner's consent, three trees would be ready to be brought before the UFC and recommended for designation by City Council in January or February.

### **Appeals Committee – John Warner**

John reported that he and Catherine Mushel cleaned up and finished the appeals paperwork packet which needs to be included in the by-laws. They will prepare a short memo to give narrative until the new code is in effect.

FOLLOW UP: Anne will forward the packet to the UFC.

### **Education & Outreach Committee – Meryl Redisch**

Meryl was absent for the UFC meeting so Catherine reported the following committee work:

- Arbor Month celebration planning linked to Heritage Trees
- Goal would be to have something every day of Arbor month (ride, walk, lecture etc.)
- Bryan Burch got a grant to sponsor an essay contest
- FOT film is almost finished.
- The appendix for the by-laws is not complete. Should Equity be a goal in statement?

### **Friends of Trees - Kris Day**

Kris, a member of the Education & Outreach Committee, reported the following for FOT:

- Completion of 5 plantings and 2 crew leader trainings (125 new people)
- 75 plantings scheduled now through April
- FOT plans to do outreach for the Tree Code implementation

### **Annual UFC Report - Jenn Cairo**

Jenn provided a copy of the 2010 Annual Report. She reminded the Commission of the code requirement for them to produce a report, and that the calendar year is nearly over.

### **Bylaws completion - Catherine Mushel**

Each committee is responsible for their document to add to the bylaws, none are ready and there were questions about what is expected.

### **2012 Tree Inventory Report & Recommendations - Angie DiSalvo**

Angie explained that the inventory project is more than just data, it's also about neighborhood connection and stewardship. This year's three inventories were the NW District (Burnside to the Industrial District), Hosford Abernathy (includes Ladd's Addition) and Sunnyside (including Belmont and Hawthorne) and were the result of about two hundred volunteers during approximately two thousand hours.

During the inventory the address, tree type, size, condition, site size and overhead wires are noted for each street tree. The data (14000 data points) was entered into GIS by volunteer. Information over the past few years remains at a 95% accuracy rate. The findings will go online and eventually have maps, reports and planting plans.

Since 98% of our street trees are broadleaf deciduous, the message is to encourage diversity, especially in evergreens and conifers. Joe Poracsky remarked on the human desire for organization that often leads to street after street of the same tree. Good visual examples of using different trees that also provide aesthetic harmony could help.

The inventory tracks available spaces and planting may be prioritized by starting with streets without trees. All volunteers work under staff guidance. Total replacement value is estimated at \$25 million. Another tool may need to be developed to encourage street trees in the areas of town without curbs and sidewalks, like outer Southeast and areas of Southwest.

Several people expressed appreciation for the hard work that went into the completed inventories and the hope that the project will continue until every neighborhood is done.

### **Old / New Business:**

The Committee document provided by Joe Poracsky will be discussed in the future.

Jenn Cairo reported that current research recommends keeping the elm pruning ban in place. An Urban Forestry memo on this topic was circulated.

Secretary Catherine Mushel expressed her appreciation to Joe Poracsky for his quiet leadership during his term as Chair. We are lucky that he will remain on the Commission.

The business meeting adjourned at 10:00 am.