CITY OF PORTLAND

URBAN FORESTRY COMMISSION



• Charlie Hales, Mayor • Mike Abbaté, Director

URBAN FORESTRY COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes February 21, 2013 Lovejoy Room, City Hall

Commission Members present: Kris Day, Igor Lacan, Michael McCloskey,

Ricardo Moreno, Secretary Catherine Mushel, Stephen Peacock, Joe Poracsky, Dick Pugh, Chair Meryl Redisch, Dianna Shervey and John Warner

City Staff present: City Attorney Harry Auerbach; Jennifer Karps,

Bureau of Environmental Services (BES); Sallie Edmunds and Roberta Jortner, Bureau of Planning and Sustainability; City Nature Manager Deborah Lev, Urban Forestry Supervisor Larry Maginnis,

Angie DiSalvo and Anne Kroma, Parks &

Recreation (PP&R)

Guests present: Mary Ann Pastene, Michael Hayes, Ruth Williams

of Davey Research

Call to Order and Public Comments: Chair Meryl Redisch called the Urban Forestry Commission (UFC) meeting to order at 7:31 am.

Chair Meryl Redisch introduced Mary Ann Pastene, who organized the just completed street tree inventory in northwest Portland.

Michael Hayes was recognized by the Chair and provided his opinion that the Street Tree Inventory Project puts Portland ahead of the game in recognizing public streets for community purposes. He also feels this great idea should be expanded to include the parts of town with unimproved streets.

Review and approval of January UFC Minutes

Joe Poracsky moved that the January 2013 UFC minutes be approved as submitted.

Discussion followed regarding the minutes under review and the amount of detail required in Urban Forestry Commission minutes for both the business meeting portions and Appeals

Committee's sessions. City Attorney, Harry Auerbach, pointed out that decisions of the Appeals Committee do not set precedents, but reflect a weighing of the circumstances in each case. While Michael McCloskey agreed that this was true in a legal sense, he also pointed out that those working in the program often wanted to be seen as being consistent in the way they treat people in similar circumstances. There is some tension between these two factors, and Michael McCloskey felt this colloquy should be reflected in the minutes of the February meeting.

Secretary Catherine Mushel agreed to confirm that the changes requested to the minutes at the time of consideration for approval are documented accurately, this month and in future.

Joe Poracsky moved to adopt the January 2013 minutes as edited during the discussion. Michael McCloskey seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

The Urban Forestry Report - Urban Forestry Supervisor Larry Maginnis Larry Maginnis reported:

- A relatively quiet winter, in that most of the emergency callouts have been related to car accidents and not to storm damage.
- Project work involving heavy trucks is currently delayed, due to soaked soil.
- Interagency Agreement (IGA) work to maintain street light and stop sign clearances for the Portland Bureau of Transportation (PBOT) and removing hazardous trees for the Water Bureau has been keeping the crews busy.
- Compliments to Dave Kahler on pruning projects enhancing park safety and security.
- Stump grinding season is almost complete with crews transitioning to planting.
- The 80 trees that are being harvested at Mt. Tabor nursery will complete the inventory needed for this planting season.
- Tight work at the Chinese Garden included removing trees over the leak window walls with a crane.
- UF staff is busy planning for an exciting Arbor Month.
- Larry gave kudos to Frank Krawczyk on his work with BES, and often BDS, on some stream restoration projects.

Larry noted that the local news has been reporting on public concern about the removal of one large (51" DBH, 70' tall) sequoia at Pier Park. Outreach for this project has been ongoing for about two years. The Friends of Pier Park are welcoming the project after concluding that everything had been done to lessen canopy impact. The alignment of the pedestrian bridge and specifications for railroad property requirements necessitated the tree removal. The mitigation plan for replacing the one tree is to plant 34 two inch caliper trees. This project helps decrease tree crowding and completes greenway access to Chimney Park.

Larry reminded anyone not able to attend the Root Barrier Demonstration on February 8th that it was recorded. The video will be on the Parks bureau website to demonstrate proper installation. It was noted that often the soil conditions are not as cooperative as at this demonstration or there are other issues such as old irrigation lines. A request was made to show the video during an upcoming UFC meeting.

Larry reported that Urban Forestry worked with Save Our Elms (SOE) and Ladd's Addition volunteers to identify young street trees from their neighborhood inventory and give tree owners an opt-out process. They then held a training session before the 24 volunteers, working under certified supervision, pruned almost 200 young street trees.

Committee and Partnership Reports

Education & Outreach Committee – Catherine Mushel

Education & Outreach (E&O) Committee has been working on the plans for Arbor Day with the theme of Heritage Trees. It is hoped that people will be so inspired that they go plant a tree or take care of the ones they have so that they may grow up to merit a designation. Catherine Mushel continued:

- UFC members will be asked to attend as many events as possible, with Catherine promising to badger them to ensure attendance.
- The complete Arbor calendar is available online. The Arbor celebration process is being documented, and tentative themes noted, to help with future event planning.
- The new Heritage Tree booklets are close to being finished and sent to the printer.
- Additional nominees for the Naito Awards are being requested by March 1st.
- Meryl expressed her thanks to Bryan Burch, Catherine, and the entire E&O Committee for their amazing work and a great job.

Appeals Committee - John Warner

John reported the Appeal Decision document is being used to capture decisions but was not able to be completed during the last Appeal. That appeal ran more than 45 minutes beyond the time we were scheduled to have the room. It was noted that extending the room reservation could usually be done, but must be decided in advance of the meeting.

Heritage Tree Committee – Michael McCloskey

Michael will give the results of the Committee's hard work in the form of a PowerPoint presentation on the current recommendations for Heritage Trees later on the agenda. Angie DiSalvo is verifying counts for the new Heritage Tree booklet.

BES Grey to Green (G2G) - Jennifer Karps

Jennifer reported:

- Planting is still progressing in Cully Neighborhood and at Rigler School, with lots of evergreen oaks and native trees.
- G2G intern staff member Lea Wilson has designed a tree brochure to be translated into several different languages. It may be used in a possible project with David Douglas School District.

Jennifer was asked about the BES portion dealing with trees in the City budget. She will forward a document to the UFC regarding that BES budget recommendation.

Joe Poracsky was recognized to announce that Jennifer will be teaching a class in the PSU Spring Term to undergrad and graduate students in the geography department.

Comprehensive Plan update - Sallie Edmunds and Roberta Jortner

This return visit is to give a status report to the Urban Forestry Commission on the progress of updating the Comprehensive Plan. It is the long range plan to manage the expected population growth, guide land use decisions, and ensure safety, equity and livability.

Sallie and Roberta provided copies of the following Comprehensive Plan Update documents:

- A Community Matters brochure
- Workshop Schedule and process summary sheet
- A handout regarding Chapter 4, Watershed and the Environment
- The Companion Guide to the Working Draft Part 1
- The Working Draft Part 1, Goals and Policies

The Companion Guide has the components for the public process, and the focus of the work is to review the policies guiding current and future growth in Portland.

The State of Oregon's Department of Land Conservation & Development is requiring the City of Portland to update the Comprehensive Plan created in 1980. The Portland Plan also directs the City to complete a new Comprehensive Plan, with prior work from Vision PDX and the Urban Forestry Management Plan (UFMP) contributing to the current work.

The Working Draft Part 1 is at 60% complete for Goals & Policies and 30% complete for the Urban Design Framework. After public comments are received on both Parts 1 and 2, there will be many more comment opportunities through public workshops, surveys, and events.

One of the 8 Key Directions of the Comprehensive Plan is Designing with Nature. That key direction shapes Chapter 4: Watershed Health and the Environment, Chapter 5: Design and Development, Chapter 6: Public Facilities, and Chapter 7: Transportation. This approach is overarching and includes having built elements work together and encouraging urban canopy and habitat corridors.

Comments on the Working Draft Part 1 are due by May 1st.

The next steps are the release of the Comprehensive Plan Map, Citywide System Plan, and Alternative Growth Scenarios sometime this summer to fall. There will be more workshops and a return visit to update the UFC on the Working Draft Part 2. Then the completed Proposed Plan will go to the Planning and Sustainability Commission (PSC) for public hearings. The PSC Recommended Plan will have City Council Hearing before the Final Plan is expected to be adopted by Council in fall 2014.

FY 2013-2014 Urban Forestry Budget - Deborah Lev and Meryl Redisch

UFC Chair Meryl Redisch is a member of the Parks Budget Advisory Board (BAC) and confirmed the process feels rushed this year. She abstained from votes on line item priorities such as Sun Schools, not knowing enough about those programs. She did not see forestry programs presented as pieces to be fully funded and has drafted a letter expressing support for those programs such as the Elm Monitor and implementation of Title 11.

City Nature Manager Deb Lev reported that Parks and Recreation's requested budget was submitted and there was a formal budget presentation at City Council yesterday. The budget process this year was not to cut a percentage from the whole, but to build up to 90% and then have reasons why the programs in the 10% (such as Natural Area maintenance) should be added back. Revenue proposals include some fee increases.

Suggested changes include purchasing plants instead of propagating them. All programs - including the Forest Park ranger, Protect the Best, and the Elm Monitoring and Inoculation program - were reviewed by the Parks BAC. Put in perspective, if all suggested cuts were made, it would be like losing 38 employees.

Deb reported that the Title 11 Coordinator position, currently held by Mieke Keenan, is funded by both BDS and Parks. If implementation must be delayed for a year, then the position would become halftime. The intention of Title 11 is to have an integrated system and approach to trees and it is difficult to slice it up in a way to fund only parts of it. If Title 11 implementation is delayed until January 2015, the Title 11 implementation process must begin soon.

Joe Poracsky commented about being realistic in which programs to fund. He also expressed gratitude at the amount of help from volunteers, while also contending that they need staff to organize them effectively.

Based on the discussion, it was felt the letter to City Council in support of the Parks budget should be rewritten. Catherine Mushel felt that people are the highest priority to keep funded. Programs can sometimes get by on volunteers and grants, but they need the staff to make them run.

Igor Lacan added that the Park Block elms are a very visible example of a budgeted item, whereas tree maintenance for other large trees may not be. He asked if there was a long term plan to be able to get through short term budget cycles but still be looking 20 years out. Most organizations are also learning to do more with less money.

Stephen Peacock asked why it must be all or nothing with the elms. He felt they should be evaluated on an individual basis and those that are mature and healthy, be taken care of.

Dianna Shervey explained that she has gone back and forth on the issue of saving the elms. She thinks of the cities in the mid-west that lost every elm and is glad that Portland has the time to look at its options before suffering catastrophic losses. The pace of loss here has been slow and the City no longer sprays yearly. Maybe the best approach is not to view them as forever, but to prepare a succession plan that phases out planting species that are susceptible to Dutch Elm Disease.

Deb reminded the group that the Park Block elms are still being treated, though on a longer rotation. The rest of the elms in the City are monitored, tested and, if positive, removed at

City expense. The adjacent homeowner may need to start covering removal costs, but most likely anything less than what we are currently doing, may allow the disease to spread more.

Chair Meryl Redisch will route a revised letter of Parks budget support for review.

Retreat Planning - Meryl Redisch

- The UFC Retreat is scheduled in place of the regular monthly meeting for March.
- It will be at Audubon from 8 to Noon with a light lunch provided.
- Elizabeth Kennedy-Wong will facilitate.
- The Commission will be asked to identify the components in the Urban Forestry Management Plan (UFMP) that are relevant and prioritize the work.
- Tania (admin for Elizabeth) has called to request your top three goals for the retreat.
- There was some discussion about how budget issues could change this work.

Heritage Tree Nominations - Michael McCloskey

Michael gave a presentation on the three trees nominated by their owners and recommended by the Heritage Tree Committee for designation:

- European beech at 4073 N Gantenbein
- Dawn redwood at Hoyt Arboretum
- Pin oak at 1611 NW 23rd Avenue, planted in 1903 with some braced branches.

Dick Pugh made a motion to approve the designation of the three trees presented and it was seconded by Stephen Peacock. The vote was unanimous in favor of Heritage Tree designation for these three trees.

Old / New Business:

Chair Meryl Redisch expressed thanks to departing UFC members Dick Pugh and John Warner for their talents, expertise, and many years of service with inscribed copies of Phyllis Reynolds' new edition of Trees of Greater Portland.

Harry Auerbach has been working with the UFC since January 1986 and he acknowledged that John has been here the whole time. He also stated that we value and will miss Dick's unfailing championship of native trees.

Dick Pugh admitted he has outlasted three City Foresters. He also reminded us of the value of evergreens in helping those who live along our freeways. He expressed his thanks to Joe, John and Anne.

John Warner said his heart will always be with forestry staff and he will still be around.

The business meeting adjourned at 10:10 am.

Appeal for 1566 SE Sherrett St

Appeals Committee in attendance: Chair John Warner, Dianna Shervey, Stephen Peacock and Michael McCloskey.

Staff in attendance: Urban Forestry manager Larry Maginnis, Tree Inspector Ned Sodja and recorder Anne Kroma

Appeals Chair John Warner started the appeal at 10:18 am by explaining the appeal process to the appellant. Inspector Ned Sodja described the two Linden trees in a 7.5 foot planting strip. They have good structure, vigor, and good crowns. The photos show the trees and the cracked sidewalk with no recent repair.

Appellant Alexsandra Stewart stated that as the daughter of a logger, she loves trees. She is concerned about limbs dropping and will need to pay for repair to the sidewalk in the future. She feels that the plum tree planted in the yard is stunted and misshapened due to the shading by one of the lindens. Ms. Stewart is frustrated with the sticky substance that is hard to clean and discourages visitors from parking under her trees. She would be willing to put in two new trees before the end of the planting season. As a realtor, she questioned whether these trees are really assets.

Stephen Peacock asked about the pruning history and was told they had been severely pruned in 2005. Ms. Stewart quoted a bid of \$1500 for removal and stump grinding, which she believed would be in the same price range for one instance of pruning and sidewalk repair.

Linden trees are often used as street trees, with the most famous in Berlin, also called lime trees. The linden trees in this appeal have telecom utility lines, but not electrical, above them. Ned Sodja noted that both trees have co-dominate trunks but with good attachments. He would approve a pruning permit to remove some branches, allowing more light for the plum tree.

Mike McCloskey asked when the last sidewalk repair was done and if it had been posted by PBOT. There is a rise of about 1 to 1.25" for one section, but it appears to be the original 1912 sidewalk.

Stephen Peacock stated that lindens can stand pruning every one to two years and a ground injection could be used for the aphids, which cause the sticky problem. Lady bugs are also aphid predators.

Mike McCloskey move to deny the appeal and Dianna Shervey seconded the motion. The vote was 3-0 to deny the appeal to remove the trees. Ned Sodja is willing to work with the appellant on a pruning permit for limb drop and crown raising to help suppress aphids. The appellant was informed of her right to appeal this decision to City Council.

The appeal concluded at 10:38 am.