

March 30, 2021 Session Six Follow-up

Bureau Assigned for Follow-up: Portland Parks & Recreation

Question 1:

Has zoning changed to allow for tree canopy to remain intact? (Community Budget Advisor Frieda Christopher)

Response: The code amendments approved by City Council in December 2020 made several substantive changes to Title 11, the City's tree code, all of which are specific to regulations in development situations. It's important to note that with very few exceptions, any tree can be removed in a private property development situation at the discretion of the developer if a fee is paid. The amendments passed in 2020 broaden the number of trees which require a fee to be removed, and increases the fee for trees of a certain size.

Analysis conducted during the amendment project found that these changes will result in improved tree retention. However, canopy loss due to private property development will continue as developers frequently opt to pay fees in lieu of retaining trees.

Question 2 from Meeting Chat:

I saw in budget request it had a non-Central City Park and Central City Park Development TBD, could I get an explanation of what that is. (Community Budget Advisor Frieda Christopher) **Note to Parks- This comment may be related to the CIP sub-programs; it would likely be helpful to have a list of each project w/in the subprograms.**

Response: The Parks SDC program is split into two sub-areas of the City, Central City, and Non-Central City. In the budget, allocated projects certain to move forward are included as individual listed projects. There are additional available SDC funds in the non-Central City, and Central City respectively, that are included in the budget as 'placeholders'. These are additional funds anticipated to be spent on additional development projects, which will be changed to individual listed projects in subsequent budgets when they are finalized and confirmed as projects moving forward.

Question 3:

A few years ago there was conversation on use of temporary or limited positions at Parks where they were classified as temporary but worked for several years at the bureau. Have there been changes for internal equity/benefits as result? (Community Budget Advisor Andrea Paluso)

Response: Yes, there have been changes to the City's approach to temporary and limited term positions with a focus on equity. The City updated our human resources policies a few years ago to limit temporary appointments to one year with extension exceptions only granted with HR Director approval. The limited times that we do utilize temporary appointments are during the following:

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- *To address short term workload needs. The majority of our temporary appointments are to address short term needs such as the temporary appointments that are made during the summer to coordinate and provide summer programming during a limited period of time.*
- *During emergencies to prevent delay or injury to the public. In 2020 we were required to pivot significantly with the environment in which we are all navigating. During this time, we made temporary appointments to address service needs.*
- *There are also the times that we need to make a temporary appointment to cover the gap while we are in the process of recruiting and filling a position. During this last year with the uncertainty that we were facing as an organization we did extend a few temporary appointments until funding could be identified and the City's hiring freeze was lifted allowing us to initiate recruitments.*

Question 4:

*How many community gardens are there in east Portland and what's the community garden budget?
(Community Budget Advisor Sho Dozono)*

Response: Portland Parks & Recreation operates 59 community gardens, 15 of which are located east of I-205. The proposed FY 2021-2022 budget for the Community Garden Program is \$834,094.