
URBAN FORESTRY COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

April 20, 2017

City Hall, Lovejoy Room

Commission Members present:	Chair Mark Bello, Vice-Chair Barbara Hollenbeck, Secretary Catherine Mushel, Damon Schrosk, Vivek Shandas, Gregg Everhart, Thuy Tu, Daniel Newberry, Meryl Redisch
Commission Members Absent:	Brian French
Urban Forestry staff present:	Jenn Cairo, City Forester; Brian Landoe, Asst. Program Specialist; Mason Wordell, Tree Plan Coordinator; Angie DiSalvo, Outreach & Science Supervisor
City staff present:	Mark Raggett, BPS; Barry Manning, BPS; Dawn Uchiyama, Deputy Director, BES; Jennifer Karps, BES
Guests present:	Roberta Jortner, Doug Klotz, Bruce Nelson

Call to Order and Public Comments: UFC Chair Mark Bello

Green Loop: Mark Raggett, Bureau of Planning and Sustainability

- Mark presented a planning update on the city's Green Loop, a proposed 6-mile "linear park and active transportation path" in the Central City on both sides of Willamette River.
- The Commission asserted the importance of providing space for large form trees.
- BPS is considering the possibility of restricting car access on some of the streets involved in the plan, possibly the North Park Blocks.
- Vivek noted the proposed plan would encourage people to be outside in the most populated part of the city where there is a great deal of automobile pollution from I-405, 99 E, and I-5, then asked where in the planning process this fact would come under scrutiny. It was acknowledged that trees can help filter some pollution, but are not helpful with reducing heavy metals.
- While not pinpointing where pollution would be an aspect of planning, Mark pointed out that 30% of the city's planned growth will be in the Central City, which necessitates this project.

Citywide Tree Planting Strategy: Angie DiSalvo and Vivek Shandas

- Angie and Vivek briefed the Commission on the Citywide Tree Planting Strategy:
 - The plan will focus on planting trees in historically underserved communities in Portland.
 - Interviews of stakeholders involving technical staff and community members are currently being conducted.
 - Applications to the Planting Advisory Committee are currently being accepted. Thuy Tu, UF Commissioner, will be a member.
 - A public forum will be held on June 29th in the Portland Building.
- Meryl recommended getting this on the Parks Board agenda.

- Angie clarified she anticipates a member of Parks Board will be on the committee.
- Daniel commented that, in terms of reaching community members in East Portland, it is helpful to identify leaders of culturally specific communities.
- Catherine emphasized the importance of engaging the entire city and getting buy-in on the planting strategy.

Urban Forestry Report: City Forester Jenn Cairo

- Jenn updated the Commission on the status of UF's proposed FY 2018 fee updates which were presented to the Development Review and Advisory Commission that morning.
 - No objections were raised at that meeting.
 - The fee updates will go to City Council for approval on May 24th
- In late May or early June, UF will begin accepting proposals for the Arborist Training Program.
 - Parks and Recreation is seeking ways to help people of color, women, and underrepresented groups into city jobs;
 - UF's Arborist Training Program is serving as the pilot project for this initiative.

UFC Policy Committee Street Tree Proposal: Commissioner Meryl Redisch and committee member Roberta Jortner

- Meryl introduced the item and provided an overview of the proposal.
- Meryl made motion that the UFC endorse the proposal and ask City Council to approve it.
 - Damon seconded. A discussion of the full Commission followed.
- Catherine agreed a professional outside the bureaus is needed to facilitate their cooperative work.
- Roberta Jortner presented the PowerPoint to the Commission, a shorter version of which will be presented to City Council on May 10:
 - Notably, the city does not have an asset management strategy for its trees, including street trees;
 - City code places responsibility on the adjacent property owner.
- The full draft of the proposal is available on the [UFC website](#).
- The Commission voted unanimously to pass the motion.

Code Reconciliation Project: Barry Manning, Bureau of Planning and Sustainability

- The Code Reconciliation Project is a follow up to the 2035 Comprehensive Plan which was approved December 2016:
 - Mainly includes technical amendments to correct code references and other provisions in the Zoning Code.
 - Will also include code changes to early implementation items of the 2035 Comp Plan which are more significant in nature.
- Damon expressed concern with the exemptions in the Central City. Larger trees are needed the most in the inner city due to pollution, heat index, and existing lack of trees.
- New mixed used zones are proposed as part of this project, which has an impact on the zone exceptions in Title 11
- Barry presented three scenarios of how the new mixed use zones could be applied and the resulting impact on Title 11 zone exemptions
- A Public Discussion Draft will be available June 2017

BES Trees in ROW: Dawn Uchiyama, Deputy Director; Jennifer Karps, Bureau of Environmental Services

- Ms. Uchiyama remarked on the importance of the BES Tree Program to BES' mission and turned the presentation over to Jennifer Karps, Tree Program Manager

- Jennifer provided the Commission with an overview of the BES Tree Program, its history and services, and budget, while fitting the BES program into the management of trees across bureaus.
 - Requested budget in FY 2018 includes \$994,000 in general fund with \$677,000 in BES rates
- The planting program focuses on low-canopy, low-income, racially diverse areas, with 84% of trees in 2016-17 being planted in those areas.

Meeting adjourned at 11:00am