

---

**URBAN FORESTRY COMMISSION**

Meeting Minutes  
November 16, 2017  
City Hall, Lovejoy Room

---

**Commission Members present:** Chair Mark Bello, Vice Chair Barbara Hollenbeeck, Secretary Catherine Mushel, Meryl Redisch, Damon Schrosk, Vivek Shandas, Gregg Everhart, Daniel Newberry, Brian French

**Commission Members Absent:** Thuy Tu

**Urban Forestry staff present:** Jenn Cairo, City Forester; Brian Landoe, Asst. Program Specialist; Gina Dake, Botanic Specialist I

**City staff present:** Tony Garcia, City Attorney's Office; Barry Manning, BPS; and other city staff

**Guests present:** Doug Klotz, Ruth Anne Barrett

---

**Public Hearing – 2035 Code Reconciliation Project, as presented by Barry Manning, Senior Planner, Bureau of Planning and Sustainability**

- The 2035 Comprehensive Plan Code Reconciliation Project amends the zoning code and other city titles such as Title 11, correcting code references and providing greater consistency among newly adopted regulations. In general, the project amendments are intended to be technical, and not to represent significant changes in policy or development allowances.
- The proposed amendments eliminate Title 11 exemptions for the CS and CM zones that are being phased out.
- Tree preservation and tree density requirements would apply to the new C/MU zones unless exempted in 11.050.
- The following public testimony was received
  - Doug Klotz: Supports the staff recommendation to eliminate tree preservation exemptions. He does have some concerns about potentially higher housing costs resulting from this change. He supports the exemption for downtown, which will remain. Mr. Klotz also noted that 40% of downtown is ROW, so more street trees are needed.
  - Ruth Anne Barrett: Ms. Barrett presented the Shade Brigade project, which works towards more tree coverage in Old Town by organizing employee volunteers in Old Town Chinatown. Ms. Barrett will send additional information via email.
- Catherine motioned to support the city's recommendation to eliminate the exemption in CS and CM zones. Barbara seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**Forester Report – Jenn Cairo, City Forester**

- City Council directed the bureaus to go forth and create the Street Tree Task Force.
- Funds will be allocated in the spring.

- Jenn will meet with Jamie Waltz, from the Office of Management and Finance, who has agreed to facilitate the task force's work.
- Jenn reminded the Commission that Urban Forestry will facilitate the task force's focus on the maintenance of street trees. The separate issue of space for trees in the right-of-way will be facilitated by PBOT via the Streets 2035 project.
- Daniel: Would a member of the UFC serve on the task force?
  - Jenn: yes, one or two UFC members will be on the task force.

### **Residential Infill Project – Mark Bello, UFC Chair**

- The comment period on the Residential Infill Project closes on November 30, 2017.
- The UFC previously submitted comments in November 2016.
- Mark presented the commission with a motion to submit a new letter that reiterates issues raised in the 2016 letter, with a few additional comments.
  - UFC attaches November 8, 2016 letter and reiterates it's concern that meeting City Canopy targets remains a secondary concern (paragraphs 3 and 4).
  - UFC notes that Guiding Principle 4 regarding Environmental Health calls for providing additional space to grow and preserve trees. This policy is not implemented by this proposal; increasing front yard to 15 ft. from 10 ft. and keeping minimum setbacks on side and rear property lines to be 5 ft. or less leaves no area for trees. Proposal does not change maximum building footprint, allows garage and ADU side by side, allows unlimited impervious area for driveway beyond front yard and allows tree requirements to be waived with payment of a fee.
  - UFC reiterates three code proposals as before, plus proposes that the Required Outdoor Area standard, 33.235.235 be reworked to disallow pavers, decking and other impervious surfaces and to disallow covers. The aim is to ensure the area will be planted with trees appropriate to the minimum 250 sq. ft. specified by the code (section 33.110.235).
  - The UFC also opposes the increase in the front yard setback from 10 ft. to 15 ft. for lots 80 or lesser ft. in depth.
- A discussion ensued, clarifying the UFC position.
- Doug Klotz provided comment regarding available space for trees under the new guidelines in the RIP. He advocated for more flexibility to reduce the required setback in order to preserve trees.
- Damon recommended requiring that decks be considered a pervious surface, along with pervious paving on the ground plane, so that trees may be preserved and planted within the deck or paving area.
- Gregg added that the Title 11 provision allowing for trees within 10 feet of a structure needs to be addressed as a more major change in Title 11.
- Vivek added that we need to begin to view space for trees in a three-dimensional sense – not just focusing on ground space but the height of buildings nearby as well.
  - Catherine added that time, considering the full life span of trees, is a fourth dimension to consider.
- Daniel recommended keeping the UFC statement more general, so that the Commission can express its goals without needing to address specific code issues individually given the complexities involved.
- Mark moved to forward with the UFC comment on the Residential Infill Project.
  - Damon seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously
- Catherine made a second motion regarding outreach stating that the UFC wants everyone from city planners to residents to recognize the urban forest and trees as green infrastructure that requires adequate soil volume and canopy space for the expected life of the tree.
  - Barbara seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously

### Heritage Tree Nominations – Gregg Everhart, Heritage Tree Committee Chair

- Gregg briefed the commission on the following trees to be delisted:
  - #247: Oregon White Oak at 8705 N. Newman Ave.
  - #328: Oregon White Oak at NE 39<sup>th</sup> and NE Holman
    - Damon noted that, even though the tree has fallen, it is likely still living and could survive through selective pruning. He would like to see some creative approaches considered for trees like this in the future.
  - #170: Shagbark Hickory at 7123 SE Powell Blvd
  - #12: American Elm at 7821 SE 30<sup>th</sup> Ave.
  - #319: American Elm at 1924 SE Umatilla St.
  - #291: Osmanthus at Lan Su Chinese Garden
- Gregg also briefed the commission on the following proposed new heritage trees:
  - 87 Heritage Trees were nominated this year.
  - English walnut at 4528 N Vancouver Ave.
  - Copper beech at 3839 SE Woodward St.
  - False cypress at 3401 SE Clinton St.
  - European beech at 7110 SE 29<sup>th</sup> Ave.
  - Yellow Paint Maple at 4600 SW Maplewood Rd.
  - Mountain silverbell at 4600 SW Maplewood Rd.
  - Persian ironwood at 4600 SW Maplewood Rd.
  - Ponderosa pine at 4124 SW Canby St.
  - Douglas fir at 8207 SW 30<sup>th</sup> Ave.
  - London plane tree at 1335 N Mason St.
  - Three London plane trees at 3967 N Overlook Blvd.
  - Sassafras at 5901 N. Borthwick Ave.
  - Red oak at 5245 NE Cleveland Ave.
  - Grand fir at 10325 N. Lombard St.
  - Lombardy poplar at 16160 SE Powell Blvd.
- The full presentation is available on the [UFC website](#).
- Damon moved to delist the six trees and nominate the 17 trees above. Barbara seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

### Heritage Tree #51 – Gregg Everhart, Heritage Tree Committee Chair

- Gregg briefed the Commission on a unique situation involving this tree on Portland Public Schools property.
- This tree was nominated in 1995 and the species (Empress tree) has since been listed as a nuisance species. It is the only Heritage Tree of its kind.
- The tree is in decline and was issued a removal permit.
- The tree is located in the middle of a school playground and posed a potential hazard to children.
- UF staff, the Heritage Tree committee, and especially committee members, Brian French, and Damon Schrosk, collaborated to develop a plan to preserve the tree by removing roughly 40% of the crown.
- The next day, Damon and Brian completed the mitigation permitted by Urban Forestry to correct for the hazard of falling limbs. Mark Franklin, PPS Grounds Supervisor is aware of the mitigation.
- Students and teachers from the school had submitted a petition to preserve the tree.

*Meeting Adjourned 10:30 AM*