



AMANDA FRITZ, COMMISSIONER

MIKE ABBATÉ, DIRECTOR

URBAN FORESTRY COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

December 14, 2017

1900 SW 4th Ave., Room 7a

Commission Members present: Chair Mark Bello, Vice Chair Barbara Hollenbeck, 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

City staff present: Judy Prosper, City Attorney's Office; Pooja Bhatt, Commissioner's Office; and other city staff

Guests present:

Appoint New UFC Chair – UFC Chair Mark Bello

- Mark Bello announced his time as chair was coming to a close, saying he was happy to pass the torch.
- Barbara motioned to appoint Vivek Shandas as the new UFC Chair. Meryl seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Title 11 Trust Funds Report – Jenn Cairo, City Forester

- Title 11 requires Urban Forestry to report to City Council on the balance and activities of the Tree Planting and Preservation Fund and the Urban Forestry Fund.
- The report will be presented to City Council on December 20th.
- Jenn provided an overview of the Title 11 trust fund report - [link](#)
- Mark asked about conservation easements and if the planting strategy considers this approach.
 - Jenn: It does not. Enforcing easements has long-term management challenges and costs.
- Catherine asked if it possible to add lifelong maintenance of trees planted as part of this fund.
 - Jenn: Urban Forestry is considering increasing the establishment timeline to seven years to allow for young tree pruning. This would require an amendment to Title 11.
- Gregg noted that the Willamette watershed is very large and poses an equity challenge.
 - Jenn: Title 11 requires that funds received must be spent in the same watershed. Removing this requirement is on Urban Forestry's list of desired amendments.
- Daniel asked if there is a reserve target balance.
 - Brian: UF has developed a five-year cash flow tool which holds 20% of the balance as a reserve, on top of additional reserve to fund ongoing commitments (Planting Coordinator position, establishment of existing trees, etc.).
- Damon: Can the funds be used for planting by Friends of Trees or other groups?
 - Jenn: Yes, at Urban Forestry's discretion.

- When presenting the report to City Council, Jenn will recommend two code amendments to be made to this fund. One is to remove the requirement that funds be spent in the same watershed as received. This requirement extends current canopy inequities. Second, allow establishment and proactive maintenance to seven years. This would allow young tree structural pruning.
- Urban Forestry Fund: revenue comes from city and street tree violations.
 - More allowable uses of the fund.
 - In FY17, this fund was used for park tree inventory, and education activities.
- Damon: is there plan to be more active in identifying violations?
 - Jenn: UF approach is more focused on educating the public on Title 11 and encouraging them to call 823-TREE if they see possible violations.
- Gregg: recommended using Friends of Trees for young tree pruning – Community Tree Care.
- Catherine: community supported social marketing should be included in communication/outreach plan.

Urban Forestry FY19 Budget Development – Jenn Cairo, City Forester

- Mayor’s budget guidance is requesting cut packages of 5% from all general fund bureaus.
- UF has experienced cuts in the past while new responsibilities have been added on.
 - Audit report stated UF is behind on compliance, which requires additional staff.
- Jenn provided an overview of UF programs and funding sources - [link](#)
- Daniel: Equity work may be duplicated if it’s handled by a bureau-level team, in addition to each individual division. Need to ensure that all activities are only forestry related.
 - Judy: Structures for the equity work may change as result of OEHR leadership change.
- Brian: Trees have health benefits that should be captured. Is there a way that can be emphasized, particularly with other bureaus?
- Damon: Does UF get paid for work provided to other bureaus?
 - Jenn: yes, we establish interagency agreements.
- Damon: Regarding Dutch Elm Disease, should we pull plug on prevention, and acknowledge we are going to lose all of these trees in a matter of years? Begin preparing for the future now. Most elms are gone in lower income neighborhoods already. The tree loss could emphasize need for more tree planting.
- Gregg: Storm response is important work, but UF is often picking up private property owner responsibilities.
- Jenn: Brian French will be serving on the Budget Advisory Committee.

Policy Committee Update – Meryl Redisch, Policy Committee Chair

- Jamie Waltz from OMF will facilitate the task force. First meeting is planned for the end of January.
 - Commissioner Fish encouraged broad community stakeholder involvement, including business owner and landlord community.
 - It has not yet been determined who from the UFC will serve on the task force.
 - The RFP for the consultant will be out soon. UFC will have a chance to review to ensure the scope of work is satisfactory.
- Residential Infill Project: Will find out from Morgan Tracy when the next comment period will be for the UFC to provide additional feedback.
- Daniel discussed a recent editorial in the Oregonian which advocated for large tree removal to accommodate housing. He asked the Commission for their approval to draft a response
 - Meryl: Motion for Daniel to draft a response to the Oregonian editorial page. Mark seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Meeting Adjourned 10:30 AM