



URBAN FORESTRY COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

August 16, 2018

City Hall, Lovejoy Room

Commission Members present: Chair Vivek Shandas, Vice Chair Barbara Hollenbeck, Secretary Catherine Mushel, Anjeanette Brown, Lorena Nascimento, Damon Schrosk, Gregg Everhart, Megan Van de Mark, Thuy Tu, Daniel Newberry

Commission Members absent: Brian French

Urban Forestry staff present: Jenn Cairo, City Forester; Brian Landoe, Budget & Program Analyst; Angie DiSalvo, Outreach and Science Supervisor

City staff present: Tony Garcia, City Attorney's Office

Guests present:

Urban Forestry Report, City Forester Jenn Cairo

City Forester Jenn Cairo briefed the Commission on the Urban Forestry Program's activities:

- UF permit volumes continue to increase and are at the highest level on record.
- The hot and dry summer we've experienced has resulted in a large number of tree limb failures. Responding to these failures has required more staff resources than usual for this season, including increased overtime hours.
- UF's Dutch-Elm Disease monitoring program has detected 18 DED-positive trees this season. Only one of these trees was on Parks property, the rest were in the right-of-way. One Heritage Tree, #267 on NE Knott St, is among those testing positive.
- The Urban Forest Inventory Assessment program is continuing throughout the summer and is scheduled to complete in the fall.
- Lorena Nascimento will serve as the UFC's liaison to the Parks Board.

UFC Annual Report

The Commission voted to approve [2017 UFC Annual Report](#).

- Motion: Megan Van de Mark
- Seconded: Catherine Mushel
- Yays: Chair Vivek Shandas, Vice Chair Barbara Hollenbeck, Secretary Catherine Mushel, Anjeanette Brown, Lorena Nascimento, Damon Schrosk, Gregg Everhart, Megan Van de Mark, Daniel Newberry, Thuy Tu
- Nays: None

Urban Forestry Commission

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Compliance Report

Angie DiSalvo, Outreach and Science Supervisor, briefed the Commission on the [Urban Forestry Tree Planting Compliance Report](#). Key findings from the report include:

- Non-Development Permits
 - Right-of-Way Trees: Rate of compliance with planting requirements continued to decline, dropping from 82% in 2015 to 74% in 2016. Compliance remains below the target rate of 90%.
 - Private Trees: Overall compliance with planting requirements improved slightly, from 52% in 2015 to 53% in 2016, but remained well below the 2011 rate of 66%.
 - An estimated 1,866 trees were not planted as a result of non-compliance with 2016 Tree Removal and Replanting Permits.
 - There continues to be little difference in compliance rates between Tree Inspector and Tree Technician-issued Type A permits for private tree removals. While planting compliance rates are far below desired levels, the more limited interaction with UF staff that occurs in the Tree Technician-issued process does not have a significant effect on compliance rates.
- Development Permits
 - Compliance rates compared to 2015 levels increased for new construction permits while remaining unchanged for remodels. Rates in each category (84% for new construction, 51% for remodels) continue to fall short of the 90% target.
 - Both new construction and remodels experienced improvement in the planting of appropriate species in 2016, however remained below target level, ranging from 41% – 82%. The majority of trees out of compliance with standards were species not on approved lists.
 - An estimated 219 trees were not planted as required in permitted development projects in 2016.
- Staffing limitations at each bureau involved in implementing requirements of Title 1 (PP&R and Development Services) continue to be a barrier to improving compliance over the long-term. Currently, there are no regular follow up inspections of tree plantings required by development or non-development related permits outside of the ten-percent samples used in this periodic report, and no capacity to increase these inspections at either bureau.

The commission considered the non-compliance issue an urgent priority and discussed potential solutions, such as:

- Performance bonds wherein property owners would pay a deposit equal to the cost of planting one tree, which would be refunded once the tree is planted.
- The City takes over responsibility for street tree planting. This ties into the work of the Street Tree Task Force.
- The use of social marketing to drive behavioral change within the Portland community.

Approve and Approve Minutes

The Commission voted to approve the minutes from the July meeting.

- Motion: Daniel Newberry
- Seconded: Catherine Mushel
- Yay: Chair Vivek Shandas, Vice Chair Barbara Hollenbeck, Secretary Catherine Mushel, Anjeanette Brown, Lorena Nascimento, Damon Schrosk, Gregg Everhart, Megan Van de Mark, Daniel Newberry, Thuy Tu
- Nays: None

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30am.

Audio recordings of Urban Forestry Commission meetings are available upon request.