



**URBAN FORESTRY COMMISSION**

Meeting Minutes

November 15, 2018

City Hall, Lovejoy Room

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<b>Commission Members present:</b>	Chair Vivek Shandas, Vice Chair Barbara Hollenbeck, Secretary Catherine Mushel, Anjeanette Brown, Gregg Everhart, Damon Schrosk, Thuy Tu
<b>Commission Members absent:</b>	Brian French, Lorena Nascimento, Megan Van de Mark, Daniel Newberry
<b>Urban Forestry staff present:</b>	Jenn Cairo, City Forester; Brian Landoe, Budget & Program Analyst
<b>City staff present:</b>	Tony Garcia, City Attorney's Office; Emily Roth, Senior Planner; Sandra Burtzos, Capital Projects Manager

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**Review and Approve Minutes**

- The Commission voted to approve the October 2018 Minutes
  - Motion: Barbara Hollenbeck
  - Seconded: Catherine Mushel
  - Yay: Vivek Shandas, Barbara Hollenbeck, Catherine Mushel, Anjeanette Brown, Gregg Everhart, Damon Schrosk, Thuy Tu

**Urban Forestry Report, Jenn Cairo, City Forester**

- The RFP for the Street Tree Task Force has been issued and the City received a proposal from Davey Resource Group. The proposal is under review with the expectation that a final contract will be effective by the end of January.
- Urban Forestry's Yard Tree Giveaway program successfully distributed more than 600 trees this year. The program prioritized outreach to low-income/low-canopy neighborhoods and primarily gave away large native trees.

**Halprin Vegetation Management Plan, Emily Roth, Senior Planner; Sandra Burtzos, Capital Projects Manager**

- Project consultants Mike O'Brien (Anderson Krygier) and Steve Koch (Koch Landscape Architect) briefed the commission on the Vegetation Management Plan update project
- A primary purpose of the project to maintain and modify the tree canopy while remaining true to the original design intent of the open space sequence.
- The original zoning of the sequence limited building heights and required large setbacks which allowed for wide spaces for trees. Over the years, changes to that zoning code have changed those setbacks requirements and influenced the intended design experience within the area.

**Urban Forestry Commission**

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- Many of the trees are struggling due to unintended overcrowding, deferred maintenance, and changes to zoning codes which have allowed larger buildings closer to the trees.
- One of the primary objectives of the new VMP is to be able to change species. Most of the trees are currently Lindens and Norway Maples spaced 15 to 20 feet apart.
- The design of the sequence will not be changed, only the materials used and the species and spacing of the trees.
- UF Tree Inspector has been assigned to the project and been involved in the design process
- The plan includes Block Removal and Replacement, wherein if more than 50% of the trees on a block are dead, dying, or declining, or in the event of major construction impacts, the design guidelines would allow for the entire block of trees can be replaced with more appropriate species.
- The Urban Forestry Commission provided the following feedback:
  - Encouraged the project consultants to consider replacing small and medium sized species which are to be removed with larger form species. The current intent of the plan is to maintain the size and form of the existing trees.
  - Agreed with the project's intention to not prescribe specific tree species, but rather detail preferred characteristics. This is intended to allow flexibility over time as certain species fall in and out of favor. The historic district will be amended to address performance standards for the trees rather than specific species.
  - Encouraged allowing for greater tree spacing after removals to address overcrowding and allow for larger form trees.

#### **UFC Priorities and Planning Discussion, Vivek Shandas, UFC Chair**

- Vivek reviewed feedback from the Commissioners on their priorities and organized them into the following clusters and identified areas which are not covered.
  - **Current Clusters**
    - Policy/Title 11 Amendments
    - UFC Membership
    - Development
    - Maintenance
    - Climate Change
    - Engagement
  - **Clusters Needing to be Covered**
    - Inter-bureau collaboration
    - Funding
  - **Current UFC Priorities**
    - Street Tree Task Force
    - Streets 2035
    - Planting Strategy
- Diversity, equity, and inclusion needs to run through and be integrated into all of these priorities
- The Commission discussed these priorities as preparation for the upcoming UFC workshop
- The need for education/outreach/volunteer efforts was emphasized in anticipation of future budget reductions.
- The update to the Urban Forest Management Plan, which is a high priority, is overdue and remains unfunded.
- It is also important to note the time commitment for ongoing duties of the UFC, including attending monthly meetings. Expectations to be heavily involved in additional priorities can be a barrier to participation for many city volunteers.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:50am.

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