



URBAN FORESTRY COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

October 18, 2018

City Hall, Lovejoy Room

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

Commission Members absent:

Urban Forestry staff present: Jenn Cairo, City Forester; Brian Landoe, Budget & Program Analyst

City staff present: Tony Garcia, City Attorney's Office; Mathew Berkow, PBOT Project Manager

Urban Forestry Report, Jenn Cairo, City Forester

- The Title 11 amendments discussed at the September UFC meeting are on hold.
- The next Tree Steward class is scheduled for October 20th.
- Nik Desai has been promoted to Botanic Specialist II is a permanent capacity. Nik most recently managed the UFIA project, which included the installation of 200 plots for long-term monitoring of the City's urban forest.
- Branon Namm has been hired as a Tree Inspector. Brandon previously worked in San Francisco.
- The Citywide Tree Planting Strategy is nearly finalized. The plan identifies the barriers to tree planting in underserved areas of the city. It will be released in the next few weeks.

Streets 2035, Mathew Berkow, PBOT Project Manager

- Streets 2035 is intended to map all functions that happen in the ROW, identify all conflicts, and be strategic around resolving those conflicts.
- It will create street typologies to clarify the different function and needs based on street attributes.
- The project will formally launch in the next few months.
- PBOT staff are interested in what the UFC's expectations are for the project:
- Commissioners emphasized the need for trees to be considered essential infrastructure on par with other functions in the ROW (water, sewer, etc.).
- The project should also reflect the economic value that trees provide.
- Priority should be shifted towards preserving trees wherever possible and creating more space for accommodating new trees in the ROW.
- The Commission also emphasized the need for the project to be supportive of the City's Urban Forest Management Plan and canopy goals.
- UFC involvement in the project:

Urban Forestry Commission

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- Consultant will soon be on board and refining the process
- The UFC is considered part of the essential stakeholder community
- PBOT expects to report to the UFC regularly throughout the project. The consultant team will attend as well.

Urban Forestry Budget Overview, Brian Landoe, Budget & Program Analyst

- The City’s general fund makes up about 50% of the Urban Forestry budget, along with permit fees (30%) and interagency revenue (20%).
- General fund support to Urban Forestry has declined over the past few years. These reductions have been made up by increases to the permit fees.
- Development fees recover about 85% of the issuance cost. Non-development fees cover less than 10%.
- Title 11 established two trust funds under Urban Forestry
 - Tree Planting and Preservation Fund - \$2.3 million balance
 - Revenue:
 - Fee-in-lieu of tree preservation or planting
 - Restoration fee for removed/damaged private trees
 - Expenses
 - Planting & establishing trees (2 years)
 - Conservation easements
 - Land acquisition
 - Urban Forest Fund - \$75,000 balance
 - Revenue
 - Restoration fees, civil penalties, or civil remedies resulting from City or Street Tree enforcement actions
 - Expenses
 - Plant, establish, and maintain City and Street trees
 - Provide education, outreach, and technical assistance to the community
 - Other programs related to planting and public awareness of the values of the urban forest

Public Comments

- The Commission received a public comment concerning tree removal associated with a joint BES/PBOT project on SW Capitol Highway. Urban Forestry staff will look into the project and respond with additional information.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30am.