



**URBAN FORESTRY COMMISSION**

Meeting Minutes  
September 20, 2018  
City Hall, Lovejoy Room

---

<b>Commission Members present:</b>	Chair Vivek Shandas, Vice Chair Barbara Hollenbeck, Secretary Catherine Mushel, Anjeanette Brown, Brian French, Lorena Nascimento, Gregg Everhart, Megan Van de Mark, Thuy Tu
<b>Commission Members absent:</b>	Damon Schrosk, 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; Kia Selley, PP&R Interim Director; Todd Lofgren, Senior Policy Advisory; Katie Dunham, Senior Planner

---

**Introductions: Kia Selley, PP&R Interim Director**

- Kia was the Assets Division Manager before leaving Parks one a half years ago.
- The Bureau of Human Resources will be initiating the process to recruit a permanent director this fall, with the expectation of hiring by the end of winter.
- Kia emphasized the need for proper management of the urban forest and implantation of Title 11, while acknowledging the need for additional resources.
- The urban forest is critical green infrastructure and there are ongoing conversations with partners at Water Bureau, the Bureau of Transportation, and Bureau of Environmental Services on how to best manage this resource.

**Introductions: Todd Lofgren, Senior Policy Director**

- Todd will be the liaison for Commissioner Fish's office to the Parks bureau. Todd managed the real estate and partnership group at PP&R for seven years before moving to Morocco.
- The Commissioner's Office sees a great opportunity in PP&R and BES, two green infrastructure bureaus, being under the same Commissioner.
- There is a lot of energy in BES and Parks and Commissioner Fish is committed to prioritizing investments in the city's green infrastructure.
- The Commission asked how the UFC can be more effective in supporting the city's programmatic efforts. Todd pointed to the role the UFC plays in being a node of community impact and helping the City message more effectively on behalf of positive change.
- The voice of the UFC is often more valuable than that of city staff or elected officials. Many community members may not be comfortable coming into a city office, but would be comfortable speaking with the UFC.

**Urban Forestry Commission**

1120 SW 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 1302, Portland, Oregon 97204  
Phone 503-823-TREE (8733) | Fax 503-823-4493



- Kia added that members of the UFC bring expertise which are essential in ensuring city policy is relevant to the community.
- The Commission expressed that trees are not always prioritized in city plans and asked that continued efforts be made to elevate the status of trees.
- Social marketing research is concluding that more information does not necessarily lead to behavioral change. A shift in social norms is required in order to change the ways the community plants and stewards trees.
- The Commission also emphasized the opportunity of having BES and Parks under the same City Commissioner, which is effectively serving as the city's natural resources group.
- Todd recommended that the UFC invite a representative from the Bureau of Planning and Sustainability or other bureaus to come to UFC meetings and provide information on future plans that the UFC can be involved in.

#### **PP&R Level of Service Project: Katie Dunham, Senior Planner**

- The project intends to develop a strategy to establish consistent, culturally relevant, and sustainable "levels of service" for developed parks, natural areas, and park assets.
- This project is focused on identifying level of service targets for the physical infrastructure that provides park experiences, identifying what physical infrastructure the park system should include, and where/with what frequency.
- Parks is initiating a conversation to get a better sense of levels of service needed for different kinds of facilities that provide park experiences, including playgrounds, sports fields, group picnic areas, and natural areas within parks.
- The Commission expressed concern about the number of trees being planted in new developed parks, and the lack of goals set for tree coverage.
- The Commission is also concerned that trees are not being considered as assets within the scope of the Level of Service plan. Emphasized the opportunity to utilize the Park Tree Inventory within this project. Neighborhoods that don't have trees within the residential areas of their neighborhood are even more reliant on parks to provide canopy.
- However, the Commission also expressed the view that the canopy within dedicated parks cannot be made to stand in for the services that trees provide along the streets on the way to the parks--meaning PP&R planning within parks should be connected to planning with PBOT for greener streets as well.
- New parks being built are not going to look like Irving Park, Alberta Park, and others that have large trees. Gateway Green, Gateway Discovery, Cully, and Carruthers primarily have small and medium sized trees. The Level of Service plan should consider this.

#### **Approve and Approve Minutes**

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

- Motion: Thuy Tu; Seconded: Megan Van de Mark
- Yay: Vivek Shandas, Catherine Mushel, Anjeanette Brown, Brian French, Lorena Nascimento, Gregg Everhart, Megan Van de Mark, Thuy Tu
- Abstain: Barbara Hollenbeck

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

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

- The Street Tree Task Force is moving forward and the RFP is currently with the City's procurement staff. The expectation is that the contract will begin as early as January 2019. Urban Forestry is working with PP&R Equity and Inclusion staff to develop the public outreach plan.
- Urban Forestry received the highest volume of permit applications – more than 6,000 permits have been issued since January 2018. UF continues to need more staff to meet this demand.
- Two Yard Tree Giveaways are planned this fall and staff are monitoring those planted last year.

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

- The Park Tree Inventory continued with more than 2,000 volunteer hours contributed so far. The project should be completed by next summer.
- Urban Forestry is preparing for storm season and is conducting public outreach to encourage community members to have their trees inspected by certified arborists.
- The October UFC meeting will include the beginning of our conversation on the Urban Forestry budget for the next fiscal year.

#### **Public Comments**

- The UFC has received public comments expressing disappointment that Friends of Trees is no longer permitted to plant street trees in 2.5' planting strips. The City's Street Tree Planting Standards have required a minimum of 3' since 2015. Friends of Trees' planting permit is now in compliance with that standard as of the 2018/19 planting season.
- The Commission expressed interest in continuing the conversation on what alternatives may be available to property owners who have a 2.5' strip. Streets 2035, an upcoming PBOT project for which there will be a briefing on at the October UFC meeting, presents an opportunity to explore alternatives.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:40am.