



**URBAN FORESTRY COMMISSION**

Meeting Minutes

January 17, 2019

City Hall, Lovejoy Room

---

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

**Commission Members absent:**

**Urban Forestry staff present:** Jenn Cairo, City Forester; Brian Landoe, Budget & Program Analyst; Nik Desai, Botanic Specialist II

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

---

**Minutes Approval**

- The Commission voted to approve the November 2018 Minutes.
  - Motion: Catherine Mushel
  - Seconded: Thuy Tu
  - Yay: Vivek Shandas, Barbara Hollenbeck, Catherine Mushel, Anjeanette Brown, Gregg Everhart, Brian French Megan Van de Mark, Lorena Nascimento, Damon Schrosk, Thuy Tu
  - Abstain: Daniel Newberry

**City Forester Report – Jenn Cairo, City Forester**

- The new UFC member is currently going through the final approval steps before being appointed by City Council. They will attend the February workshop and be sworn in before the March meeting
- Brian Landoe provided details on the UFC's full-day workshop which will replace the February meeting.
- The Commission continued last month's discussion on the FY20 budget:
  - Barbara: Are fee increases on the table to close the gap?
    - Jenn: Yes, they are. For UF's part, we think we have limited capacity to increase them, but there is some opportunity. Any proposed fee changes will come to the UFC.
  - Daniel: Are there functions which have benefits to other bureaus who could either takeover those functions, or provide funding?
  - Catherine: Providing advice and input on the annual budget is a significant responsibility of the Urban Forestry Commission. The UFC may want to consider having a separate budget committee in the future.

**Urban Forestry Commission**

1120 SW 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 1302, Portland, Oregon 97204

Phone 503-823-TREE (8733) | Fax 503-823-4493



- Damon: Should UF be housed in a different bureau which aligns better with UF's mission and tree maintenance requirements? Parks may not be the appropriate bureau.
- Daniel: Should we look at changing Title 11 so it can be more fully implemented with fewer staff? There may be ways to right-size Title 11 to realistic staffing levels, rather than essentially an unfunded mandate. When we as a Commission consider amendments to Title 11, we could keep this in mind as well.
  - Damon: A lot of what is not currently being done are fundamental to the code, such as ensuring required trees are being planted.

**Street Tree List Update** – Nik Desai, Botanic Specialist II

- Nik briefed the Commission on the update to the Approved Street Tree Planting List project currently underway.
- UF is looking at conflicts with infrastructure, resiliency, resistance to pests and pathogens, and other criteria for adding and removing trees from the list.
- The current project timeline calls for a new list by June 2019.
- There will be a four-week review period in February and then additional reviews as the draft list is revised.
- Megan recommended that UF prioritize drought tolerance and climate adaptability.
- Damon stated a potential conflict of interest as a contractor with the Environmental Tree Services Tree Program.
  - Damon: The 3-year list revision cycle could make it challenging for nurseries to grow stock that is always compatible with the approved list since it takes roughly seven years to grow a tree to the required size. It's important when looking at stock availability to look at not just species but also the species at caliper size
  - Nik: This is a critical point, and the project stakeholders include growers, nurseries, local tree care providers, Friends of Trees, and others.
- The Commission emphasized taking a long-term perspective when looking at which trees will thrive in Portland's changing climate.

**Policy Committee Update** – Daniel Newberry, Policy Committee Chair

- Daniel briefed the Commission on several projects the committee is following:
  - Residential Infill Project: City Council will have their final hearing this summer and the committee is planning to provide public comments.
  - Better Housing by Design: A lot of the UFC's comments have been incorporated into the newest draft of the plan.
  - Large Tree Amendment: This amendment provides additional penalty for the removal of trees 36" DBH or greater in development situations. The amendment sunset at the end of 2019.
    - Prior to this amendment, there was not much of a disincentive to remove large trees.
    - The policy committee has drafted a request to BDS for data on the impact of Large Tree Amendment.
  - Daniel made a motion to request this information from BDS.
    - Daniel seconded the motion.
    - Yay: Vivek Shandas, Barbara Hollenbeck, Catherine Mushel, Anjeanette Brown, Gregg Everhart, Brian French Megan Van de Mark, Lorena Nascimento, Daniel Newberry, Damon Schrosk, Thuy Tu
    - Nay: None.

### Heritage Tree Nominations and Removals – Gregg Everhart, Heritage Tree Committee Chair

- Gregg presented the Committee’s recommended Heritage Tree additions and removals for 2019.
- The following new Heritage Trees were proposed:
  - *Gymnocladus dioica*, Kentucky coffeetree, publicly owned tree in Cathedral Park at 6635 N Baltimore Ave.
  - *Umbellularia californica*, Oregon myrtle, privately owned tree at 8235 & 8241 N Chautauqua Blvd.
  - *Pinus densiflora*, Japanese red pine, publicly owned tree in the Columbia Children’s Arboretum at 10040 NE 6<sup>th</sup> Dr.
  - *Metasequoia glyptostroboides*, Dawn redwood, privately owned tree at 6805 NE 32<sup>nd</sup> Ave.
  - *Fagus sylvatica*, Copper beech, privately owned tree at 3834 NE 23<sup>rd</sup> Ave.
  - *Acer campestre*, Hedge maple, publicly owned tree at 3424 NE 17<sup>th</sup> Ave.
  - *Pseudotsuga menziesii*, Douglas-fir, privately owned tree at the Audubon Society of Portland at 5151 NW Cornell Rd.
  - *Castanea sativa*, Spanish chestnut, publicly owned tree at 2704 SE 84<sup>th</sup> Ave.
  - *Populus nigra*, Lombardy poplar, publicly owned tree at Powell Butte Nature Park at 16160 SE Powell Blvd.
  - *Cedrus atlantica*, Blue Atlas cedar, publicly owned tree at Leach Botanical Garden at 6704 SE 122<sup>nd</sup> Ave.
  - *Liquidambar styraciflua*, Sweetgum, publicly owned tree at 7300 SW Brier Pl.
  - *Quercus palustris*, Pin oak, publicly owned tree at 7326 SW Brier Pl.
- The following Heritage Trees were proposed for removal:
  - *Ulmus x hollandica* ‘Hollandica’, Dutch elm, privately owned tree at 1719 NE Knott St., designated in 2004
  - *Juglans x paradox*, Paradox walnut, privately owned tree 5024 SE Mill St., designated in 2015
- Damon motioned to accept the listing and delisting recommendations
  - Barbara seconded the motion.
  - Yay: Vivek Shandas, Barbara Hollenbeck, Catherine Mushel, Anjeanette Brown, Gregg Everhart, Brian French Megan Van de Mark, Lorena Nascimento, Daniel Newberry, Damon Schrosk, Thuy Tu
  - Nay: None

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30am.