



URBAN FORESTRY COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

April 18, 2019

City Hall, Lovejoy Room

Commission Members present:	Vice Chair Barbara Hollenbeck, Anjeanette Brown, Gregg Everhart, Megan Van de Mark, Lorena Nascimento, Daniel Newberry, Bruce Nelson, Damon Schrosk, Thuy Tu
Commission Members absent:	Brian French, Vivek Shandas
Urban Forestry staff present:	Jenn Cairo, City Forester; Brian Landoe, Analyst I
City staff present:	Tony Garcia, City Attorney's Office; Todd Lofgren Senior Policy Analyst

Public Comment

- Edith Mirante provided comms related to a PP&R project on the Springwater Corridor in the Sellwood neighborhood. Ms. Mirante expressed disappointment in the number of trees removed along a portion of the trail which abuts her property. The trees were removed to make room for a 12' wide extension of the trail. She also urged PP&R to conduct mitigation planting along this stretch of trail, rather than at a nearby location as is currently planned.

Review and Approve Minutes

- Damon motioned to accept the January minutes.
 - Megan seconded the motion.
 - Yay: Barbara Hollenbeck, Anjeanette Brown, Gregg Everhart, Megan Van de Mark, Lorena Nascimento, Daniel Newberry, Damon Schrosk, Thuy Tu
 - Nay: None
 - Abstain: Bruce Nelson
- Barbara motioned to accept the March minutes as amended.
 - Lorena seconded the motion.
 - Yay: Barbara Hollenbeck, Anjeanette Brown, Gregg Everhart, Megan Van de Mark, Lorena Nascimento, Daniel Newberry, Bruce Nelson, Damon Schrosk, Thuy Tu
 - Nay: None

Forestry Report – Jenn Cairo, City Forester

- On May 16th at 2:00, Jenn and Angie DiSalvo will be at City Council to present the Citywide Tree Planting Strategy, the 2018 UF Trust Fund Report, and propose amendments to Title 11 which the UFC held a public hearing on in March.

Urban Forestry Commission

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- The Streets 2035 project is progressing but there are no updates at this time. PBOT is working with the consultant to finalize the project scope and timeline.
- Jenn welcomed Amil Jakupovich who recently joined Urban Forestry as a Tree Inspector.

Policy Committee Update – Daniel Newberry, Policy Committee Chair

- The Policy Committee updated the Commission on its work on several ongoing projects.
- The Committee highlighted its priorities for the Streets 2035 project:
 - Better understanding of PBOT’s process for soliciting input from the UFC and other community members.
 - How to preserve existing trees in undeveloped rights-of-way when PBOT plans to improve the street.
 - Preserving trees rather than removing them when conflicts exist with the sidewalk.
- Metro will be pursuing a capital bond in the fall focused on natural areas. Does the Commission want to weigh-in on possible funding for street tree funding within the bond measure?
 - Are there any legal limitations that would prevent the UFC from advocating for this measure?
 - Tony: Any political activities would need to be run through the City’s Government Relations office.
 - There is also an open question as to whether trees can be treated as a capitalizable assets in order to qualify for bond funding.

Commissioner Fish Introduction and Discussion – Daniel Newberry, Policy Committee Chair

- Commissioner Fish introduced himself to the Commission and provided initial comments on the current Parks & Recreation budget situation.
 - Commissioner Fish emphasized that PP&R fees have not increased enough to keep pace with inflation, noting that fees would need to be increased 40% next year to close the budget gap.
 - Urban Forestry’s budget is being held harmless in this budget cycle, largely due to the sizable general fund cuts the division has experienced in prior years.
 - The Urban Forestry program requires additional ongoing resources.
 - Commissioner Fish acknowledged that it is frustrating for community members to have to lobby every year for general fund in order to maintain existing programs. He is committed to finding a more sustainable funding model.
- Daniel briefed the Commissioner on the UFC’s 2019 priorities which were established at the February workshop.
- Commissioner Fish provided feedback and recommendations on several of the UFC priorities:
 - Recommended connecting with the Office of Community and Civic Life and the City Budget Office on new ways to engage the community on issues related to the urban forest. Both of these groups have been working on engagement as a priority as well.
 - The Clean Energy Fund is expected to raise between \$50 and \$80 million per year – some of that could be directed towards street trees.
 - Recommended inviting the fund’s board to a UFC meeting once it is established.
- The UFC provided comments and suggestions on the following issues:
 - Pursuing amendments to Title 11, in particular the “10-foot rule” which allows trees to be removed if they are within ten feet of a building.
 - Focusing on protecting mid-sized trees so that they can grow to become large trees.
 - Emphasizing the need to identify more stable funding, and the potential for increased collaboration and alignment with the Bureau of Environmental Services.
 - Expanding the urban forest is an urgent priority, particularly in historical underserved areas of the city, and needs to be sufficiently funded.

- Need for increased protection of trees in East Portland as development is expected to increase.
- Adopting a policy which discourages impervious surfaces due to the lost space for canopy expansion and stormwater management issues.
- Commissioner Fish closed with additional comments on the 2019-2020 budget which will be made public on May 1st. City Council will have until May 15th to propose amendments.
 - Expects conversations to begin over the summer on addressing the ongoing cycle of scarce general fund resources year after year. For example, in this budget cycle the city has \$2 million in ongoing new funding compared to \$20 million in funding requests. \$14 million in one-time was available compared to \$100 million in asks.

Title 11 Fees Update – Brian Landoe, Analyst I

- Brian Landoe briefed the UFC on proposed fee increases for the 2019-20 fiscal year.
- Development fees are increasing approximately 10% to maintain current cost-recovery levels.
- Non-development fees are increasing more substantially in order to meet customer service expectations of 3-week turnaround time on most permit types.
- UF is also developing a hardship waiver policy to reduce the financial burden of complying with Title 11 for low-income households.
- The Commission expressed interest in how higher fees could lead to reduced tree permit compliance, particularly if the cost of enforcement action is lower than the permit cost.
 - UF will be monitoring permit volume closely to determine the effects.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:05am.