



URBAN FORESTRY COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

May 16, 2019

City Hall, Lovejoy Room

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

Commission Members absent:

Urban Forestry staff present: Jenn Cairo, City Forester; Brian Landoe, Analyst I

City staff present: Tony Garcia, City Attorney's Office; Taylor Phillips, PBOT; Brandon Spencer-Hartle, BPS

PedPDX – Taylor Phillips, PBOT

- PedPDX is the Citywide Pedestrian Master Plan which is scheduled to go to City Council in June.
- The presentation focused on the Implementation Toolbox, which is intended to flag issues which need to be addressed in collaboration with other bureaus, community members, and other stakeholders.
- Taylor provided an overview of the various action items included in the plan with a primary focus on the items impacting street trees.
- Commissioners provided the following feedback to PBOT on the PedPDX draft:
 - The plan can better capture the essential role that trees play in creating an urban setting which makes walking enjoyable and safe.
 - Trees provide many benefits to pedestrian safety by reducing vehicle speeds and providing an overall traffic calming impact. Many of the more affluent neighborhoods in Portland have center median trees.
 - PBOT should allow for planting strips to be expanded into the street in order to accommodate larger trees.
 - The City's current street lights do a poor job of illuminating people of color. PBOT is encouraged to explore and test alternative street lighting approaches.
 - PBOT should explore alternative sidewalk designs and materials in order to reduce conflicts with tree roots.
 - The City should look for opportunities to preserve trees whenever possible and incorporate green infrastructure as part of the right-of-way design.
 - The language used in the PedPDX plan reads as prescriptive and often promotes tree removal. There was concern that this could potentially have negative impacts once the

Urban Forestry Commission

1120 SW 5th Avenue, Suite 1302, Portland, Oregon 97204

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



plan is formally adopted. The Commission requested that PBOT remove references to tree removal and emphasize collaboration to identify solutions.

Review and Approve Minutes

- Barbara motioned to accept the April minutes.
 - Daniel seconded the motion.
 - Yay: Barbara Hollenbeck, Anjeanette Brown, Gregg Everhart, Brian French, Megan Van de Mark, Lorena Nascimento, Daniel Newberry, Damon Schrosk, Thuy Tu
 - Nay: None
 - Abstain: Vivek Shandas

Forestry Report – Jenn Cairo, City Forester

- Urban Forestry will be at City Council today for the following items:
 - Accept the Citywide Tree Planting Strategy
 - Accept the 2018 Title 11 Trees Trust Funds report
 - Amend regulations for Tree Planting & Preservation Fund to improve tree planting program outcomes
- The FY20 UF fee schedule will be at City Council on May 22nd. The commission reviewed and approved a letter in support of the proposed fee schedule.

Policy Committee Update – Daniel Newberry, Policy Committee Chair

- Design Overlay Zone Amendment (DOZA) is a BPS project which updates the tools and processes for design review in the city.
- The policy committee is concerned that urban forestry issues have not been considered by the project so far. The committee has drafted a response detailing numerous concerns related to DOZA's current draft.
- BPS staff have agreed to brief the UFC at the July meeting.
- Damon: Motion to empower the UFC Policy Committee to draft and submit a letter to BPS detailing concerns with the DOZA project.
 - Barbara seconded the motion.
 - Yay: Barbara Hollenbeck, Anjeanette Brown, Gregg Everhart, Vivek Shandas, Brian French, Megan Van de Mark, Lorena Nascimento, Daniel Newberry, Damon Schrosk, Thuy Tu
 - Nay: None

Historic Resource Code Project – Brandon Spenceter-Hartle, BPS

- The project will make changes to how the City of Portland identifies, designates and protects historic resources. It addresses three primary objectives:
 - Work with the community to identify potentially historically significant sites.
 - Revising how the designation process works.
 - Reviewing and revising the protection program for designated resources.
- Six trees were designed as historic resources prior to the creation of the Heritage Tree program. All of those trees have since been designated as Heritage Trees. This project proposes changes to make those trees subject to Title 11 Heritage Tree protections rather than Title 33
- The commission raised several concerns about the possibility of tree removal resulting from efforts to preserve historic resources, such as moving historic buildings to a different lot.
- Brandon pointed to future projects which will begin to address tree species requirements within existing historic districts.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15am.