



URBAN FORESTRY COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

August 15, 2019

City Hall, Lovejoy Room

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

Commission Members absent: Brian French

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

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

PP&R Director Adena Long Introduction

- Director Long introduced herself to the Commission
 - Joins PP&R from the New York City Department of Parks & Recreation. Most recently served as the Deputy Director
 - Expressed that PP&R has been asked to do more with fewer resources for several years
 - Budget issues have been her primary focus since joining the bureau. Director Long expressed confidence that the Alternative Funding Task Force will develop potential solutions to PP&R's long-term challenges. The work group's findings will be presented to City Council on November 19, 2019.
- The Commission asked additional questions and provided comments to Director Long.
 - Access to Powell Butte and other Park properties can be difficult. Improving public transportation and other options should be addressed.
 - Urged PP&R to pursue grant funding or other resources to update the Urban Forest Management Plan
 - There is widespread concern at the number of trees being lost due to increased development in Portland. Director Long expressed surprise at how few trees developers are required to preserve in Portland, and the level of mitigation.

Approve Meeting Minutes

- Daniel: motion to approve the July minutes.
 - Damon: Seconded the motion
- Yay: Vivek Shandas, Barbara Hollenbeck, Anjeanette Brown, Lorena Nascimento, Bruce Nelson, Daniel Newberry, Damon Schrosk, Thuy Tu, Megan Van de Mark
- Nay: None
- Abstain: Gregg

Urban Forestry Commission

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Forestry Report – Jenn Cairo, City Forester

- Introduce Mason Wordell as a new Tree Tech with Urban Forestry. Mason previously worked with Urban Forestry as an Americorps member.
- Urban Forestry is currently planting a tree planting project at East Holladay Park.
- PBOT’s Streets 2035 project is underway and Jenn Cairo is representing Urban Forestry. The project is examining space for street trees in the right-of-way among other infrastructure needs.
- Mayor Wheeler has asked City bureaus to submit action items and policy changes to be included in potential climate emergency declaration. Urban Forestry is preparing items to be included.

Public Hearing - Heritage Tree Removal Request – 2607 NE Wasco

- UF staff and the Heritage Tree Committee asked the UFC to approve the removal of Heritage Tree #308, a Sycamore maple.
- The tree is in decline and removal is recommended. As a public Heritage Tree, Urban Forestry staff will conduct the removal.
- Gregg: motion to approve the removal of Heritage Tree #308.
 - Anjeanette: Seconded the motion
 - Yay: Vivek Shandas, Barbara Hollenbeck, Anjeanette Brown, Gregg Everhart, Lorena Nascimento, Bruce Nelson, Daniel Newberry, Damon Schrosk, Thuy Tu, Megan Van de Mark
 - Nay: None

Public Hearing - Heritage Tree Removal Appeal – 9107 N. Richmond

- The property owner at 9107 N. Richmond submitted a tree removal/replant permit to Urban Forestry to remove Heritage Tree #71. The tree is an Oregon white oak situated in the backyard of the property.
 - Urban Forestry declined the permit because it did not meet necessary criteria to warrant removal noting that the tree is healthy and does not appear to be dangerous.
- The property owner expressed concern that the tree would fail and cause damage to their or their neighbor’s house. A private arborist report commissioned by the appellant found the tree to have a moderate risk rating.
- Bruce Nelson informed the Commission that he visited the property and discussed the tree with the owner.
- In the course of the discussion, the Commission noted the lack of guidance provided in City Code on how to decide a Heritage Tree appeal.
- Damon: Motion to support the City Forester’s decision to deny the tree removal permit.
 - Gregg: Seconded the motion.
 - Yay: Chair Vivek Shandas, Vice Chair Barbara Hollenbeck, Gregg Everhart, Lorena Nascimento, Daniel Newberry, Damon Schrosk, Thuy Tu
 - Nay: None
 - Abstain, Bruce Nelson, Anjeanette Brown, and Megan Van de Mark.