



**URBAN FORESTRY COMMISSION**

Meeting Minutes

November 21, 2019

City Hall, Lovejoy Room

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

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**Public Comments**

- Doug Klotz provided a public comment regarding PBOT’s Streets 2035 project. He expressed interest in information on the progress of the effort and advocated for additional space for street trees in the right-of-way.
- Mr. Klotz emphasized the potential the project has to increase the City’s street tree canopy.

**Approve Meeting Minutes**

- Gregg: Motion to approve the August 2019 and October 2019 meeting minutes.
- Megan: Seconded the motion
- Yay: Vivek Shandas, Barbara Hollenbeck, Brian French, Gregg Everhart, Bruce Nelson, Daniel Newberry, Thuy Tu, Megan Van de Mark, Damon Schrosk, Lorena Nascimento
- Nay: None

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

- The Commission will receive an update on the Streets 2035 project from Matt Berkow, the PBOT project manager, in early 2020.
- The first half of the December UFC meeting will be the annual appreciation breakfast at the Heathman Hotel. Additional information will be provided over email. The business portion of the meeting will be held at City Hall following the breakfast.
- Dawn Morris has joined Urban Forestry as a new Tree Tech.
- The PP&R Sustainable Future Council Work Session will be held November 26<sup>th</sup>. The session will be devoted to discussing the bureau’s long-term funding options and potential levels of service. Street tree maintenance will be an aspect of this conversation.
- Urban Forestry’s updated Approved Street Tree Planting List is final and available online.

**Urban Forestry Commission**

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- Nik Desai, Botanic Specialist II; and Angie DiSalvo, Outreach & Science Manager, led the effort which involved increased outreach and a focus on the impact climate change will have on the City's street tree population.
- City Council will discuss the Title 11 amendments proposed by the Planning and Sustainability Commission and the UFC on December 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Street Tree Maintenance Report Draft** – Ian Scott and Ruth Williams, Davey Resource Group

- Ian and Ruth presented the initial draft of Davey's report on the design and cost of a city-wide street tree maintenance program managed by Urban Forestry.
- The proposed change would shift responsibility for pruning, removing, and replanting street trees from the adjacent property owner to the City.
- Davey presented background information, equity considerations, proposed program structure, and cost estimates among other details.
- The Commission provided feedback on the report primarily on the following issues:
  - Emphasized the need to maintain community involvement and ownership of street trees if maintenance responsibility shifts to the City.
  - Interest in the potential of a lower cost pilot project to demonstrate the benefits of the program and ensure it meets community needs.
  - Clarification that property owners would still be allowed to hire a private arborist to prune street trees adjacent to their property with a permit.
  - The City will need to conduct extensive outreach and education if this program is instituted.
  - Community stakeholders should have a strong voice in shaping the design of the street tree maintenance program to ensure it meets the specific needs of individual communities in Portland.
- The feedback from the Commission will be incorporated into the next draft of the report. A final draft is expected by March 2020.

**UFC Statement on Title 11 Amendments** – Daniel Newberry, Policy Committee Chair

- The Commission discussed the Policy Committee's proposed statement to City Council in support of certain amendments to Title 11.
- Jenn Cairo expressed that the primary obstacle to pursuing these amendments and others has been and continues to be Urban Forestry's staff capacity. The Planning and Sustainability Commissions' recommendation included a request that City Council provide necessary staff resources to undertake Title 11 amendments.
- The UFC statement will address extending the large tree amendment sunset date at least two years, removing the tree preservation exemptions for industrial and commercial zones, and reducing the size threshold for increased preservation and mitigation requirements from 36" DBH to 20" DBH.
- Vivek: Motion to approve the substance of the proposed letter with minor changes as necessary and authorize Daniel to provide oral testimony at the City Council hearing.
  - Megan: Seconded the motion
  - Yay: Vivek Shandas, Barbara Hollenbeck, Brian French, Gregg Everhart, Bruce Nelson, Daniel Newberry, Thuy Tu, Megan Van de Mark, Damon Schrosk, Lorena Nascimento
  - Nay: None