



**URBAN FORESTRY COMMISSION**

Meeting Minutes

January 16, 2020

City Hall, Lovejoy Room

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

**Commission Members absent:** Lorena Nascimento

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

**City staff present:** Tony Garcia, City Attorney; Tate White, Senior PP&R Planner

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**Public Comments**

- Leslie Hutchinson, Downtown Neighborhood Association, provided public comment regarding the South Park Blocks Master Plan.
- The DNA believes it is imperative to identify and protect characterizes of the South Park Blocks which support its National Historic Registry designation. These characteristics include maintain open space and preferring deciduous instead of evergreen trees. Also promotes maintaining the current design of the tree placement.

**South Park Blocks Master Plan** – Laurie Matthews, MIG Consultants; Morgan Holen, Consulting Arborist.

- The Commission was briefed on the following components of the project:
  - Community & Stakeholder Engagement
  - Design Objectives
  - Site Analysis Overview
  - Review of Three Design Concepts
  - Inventory of existing trees including recommended removals due to poor health and new plantings
- Morgan Holen provided the following results of the tree analysis
  - 52% (199) of the trees are American elm
  - Some young trees are struggling due to shade intolerance
  - More than 90% of the trees are in fair or good condition
  - Preliminary tree recommendations:
    - 285 (75%) categorized as retain
    - 29 (8%) categorized as remove
    - 68 (17%) categorized as optional
  - Recommendations for tree succession plan:

**Urban Forestry Commission**

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- Fewer trees overall to improve growing space
  - Prune existing trees to improve growing space
  - Incorporate new species that are more tolerant of shade in dense areas
- The Commission provided the following feedback on the project:
  - There is concern about the effect climate change will have on existing trees and which species will be viable in the future. Elm trees planted today likely won't reach the same size as those planted in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.
  - In planning for tree succession, an emphasis should be placed on large form trees.
  - Prioritize maintain the alley of elms for as long as possible. This is a signature feature of the South Park Blocks.
  - Transitioning the South Park Blocks from an aged forest to a mixed age forest is a priority and it will take time.

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

- The Commission took a moment to acknowledge and mourn the passing of Commissioner Fish in early January.
- Mayor Wheeler is now the elected-in-charge of Parks & Recreation
- Thuy Tu's first term on the Commission expires at the end of February. She has opted to not renew for a second term. Jenn expressed her and the Commission's appreciation for her time and service in support of the city's urban forest.
- City Council passed a resolution directing BDS, BPS, and PP&R to begin a review of two proposed changes to Title 11 and return with recommendations in early July.
  - Remove the exemptions from the Tree Preservation Standards (11.50.040) and On-Site Tree Density (11.50.050) Standards for private trees in development situations for four zoning designations – IH, IG1, CX and EX; and
  - Reduce the Tree Preservation size threshold that triggers an inch-for-inch mitigation fee for private trees in development, in all zones (11.50.040, Tree Preservation Standards), from 36 inches DBH to 20 inches DBH.
- The resolution also directed PP&R to review additional changes to Title 11 and return with a broad scope of work by the end of 2020.
- Finally, the resolution directed bureaus to request necessary funding to the complete the work described in the resolution in the Spring BMP
- New UFC member recruitment will begin in February. The Office of Community & Civic Life has developed a revised process for all city commission recruitments.

#### **PP&R Budget Advisory Committee Update– Megan Van de Mark, Liaison to Parks Budget Advisory Committee**

- The BAC has met three times to review and provide feedback on the PP&R requested budget for FY21
- While this is not a cut year, PP&R expenses are growing faster than revenue and general fund allocation, effectively meaning additional reduction costs and services are necessary.
- Only \$100,000 of new ongoing funding is available for the entire city budget.
- Approximately \$10 million in one-time funding is available. City policy requires half of available one-time funds be committed to capital maintenance.
- Parks is requesting one FTE to staff the Sustainable Future project for two years.

#### **Heritage Trees – Gregg Everhart, Heritage Tree Committee Chair**

- Gregg presented the Commission with the following trees which the Heritage Tree Committee is submitting to the UFC as potential nominees:
  - *Abies pinsapo*, Spanish fir, privately owned tree at 9008 N. Charleston Ave.
  - *Platanus x acerifolia*, London plane, privately owned tree at 23 NE Morgan St.

*Audio recordings of Urban Forestry Commission meetings are available upon request.*

- *Tilia tomentosa*, Silver linden, publicly owned tree in Peninsula Park at 700 N. Rosa Parks Way
- *Cedrus deodara*, Deodar cedar, privately owned tree at 6006 N. Mississippi Ave.
- *Ulmus americana*, American elm, publicly owned tree at Overlook Park at 1599 N. Fremont St.
- *Quercus hypoleuroides*, Silverleaf oak, publicly owned tree at 2627 NE 11<sup>th</sup> Ave.
- *Quercus hypoleuroides*, Silverleaf oak, publicly owned tree at 2627 NE 11<sup>th</sup> Ave.
- *Fagus sylvatica*, European beech, privately owned tree at 3310 NE 36<sup>th</sup> Ave.
- *Fagus sylvatica*, European beech, publicly owned tree at 810 SE 86<sup>th</sup> Ave.
- *Ginkgo biloba*, Ginkgo, publicly owned tree at Leach Botanical Garden at 6704 SE 122<sup>nd</sup> Ave.
- *Crataegus lavalleyi*, Lavalley hawthorn, publicly owned tree at Leach Botanical Garden at 6704 SE 122<sup>nd</sup> Ave.
- *Stewartia monodelpha*, Orangebark Stewartia, publicly owned tree at Leach Botanical Garden at 6704 SE 122<sup>nd</sup> Ave.
- *Eucalyptus perriniana*, Spinning gum, publicly owned tree at 3415 SW Water Ave.
- The following tree is recommended for delisting because it has been approved for removal:
  - *Acer pseudoplatanus*, Sycamore maple, publicly owned tree at 2607 NE Wasco St., designated in 2011, #308
- Damon made a motion to recommend the proposed Heritage Tree listings and delisting to City Council
  - Brian F. seconded the motion.
  - Yay: Vivek Shandas, Barbara Hollenbeck, Anjeanette Brown, Brian French, Gregg Everhart, Bruce Nelson, Daniel Newberry, Thuy Tu, Megan Van de Mark, Damon Schrosk
  - Nay: None
- Gregg will present the Heritage Tree nominations to City Council on March 25.