



URBAN FORESTRY COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes
February 16, 2020
City Hall, Lovejoy Room

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

Commission Members absent: Lorena Nascimento, Thuy Tu

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

City staff present: Tony Garcia, City Attorney; Matt Berkow, PBOT

Public Comments

- Doug Klotz provided comment on a proposed lot-division and residential development at 232 NE 65th Ave. Several large trees are present on the site. As a result of the lot division, one of the lots will be under 5,000 square feet and thus exempt from Title 11 tree preservation requirements.
- Ted Labbe provided comment on the joint BES-PP&R effort to consolidate the City’s tree planting programs in a single bureau. Mr. Labbe expressed concern that there has not been any communication on a process for external stakeholder involvement.
 - Jenn Cairo, City Forester, noted that PP&R Director Adena Long had been scheduled to attend this meeting but had to reschedule. She will attend a UFC meeting in the near future.

Meeting Minutes

- Gregg made a motion to approve the December 2019 and January 2020 minutes.
 - Yay: Vivek Shandas, Barbara Hollenbeck, Anjeanette Brown, Brian French, Gregg Everhart, Bruce Nelson, Daniel Newberry, Megan Van de Mark, Damon Schrosk
 - Nay: None

Forestry Report – Jenn Cairo, City Forester

- Thuy Tu’s first term on the Commission ends at the end of February 2020 and she has opted not to renew for a second term. She could not attend today due to work commitments. Jenn expressed appreciation for her service over the last few years. The recruitment to fill the vacant seat will be posted on the Office of Community and Civic Life’s website.
- PP&R Director Adena Long had planned to attend today’s meeting but needed to reschedule. She is expected to attend the March meeting.
- Jenn presented Urban Forestry’s [Tree Planting Performance Report](#) to the Commission. The report includes trees planted by Urban Forestry’s Operations Crew, volunteer plantings through

Urban Forestry Commission

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the Learning Landscapes program, and trees planted through the Yard Tree Giveaway program. Highlights from the Yard Tree Giveaway include:

- 1,060 trees given away over two years
- 69% of those trees were confirmed planted by the recipient. This is consistent with similar programs in peer cities
- Second year survival rate of the trees confirmed planted is 97%
- The City of Portland's Urban Forestry program was recently awarded two accreditations:
 - Tree City USA status by the Arbor Day Foundation. This is the 43rd year in a row Portland has received this designation.
 - Society of Municipal Arborist Accreditation. This program formally recognizes urban and community forestry programs for implementing excellent and comprehensive management practices. Only seventeen cities in the United States have received the accreditation.
- The fiscal year [2019 Title 11 Fund Report](#) will go to City Council in March as required by City Code. The report details the revenue and expenses associated with the two funds established by Title 11: the Tree Planting and Preservation Fund and the Urban Forestry Fund.
- The Title 11 amendment project managed by the Bureau of Development Services in partnership with PP&R and the Bureau of Planning and Sustainability is continuing to move forward. Code amendment recommendations are planned to be brought to City Council by July 8th. Urban Forestry will be requesting a new position to support this and ongoing work in the Spring BMP.

UFC Priorities Discussion – Vivek Shandas, UFC Chair

- Vivek led a brief conversation around the Commission's priorities for 2020. The following issues were brought up:
 - Recruitment of new members
 - Less time reviewing/discussing other bureau's plans/policies and more time on the Urban Forestry program
 - Updates to Title 11
 - Uses of the Tree Planting and Preservation Fund
- Additional time will be spent on this issue at future UFC meetings

South Reach River Plan – Daniel Newberry, UFC Policy Committee Chair

- Daniel asked for the UFC to approve a statement on the [South Reach River Plan](#) to be submitted to the Planning and Sustainability Commission
 - Daniel: Motion to approve submitting a statement that is substantially similar to the PSC.
 - Barbara: Seconded the motion
 - Yay: Vivek Shandas, Barbara Hollenbeck, Anjeanette Brown, Brian French, Gregg Everhart, Bruce Nelson, Daniel Newberry, Megan Van de Mark, Damon Schrosk
 - Nay: none
- The Commission also agreed to allow a member of the Policy Committee to present the comments to the PSC in person.

Streets 2035 Update – Matt Berkow, PBOT

- Matt provided an update on PBOT's Streets 2035 project which aims to create a toolkit of policy solutions to accommodate the various infrastructure needs in City rights-of-way.
- The project has completed an inventory right-of-way uses, including street trees.
- The next phase of the project will focus on recommendations and the final phase on implementation of the solutions.
- The Commission provided the following comments and feedback:

- The Water Bureau is preventing trees to be planted in medians on many large arterial streets. The benefit the trees will provide over their lifetime far exceeds the additional cost to maintain water lines under the street.
- What is PBOT's equity plan for this project?
 - Yes, PBOT is developing performance metrics to ensure equity is a leading consideration in the project.
- Does the project assess vertical space needs in addition to the horizontal limitations in the right-of-way?
- PBOT should take over responsibility for sidewalk maintenance.
- Consider ways to reduce the amount of paving in the right-of-way.
- Extending the planting strip into the street parking zone should be considered to allow greater space for street trees.