Urban Forestry Management Plan
Urban Forestry Subcommittee Work Session
Meeting Summary
November 19, 2012 (4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.)

Subcommittee Members Present:	Glenna Borg Greg Bettis Jim Buck Mike Heilman, Chair Keith Warren
Council Liaison:	None
Staff Present:	Tina Osterink (Staff Liaison)
Guests:	Sue Ruonala and Carol Rulla

1. Introduction and Roll Call
The Urban Forestry Subcommittee (UFS) work session was called to order at 4:38 pm, by Chair Heilman.

2. Minutes
Glenna Borg moved to approve the minutes from October 15, 2012 as presented, Jim Buck seconded the motion. The motion was approved, 5–0.

3. Powell Valley Neighborhood Association – Tree Code Public Comment
Sue Ruonala from the PVNA commented that allowing Topping to occur in Gresham is an issue. She specifically commented on how 12 trees at the Eco Carwash appeared to be topped. This prompted a discussion about changing the term topping defined in the Development Code. One person noted that the current definition of "topping" uses subjective terms like "severe". Another UFS member suggested adding in a reference to "central dominant stem".

Several members discussed how tree topping seems to be the most common tree code violation and the Tree Code project should address this. One member said the current topping definition reference to cutting back to 3-inch diameter is problematic with slow growing trees. There was discussion about how a revised tree list should include topping standards. Another person noted the need to clarify topping and private trees with respect to the three and six tree removal rule annually.

Sue and the UFS also discussed the issue of retroactive permit granted for street tree removal.

4. Staff Update
- Tree Code Project work plan will be revised in early 2013.

- There was discussion about planting Hogan Cedars at Hogan Cedars Elementary school next spring to celebrate Tree City USA and Arbor Day.
- Tina will look into a mechanism for communication with the UFS and large scale tree-related projects at the City similar to Main City Park's Springwater spur trail.
- Tina distributed the City's revised Fraud Policy and needs all UFS signatures.
- The group exchanged their volunteer time hours with Tina.

5. Debrief

- Significant Tree Hearing and Process
  - The UFS re-evaluated the Northern Red Oak (Tree F) and provided the following findings:
    - (A1) It's 80 plus years old
    - (A2) Exceptional beauty in the form of symmetry in branching pattern, not crowded by other trees, unusual architecture
    - (A3) keep as worded
    - (A4) Keep as worded
    - (C) There is no interference

    The UFS voted 5-0 to move this tree forward. The next step is for Tina to amend the staff report.

    The UFS also recommended changing the regulatory nature of the Significant Tree process to be more celebratory; siting that this process is expensive, overly cumbersome, which leads to people criticizing the program.

    Some suggested a different standard for public and private significant trees such as holding a hearing only for public trees. Others suggested the UFS be the hearing body and appeal process to either the NRSC or Council. The UFS agreed to keep the rules yet change the hearing process.

- Hogan Cedar Official City Tree Proposal on Dec. 18
  - The UFS suggested inviting Councilor Craddick and Lee Dayfield.

6. New Business

- UFS members asked to be updated on the Metro Ambleside cutting in December.
- UFS members asked to be alerted of Friends of Trees plantings in Gresham.
- One member mentioned that PGE tree trimming along the Springwater is better.
- Another member asked for an update on the regional urban forestry next steps.
- One member expressed concern for the City's current tree topping standard.

7. Adjourn

Chair Heilman adjourned the meeting at 6:35 p.m.