

**Urban Forestry Subcommittee Work Session
Online Zoom Meeting Summary**

June 22, 2020

Subcommittee Members Present:	Jim Buck, Chair Keith Warren, Vice-Chair Carol Zyvatkauskas (Caz) Jay Adams Phil Wich Steve Stevens
Staff Present:	Tina Osterink Katherine Kelly
Councilor's Present:	Councilor Morales
Guests Present:	Sue Ruonala (Planning Com. Liaison) Frank Hughes

1. Chair Call to Order

After some technical difficulties, Chair Buck called the meeting to order at 4:49. He provided an update on the trees planted on Gresham Butte and we all discussed the City Council Advisory Committee reapplication process that currently requires Chair Buck and Phil Wich to reapply since their terms have expired. Chair Buck took feedback on his reapplication from the group and will decide after the meeting if he plans to reapply. Phil Wich decided not to reapply and will stay on as a Planning Commissioner.

2. UFS 2020 Work Plan

The UFS reviewed the 2020-21 Work Plan document for the next year. One question related to the Tree Code Update schedule and Katherine explained staff is working internally to identify the policy issues. Chair Buck requested more information on the Environmental Overlay Project (EOP) and how it is integrated with the Tree Code update and Katherine said she will provide more details at either the July or August UFS meeting. She anticipates Sept. 2020 that work on the EOP to get going and public input for the Tree Code Update to begin late 2020.

There was consensus from the UFS to fold in the Significant Tree Program into the 2020-21 Work Plan, especially with any significant tree/grove code provisions that could be addressed as part of the Tree Code Update project. There was also interest in ramping up the education and outreach efforts around Significant Trees with several UFS members eager to participate. Tina suggested we revisit the online Story Map tool and Tree Code update with the following ideas shared to integrate into a Significant Tree web tool:

- Effects of climate change
- Natives
- Public appreciation/ nomination process
- Tree groves
- Hogan cedars

There was some discussion about interpretive signage needed for the Ambleside Hogan Cedars. Phil Wich shared his ideas that Tina can follow-up on regarding holes in the Tree Code and current Planner on Duty practices.

We discussed Tree Canopy Targets and Tina explained we have not yet received the 2019 LiDAR data from Metro and Sue asked staff to double check if we ever received 2014 LiDAR data.

3. Urban Forestry Funding and Tracking

The UFS reviewed the excel document staff prepared where it identified three sources of funding for the current and next Fiscal Year as: 1) Tree Fund 2) UDP allocation for consultant arborist and 3) Grants. FY 19-20 allocated \$10,000 for the consultant arborist and it's not certain if that will be carried over to FY-20-21.

Chair Buck asked if \$10,000 was enough to fully address the scope of the municipal urban forestry arborist needs. Katherine shared using a consulting arborist would only be as issues arise in development cases not for all development review and we should focus on using the Tree Code as a proactive tool by getting the provisions updated.

Tina explained that staff is exploring a feedback loop between the UFS, staff and Neighborhood Association Land Use Chair to handle developments that have tree removal beyond that in the conditions of approval and to communicate any modified conditions post approval process.

UFS members recommended adding Bee City USA to both the work plan and funding documents. Tina to follow-up with our Office of Governance and Management staff on the resources set aside for the Bee City USA program.

4. New Business

The UFS discussed ways increase diversity on the UFS with ideas such as mentor activities that occur with nonprofits like Friends of Nadaka and Play Grown Learn. Tina indicated the city can play a role in connecting UFS members and activities with the many cultural community-based organizations that provide services in Gresham. Another idea is integrating our Youth Advisory Committee into the work we do. One member stressed the importance of seniority in the committee if the city moves forward with a new structure and process.

5. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 6:27 p.m.