

URBAN FORESTRY SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES

Date:	1-23-2023
Time:	4:30 – 5:30 pm
Place:	Virtual Zoom Meeting
Attending:	UFS: Vice Chair Jim Buck, Steve Stevens, Keith Warren Staff: John Heili, Ashley Miller, Michael Gonzales, Joe Walsh, Eric Schmidt Council: None PC liaison: Sue Ruonala Guests: Janet Unruh
Absent	Council President Morales, Councilor Dina DiNucci, PC Liaison Phil Wich

1. Agenda Item #1 Urban Forestry Program Transition Update	
Discussion:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assistant City Manager Eric Schmidt acknowledged UFS members frustrations with City’s shortfalls related to progressing the UFMP and expressed City’s appreciation of the UFS members’ service. He apologized to UFS members for not better addressing UFS concerns or providing greater clarity of purpose and responsibility. Mr. Schmidt indicated a high turnover of staff contributed to a loss of institutional knowledge and the city needed time to “clean up the house.” • He also responded to UFS concerns including; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ the appointment of new UFS staff liaison from UDP that might result in funding shortfalls for staff time on tree-related issues and negatively impact the programs/initiatives undertaken by UFS, and ○ the delays in the tree code, and ○ the City’s response to the Labbe testimony. • Eric asked the UFS to pause these regular meetings and their work on new initiatives for the next 2-3 months. • Tina Osterink was asked by city management not to come and provide information on the CAPA mapping tool at this meeting since Mr. Schmidt wanted this meeting agenda to be a single topic. • UFS members expressed a desire to be included in the City’s work and see this as an opportunity to continue to function over that time period. Eric envisions that there will be opportunities to involve the UFS in this process but needs to think about how this will occur. • When asked about a timeframe for completion of the tree code update, Mr. Schmidt could not provide any definitive timeframe but referenced again the city’s limited resources in his response. • Michael Gonzales explained how this pause would also benefit from the work that is going on concurrently with the CCAC’s project. The Coordinating Committee is also in the process of being reformed. • Jim Buck expressed concerns with this pause creating more missed opportunities especially as related to available grant funding and recruitment of new UFS members.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Schmidt in response to a question by Mr. Buck said the city would explore how to keep UFS "in the loop" as it continued its discussions on restructuring CCACs and how to address UFS priorities.
Decisions:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> See action items.
Action:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> City Staff will be working on the restructuring of these CCAC committees, determining what elements of the UFMP fall to UDP and which may be better managed by other departments and prioritizing the work plan for the UFS including the tree code and staffing of that work plan. UFS will provide a list of current projects that would be impacted by a pause in activity and the City will look into status of grant funding opportunities that should not be overlooked. UFS members indicated they will likely continue to meet and will keep staff apprised of any meetings. UFS will continue with planting activities that are underway.

Next Meeting:	TBD
Adjournment:	5:30 pm