

URBAN FORESTRY SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES

Date:	2-13-2023
Time:	4:30 – 6:30 pm
Place:	Virtual Zoom Meeting
Attending:	UFS: Vice Chair Jim Buck, Steve Stevens, Keith Warren Staff: John Heili, Tina Núñez-Osterink Council: Councilor Morales PC liaison: Sue Ruonala, Phil Wich Guests: Janet Unruh, John Bildsoe
Absent	Councilor Dina DiNucci,

1. Agenda Item #1 Meeting Minutes for Dec 2022 and Jan 2023	
Discussion:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Committee members requested the minutes be updated to include items from Chair Buck’s email to staff dated 2/13/2023 and to correct spelling errors and guest list omissions.
Decisions:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> See action items.
Action:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff will make the requested changes and resend to UFS members for approval.

2. Agenda Item #2 CAPA Tree Canopy Tool Update	
Discussion:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tina Núñez-Osterink presented the on-line tool, noted the link to the tool is on the Neighborhood Tree Plan (NTP) web page, and demonstrated how it would be used to analyze tree canopy coverage at a city, neighborhood, and address-specific level. UFS questioned when the canopy and temperature data is updated and how the tool is going to be managed. Tina will follow up with GIS and CAPA. Tina indicated next steps include an introduction of the tool to the PC and UDP staff and suggested this is a tool for UFS members to use in their presentations to the Neighborhood Associations (NA) for the Neighborhood Tree Plan (NTP) initiative. UFS members questioned what City financial resources were available to NA wanting to plant trees. Tina indicated that this is an area that needs to be addressed by the City as no funding is currently available and suggested a City partnership with the Friends of Trees (FOT) might require a \$20K investment. She indicated there may also be funding source through climate-related government grants becoming available in 3-4 months. UFS members expressed concern with moving the NTP forward without a funding resource.
Decisions:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> See action items.

Action:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tina will follow up with the City’s GIS department, and CAPA if necessary, regarding the updating and maintenance of new LiDAR data for tree canopy coverage and report back on this process and for getting this tool presentation to PC. • Steve S. can present to the Canopy Tool to RWNA in March. Jim B. will send out link to Coalition and Tina can present to quarterly meeting at Migration with FOT. • Staff will initiate discussions with City management and FOT to explore funding and partnership agreements, and grants, to assist NA with their tree planting events. • Staff will look into permit process and resources for NA tree planting events.
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3. Agenda Item #3 Neighborhood Coalition follow-up with City Council on Tree Code Update Advocacy

Discussion:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chair Buck provided a summary and update on his testimony to City Council regarding tree code update and the lack of trees being planted in the new subdivisions throughout the City. Members asked about City’s plans to establish a city-wide canopy cover target. Staff responded that code currently addresses landscape coverage and tree planting requirements but not under a lens of canopy coverage. This would be an item for future discussions related to the tree code and UFMP-related initiatives. • Related to that discussion, Chair Buck has exchanged emails with Torrey Lindbo, DES, regarding the species of trees approved for planting in the stormwater planters. Keith Warren expressed similar concerns. • Staff suggested Torrey attend a meeting in the future to discuss the approved trees for the stormwater planters and some recent development where street trees do not appear to be being planted. • Chair Buck asked if the City would provide a formal response to the testimony to City Council from Ted Labbe. Councilor Morales will follow up on this.
Decisions:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See action items.
Action:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff will contact Torrey Lindbo to request his attendance at future UFS meeting. • Councilor Morales will pursue a formal response from City Council to Ted Labbe’s testimony.

4. Agenda Item #4 Gaining information on the health/restoration of city green spaces

Discussion:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chair Buck provided a summary and update on his inquiry into what the City is doing to document the condition of the City’s green spaces and reporting to Council. He expressed concerns the City’s abilities to deal with these is limited and suggested UFS might help if they knew what was the status of these areas. He is also following up with Metro on this topic. • Staff explained that Kathy Majidi, DES Natural Resources Program Manager, provided a response to this inquiry that addressed the DES role for maintenance and required reporting to the State for the areas of Natural Resource Overlay (NRO), but noted this does not include Parks Open Spaces. That department has lacked the funding for ongoing assessment and maintenance.
Decisions:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A.

Action:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff will continue to monitor any developments for future UFS updates.
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5. Agenda Item #5 UFS member recruitment	
Discussion:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chair Buck reiterated his email request to begin the recruitment of Thea Hayes. Councilor Morales also has some contacts that he feels could be a good fit for the UFS and will share those with Chair Buck. Staff suggested the UFS hold off on actively recruiting for the committee considering the ongoing initiative focused on improving the CCAC's which is being undertaken by Michael Gonzales. Per this initiative, the CCAC recruitment is schedule to get underway in Apr. with intent to have full committees ready by June. M. Gonzales plans on joining a future UFS meeting to provide an update on the survey findings and on the next steps of the CCAC project.
Decisions:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Committee felt there was benefit in inviting persons that have an interest in joining the UFS to attend future meetings to observe the proceedings.
Action:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff will coordinate Michael Gonzales attendance at the next meeting for his update on the CCAC process and the recruitment process.

6. Agenda Item #6 Tree Code Update	
Discussion:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chair Buck asked if there are ways the UFS can assist in the process. Staff indicated the tree code project is anticipated to begin in June and will likely not be finished by the end of the year. Details about the process and schedule are being discussed at a management level and no further details are available at this time. It is unknow whether a consultant will be used on the project.
Decisions:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Committee felt there was benefit in investigating model codes and identifying issues with the current code and compiling information in preparation for providing their input in the process.
Action:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff will provide updates on the planning efforts as these become available. UFS members will look into model codes and create list of issues that should be addressed with this code update.

7. Agenda Item #7 Arbor Month planning	
Discussion:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tina indicated the Arbor Month proclamation has been provided to the Mayor for his signature and reading at the April 4th Council meeting. Arbor month tree planting events are tentatively scheduled as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> April 12th-Rockwood Central Park planting event to be coordinated with schools. April 22nd-Lilac Run 5-yr anniversary planting event. TBD-Hogan Butte planting and commemorative event for G. Bettis tree.
Decisions:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> See action items.
Action:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff will provide updates on the planning of these events.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UFS will determine a date/time for the Hogan Butte event.
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8. Agenda Item #8 Community Observations & Other UFS Business	
Discussion:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CAO code interpretation. Chair Buck summarized his phone call with City Attorney Kevin McConnell. It was confirmed the UFS has the responsibility to set the agenda and can call a meeting without staff liaison upon notice to the City Council or Coordinating Committee. The UFS meetings and actions shall not incur cost to the City. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Staff indicated that special arrangements would need to be made if holding a UFS meeting without staff liaison to provide public access to the meeting. • Greg Bettis tree planting occurred on Hogan Butte. • Migration Brewing meeting follow-up. Chair Buck is meeting with this North Gresham group on an ongoing basis and will present the Tree Canopy Tool at an upcoming meeting. • Other Neighborhood Association follow-up communications. Steve Stevens meets wit the RWNA in March. • Chair Buck asked if Janet would entertain posting tree-related documents on her web site. She agreed to this.
Decisions:	N/A
Action:	N/A
Next Meeting:	March 20, 2023
Adjournment:	6:30 pm