

URBAN FORESTRY SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES

Date:	4-24-2023
Time:	4:30 – 6:27 pm
Place:	Virtual Zoom Meeting
Attending:	UFS: Vice Chair Jim Buck, Steve Stevens, Keith Warren Staff: John Heili, Torrey Lindbo, Karen Bromley, Tina Núñez-Osterink, Shannon Martin, John Dea Guests: Janet Unruh, Steve Scannell GBSD
Absent	Councilor Dina DiNucci, Councilor Morales, PC: Phil Wich

1. Agenda Item #1 - Meeting Minutes for Mar. 2023	
Discussion:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None.
Decisions:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approved.
Action:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approved minutes will be posted on the UFS website by staff.

2. Agenda Item #2 - Significant Trees Delist Requests	
Discussion:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UFS Members discussed the request to delist one tree at 2054 SE Palmblad Rd. that is one of nine trees of a significant grove in consideration of the owner’s request to delist the tree per GCD 9.1053(D)(7)(a) due to evidence provided that indicates the tree is dying. The significant tree listing request is held over to the May meeting of the UFS.
Decisions:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> See action items. The UFS members voted unanimously to delist the one tree at 2054 SE Palmblad Rd.
Action:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff will notify the Planner who is processing the tree removal permit that the tree has been delisted and create a record of this decision for the Significant Tree files.

3. Agenda Item #3 – Stormwater Tree List	
Discussion:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Torrey and Karen will take UFS’s recommendations on edits to the stormwater planting list under consideration and make necessary revisions to the City’s Approved Plantings list. Torrey explained that the stormwater planters at the Homestead subdivision (Brookside south of Butler) are an example of too much rock allowed in the planters such that trees could not be accommodated and will not be repeated in future projects. Similarly, the depth of rock at Willowbrook (Bella Vista) has caused delays in getting those street trees planted.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chair Buck suggested the City look at alternate solutions to stormwater planters to deal with stormwater without limiting the area for street trees. City staff responded that those discussions are currently ongoing across multiple departments with the goal of incorporating solutions into upcoming code revision projects. • UFS members mention they are seeing other code conditions not being met i.e. container trees being planted, wrong size trees for planter widths, dead trees. They also expressed concerns with longevity of the planter structures and sidewalks due to damage from larger canopy trees in these facilities. This is reflected in Keith’s markups. Torrey indicated DES is focused on identifying trees with deep tap roots rather than trees with horizontal spreading roots and providing structural soil for these root zones. • Chair Buck questioned why the City isn’t requiring storm water treatment ponds vs. stormwater planters to facilitate better tree growth. Torrey indicated both are tools being used in these subdivisions to deal with the level of impervious area.
Decisions:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See action items.
Action:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Torrey and Karen will update the Plantings list incorporating markups from the UFS as appropriate. • Torrey and Karen will coordinate a site visit with the members of the UFS to review stormwater planter as-built conditions at Gresham’s subdivisions. • Future meeting agenda items to discuss storm water planter details and code enforcement related to tree issues at these facilities will be scheduled.

4. Agenda Item #4 Climate Action Plan (CAP)	
Discussion:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff presented some background on the CAP initiative, presented a draft of the sections of the Plan that cover tree-related strategies, and described the Plan process moving forward. Following a public input phase, the Plan goes to Council for direction. Plan to be updated over 3-year timeframe. • UFS asked to what extent the CAP will influence building systems and energy sources. Staff indicated the goal is to incorporate that language into the Plan and work with City departments to codify the requirements. Possible incentives and trade-offs will be tools for incorporating measures into developments along with creating partnerships with the utility providers to provide incentives. • UFS asked what strategies will be recommended to increase tree canopy to achieve a 40 percent canopy goal. Staff indicated focus may be on preservation due to challenges with new development and limits on space for trees. UFS suggested City look at existing ROW where trees have been removed or missing and develop plan to corrected these with new tree plantings. • UFS suggested the Plan consider impacts on disadvantaged areas of the City related to tree maintenance. Staff indicated the Plan will be cognizant of not creating gentrification and in considering assistance programs to minimize negative impacts of the Plan. • UFS expressed concerns with upkeep of the City’s green spaces as relates to the fire danger mitigation strategy. Staff will coordinate on this topic with the City team working on the forest health initiative. Chair Buck mentioned that the buttes need to be included in this aspect of the Plan.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing partnerships with the community to address the issue is included in the Plan. GBSD was represented by Steve Scannell who offered to act as a conduit for students' engagement in the research and implementation of the Plan.
Decisions:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N/A.
Action:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CAP staff will return with updates to the UFS as appropriate. The CAP webpage is available to track progress. CAP staff will be coordinating with City staff on the Tree Code Update this year. CAP staff will coordinate with GBSD to enlist student engagement in the CAP.

5. Agenda Item #5 Tree Code Update	
Discussion:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The UFS discussed whether a special meeting is necessary to facilitate this topic. Code updates may need to address tree species diversity/variety within developments to promote a healthy urban forest and a process for tree species substitutions post development permit approval. UFS suggested this should include tree species transpiration rates. Also include preservation and mitigation strategies for trees removed with development. Code language needs to be simplified.
Decisions:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> See action item. The outcome of the May meeting discussion will inform whether a separate code-specific meeting of the UFS is necessary.
Action:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff will include tree code discussion items for the May meeting agendas. UFS members will continue to look into model codes, cull specific sections of codes for UFS consideration, and create a list of issues that they recommend be addressed with this code update.

7. Agenda Item #6 Community Observations & Other UFS Business	
Discussion:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For the May agenda, in addition to the significant tree and tree code discussions, the UFS asked for update on the City's review of green spaces and planned maintenance of green spaces and how this impacts the City's tree canopy.
Decisions:	N/A
Action:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff will coordinate with DES and Parks personnel to attend the next meeting and report on state of City's green spaces.
Next Meeting:	May 15, 2023
Adjournment:	6:27 pm