

# URBAN FORESTRY SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES

Date:	1-22-2024
Time:	4:30 – 6:30 pm
Place:	Virtual Zoom Meeting
Attending:	<b>UFS:</b> Chair Christine Johnson, Vice Chair Thea Hayes, Jim Buck, Steve Stevens, Keith Warren, Charlotte Becker <b>Staff:</b> John Heili, Jim Wheeler <b>Guests:</b> Janet Unruh, Jacquenette McIntire
Absent	Councilor Morales, Councilor DiNucci

Agenda Item #1 - Meeting Minutes for December 2023	
Discussion:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jim Buck requested the minutes be amended to indicate “Mr. Wheeler acknowledged Mr. Buck’s comment that certain responsibilities UFS has had since its beginning, such as meeting the Tree City requirements, are not within the strategic goals of the city but would be a legitimate part of our work plan.” To be added to <b>Item 4 UFS draft Work Plan</b>.</li> <li>There were no objections to this proposed amendment.</li> </ul>
Decisions:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>December meeting minutes approved unanimously with the amended item.</li> </ul>
Action:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minutes will be corrected and will be posted on the UFS website by staff.</li> </ul>

Agenda Item #2 – Significant Tree Survey Follow-up	
Discussion:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jim Buck provided updates on his efforts to contact owners of trees and tree groves being considered for delisting as follows.                     <p><b>Tree#31 Western Red Cedar and Doug Fir Groves and a Dogwood at SW Community Park.</b> Gresham Parks Dept. agreed that that none of the trees on the property are worthy of distinction at this time and can be removed from any significant tree lists due to overall poor forest health exacerbated by the impacts of climate change.</p> <p><b>Tree Grove#27 Spanish Firs at MHCC.</b> MHCC acknowledged there were dead/dying trees that would be delisted and does maintenance including mulching to preserve the remaining trees. There are no plans for re-planting.</p> <p><b>Tree#49 Magnolia.</b> The owner did not mind if this tree is delisted; however, Jim indicated the tree is a unique cultivar (liliiflora nigra) and has historic significance related to the residence.</p> </li> <li>Steve Stevens requested the list be updated to indicate the Ponderosa Pine as a Valley Ponderosa Pine which is nomenclature that identifies the unique variety warranting its Significant Tree designation.</li> </ul>
Decisions:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Tree#49 Magnolia.</b> The committee agreed this tree might remain on the list but requires pruning. This tree will be re-inspected in Spring 2024.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Tree#31 Western Red Cedar and Doug Fir Groves and a Dogwood at SW Community Park.</b> These tree groves and the Dogwood will be delisted.</li> <li>• Staff will process the Type II permit following the Spring-time re-inspections and determinations. A date has not been set for when the re-inspections will occur. The Significant Tree list will be updated once the Type II decision is final.</li> </ul>
Action:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Select re-inspections will occur in Spring 2024. TBD.</li> <li>• UFS will consider tree listing recommendations at the next UFS meeting.</li> <li>• Staff will proceed with the Type II permit for tree delisting and listing following the re-inspection.</li> <li>• Staff will update the list to correct the Ponderosa Pine designation to Valley Ponderosa Pine (Pinus Ponderosa 'Willamettensis').</li> </ul>

<b>Agenda Item #3 – UFS draft Work Plan</b>	
Discussion:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chair Johnson presented her 2024 UFS Guide to the members and solicited feedback.</li> <li>• Planning Commission liaison to the UFS is TBD.</li> <li>• UFS interactions with Friends of Trees (FOT) should be coordinated with Staff. Jim suggested regular updates from Staff regarding the City’s work with FOT would be helpful in informing how UFS might be most effective/efficient with this coordination.</li> <li>• UFS interfaces with NA regarding tree plans, land use concerns, etc. The Neighborhood Tree Plan needs a separate meeting for UFS to focus on their plan for moving this initiative forward.</li> <li>• Chair Johnson solicited feedback on members’ interest in having a calendar format for the workplan. Most members felt it was a helpful visual tool for tracking events/deadlines, but a more detailed list of items is also necessary.</li> <li>• Primary 2024 items of UFS work plan are the UFS advisory review of the strategic plan related initiatives (Tree Code and CAP). Staff provided an update of actions that are going on with the tree code and CAP while IRA funding contracts are being resolved targeted to be completed by Spring 2024. No immediate UFS tasks for these items currently.</li> <li>• UFS recommendations for tree-related web site content will be coordinated through staff liaison to take back to the Communications and IT teams for advisement and any necessary actions. These types of concerns may not warrant a work plan item.</li> </ul>
Decisions:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• N/A.</li> </ul>
Action:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chair Johnson will update the 2024 UFS Guide incorporating items from the discussion and will develop a calendar template for scheduling UFS events.</li> <li>• Staff will provide Chair Johnson with edits related to the staff names and department designations in the Guide.</li> </ul>

<b>Agenda Item #4 – Tree Canopy Resolution Proposal</b>	
Discussion:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jim Buck proposed that UFS ask that Council adopt a resolution that requires the city of Gresham to amend its development application requirements to require the landscape architect or consultant to specify what the estimated mature tree canopy percentage will be for any new residential development.</li> <li>• UFS members expressed concerns with this proposal in that it may not do much to affect the situation and would like to see more being done to require more trees and assure these are being provided but recognize that requires a longer review path and approval process.</li> <li>• Staff acknowledge that there are tree canopy issues with current subdivision developments and the goal is to address these issues with the Tree Code initiative. Staff expressed concern that this requirement for canopy data might not provide any short-term improvement in the canopy conditions and suggested staff will look at alternate measure that might be fast-tracked into the code.</li> </ul>
Decisions:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• N/A.</li> </ul>
Action:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Staff will consider other code modifications that might be expediated in advance of the Tree Code project with the goal of improving tree canopy coverage in residential developments.</li> </ul>

<b>Agenda Item #5 Community Observations &amp; Other UFS Business</b>	
Discussion:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Staff is coordinating all CCAC new member training with the City Attorney Office (CAO) likely to occur Spring 2024.</li> </ul>
Decisions:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• N/A</li> </ul>
Action:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• N/A</li> </ul>
Next Meeting:	February 26, 2024 at 4:30 PM remotely via ZOOM
Adjournment:	6:30 pm