

# URBAN FORESTRY SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES

Date:	11-20-2023
Time:	4:30 – 6:15 pm
Place:	Virtual Zoom Meeting
Attending:	<b>UFS:</b> Vice Chair Jim Buck, Steve Stevens, Keith Warren, Charlotte Becker, Thea Hayes, Christine Johnson <b>Staff:</b> John Heili, Jim Wheeler, Tina Núñez-Osterink <b>Guests:</b> Janet Unruh, Thea Hayes, Anne Nesse, Eellitta Stone
Absent	Councilor Morales, Councilor DiNucci, PC: Phil Wich

Agenda Item #1 - Meeting Minutes for October 2023	
Discussion:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No comments</li> </ul>
Decisions:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Approved.</li> </ul>
Action:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minutes will be posted on the UFS website by staff.</li> </ul>

Agenda Item #2 – UFS New Member Introductions	
Discussion:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New members Charlotte, Thea, and Christine introduced themselves and shared some of their background and interests.</li> <li>Staff reminded new members to complete the review of training materials and provide staff with the signed form acknowledging their receipt and review of these.</li> <li>Staff reminded the current members of their term limits and need to reapply when the time comes. Staff also suggested elections for new chair and vice chair for the next meeting.</li> </ul>
Decisions:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>N/A.</li> </ul>
Action:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Staff will follow up with the City Attorney to schedule new member training for Jan. 2024.</li> <li>New members will complete their individual training and submit signed form acknowledging this has occurred.</li> </ul>

Agenda Item #3 – Miyawaki Pocket Forests	
Discussion:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Guest Anne Nesse presented information and video on Miyawaki Pocket Forests and her efforts to see these installed on school campuses throughout the City. She is looking to generate interest and participation.</li> <li>UFS members provided feedback and suggestions on approach and contacts in dealing with the local school districts. They suggested East Multnomah Co. Soil and Water may have funding opportunities for initiatives like this at schools.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Staff suggested there may be opportunities to use Metro Local Share funding for undeveloped parks improvement projects. Also, Hogan Cedars Elementary could support this type of forest planting. And Springwater Trails HS site.</li> </ul>
Decisions:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>N/A</li> </ul>
Action:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Thea Hayes indicated she would be willing to assist Anne with her efforts.</li> <li>UFS will consider how this effort might be coordinated with the Work Plan.</li> </ul>

<b>Agenda Item #4 – UFS draft Work Plan</b>	
Discussion:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Staff updated the UFS on the Planning Commission efforts to provide the Subcommittees with work plans for the coming year. There is a work session with City Council and PC on Dec 5<sup>th</sup> to develop draft work plans that will then be shared with the individual committees before being finalized.</li> <li>Chair Buck stressed he wanted to be proactive on this work plan and continue to discuss this topic to be shared with PC before the Council work session.</li> <li>UFS members discussed Chair Buck’s draft plan, proposed edits, and expressed areas of interest/responsibility. Adding the Tree List review was suggested.</li> <li>UFS members had questions about what tree canopy data exists. Staff responded that City has about 5 years worth of inventory data from our Green Gresham Healthy Gresham efforts and the new special mapping tool, Growing Shade.</li> </ul>
Decisions:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>N/A.</li> </ul>
Action:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Staff will share link to the Growing Shade online tool.</li> <li>Chair Buck would like to contact the PC Chair to express this process needs to be collaborative and share the UFS draft work plan. He will send a draft of the letter and work plan to the UFS members for reaction before the Dec 5<sup>th</sup> Council work session.</li> </ul>

<b>Agenda Item #5 – Skyliner Crossing and Regner Heights Subdivision Street Trees</b>	
Discussion:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chair Buck expressed concerns with his observations in new subdivisions related to lack of new trees and trees being planted over utilities. Two examples are Skyliner Crossing and Regner Heights.</li> <li>Staff presented findings that Regner Heights has environmental overlays that, through the code, allows development to modify standards in order to preserve the areas within environmental overlays. In this case the permit approval included the deletion of the planter strips and allowed curb-tight sidewalks to minimize development encroachment into the overlay area. With Skyliner Crossing, the street trees have not been planted and the expectation is these will be planted just prior to the final occupancy approval for the last new home construction.</li> <li>Staff indicated building inspectors are supposed to be verifying tree plantings are aligned with the approved plans, so where trees were planted incorrectly the</li> </ul>

	<p>inspectors should be requiring these to be relocated and if missed then it's likely the City's responsibility to remedy the condition.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chair Buck suggested improvements to the permit review and approval process need to be addressed with this latest tree code project. UFS members reiterated new tree code needs to accommodate options to street tree locations including on the private side adjacent to sidewalks.</li> <li>• Staff indicated grant funds will be available for an urban forest consulting arborist to assist with this tree code project lending a technical lens to this effort.</li> </ul>
Decisions:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• N/A</li> </ul>
Action:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Staff will reiterate these suggested code improvements with the Tree Code project team.</li> <li>• Staff will look into the other development observations provided by Chair Buck and report back to the UFS.</li> </ul>

<b>Agenda Item #6 Community Observations &amp; Other UFS Business</b>	
Discussion:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chair Buck intends to follow up with Weston Kia regarding their tree trimming practices. The goal is to educate the public on the proper tree pruning and maintenance techniques. UFS suggested this might require licensing of the professionals doing this work. Staff suggested UFS might provide educational outreach to arborists and landscapers doing the work. Chair Buck suggested penalties should also be a tool for the City. Staff suggested a Preferred Providers list might be another tool to address the issue.</li> <li>• Guest Eellitta Stone expressed interest in volunteering for UFS tree related activities and has concerns with possible tree removal within the Columbia Estates based on her observation that trees have been tagged for possible removal. Staff indicated they were not familiar with proposed development at Columbia Estates and will look into the possible the issue.</li> <li>• UFS members expressed concern with the City's permitting website. There were issues with creating a user identity to access the system which then becomes a deterrent to people applying for the required tree removal permits.</li> </ul>
Decisions:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• N/A</li> </ul>
Action:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Staff will look into any proposed development at Columbia Estates and possible tree removal associated with any development. Chair Buck will also check with the Gresham Butte Neighborhood Assoc. to see if they received notice of proposed development.</li> <li>• Staff will communicate UFS's issues with the permitting web site to IT and options for other ways to apply for tree removal permits.</li> </ul>
Next Meeting:	December 11, 2023 at 4:30 PM remotely via ZOOM
Adjournment:	6:15 pm