

URBAN FORESTRY SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES

Date:	01-27-2025
Time:	4:30 – 6:28 pm
Place:	Virtual Zoom Meeting
Attending:	UFS: Chair Christine Johnson, Vice-Chair Thea Hayes, Jim Buck, Steve Stevens Staff: Jim Wheeler, Mary Phillips, Gabby Sinagra PC Liaison: Greg Schroeder Council Liaison: Jacquenette McIntire Guests: John Hartsock, Janet Unruh, Krestina Aziz, Todd Prager, Sachi Arakawa
Absent	UFS: Keith Warren

Agenda Item #2 – Public Comments	
Discussion:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Jim Buck: A community member contacted Jim Buck with concerns regarding live tree root grinding at Bella Vista Park. Surface roots painted for grinding down due to maintenance/mowing conflicts. Staff referred the comment to Department of Environmental Services, Parks division. Steve Stevens added that this is another reason that an urban forester is needed on City staff to address situations like these.
Decisions:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● N/A
Action:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● N/A

Agenda Item #3 – Approval of Meeting Minutes	
Discussion:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ November 18, 2024 ○ December 9, 2024
Decisions:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● November 18, 2024, approved 4-0 ● December 9, 2024, approved 4-0
Action:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● N/A

Agenda Item #4 – Tree Code Update	
Discussion:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Gabby Sinagra led Planning staff’s update of the Tree Code Project <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Currently in Phase 3 – Alternatives to approach Policy refinements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Organization of Comprehensive Plan Volumes I, II, & III <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Tree Canopy Goals ▪ Tree Retention/Replacement ▪ Enforcement ▪ Guidebook – separate document, administrative supplement ● General Feedback <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Need to establish a tree canopy goal, group agreed with alternative C. ○ The Tree Code Update project has had good reasoning for outlining the project and priorities, though the details will be very important. Need attention to protecting canopy in green spaces and parks (could be a unique goal for defined area). (Jim Buck) ○ Has there been any analysis of development cost associated with potential

	<p>goals? (Thea Hayes)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tree Canopy Goals (Option B – Moderate Canopy Increase) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Be realistic and pragmatic - but need an overall increase in canopy. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Challenging but achievable. • Tree Retention and Replacement Policies: Retention Thresholds; Tree Retention Priorities; Tree Replacement and Mitigation Policies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Retention Threshold (Create challenging but achievable preservation standard) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Will “healthy living”, stormwater mitigation and soil retention be addressed in the guidebook – to incentivize tree preservation? ▪ Differentiate between open spaces and development sites. ▪ Tree Retention Priorities (Prioritize important individual tree retention) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is a balanced approach without a Goal 5 analysis. Native groves in open spaces and parks should be prioritized. Also prioritize planting native trees and tree groves in wetland and/or preservation areas. ▪ Tree Replacement and Mitigation Policies (Between “medium replacement rates” and “replacement based on canopy coverage”) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Should incentivize keeping existing trees. Mitigation is a real issue and • Enforcement Policies (Discourage violations) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Differentiate between professional tree removal vs. residential owner removing a tree, as well as between “repeat offenders” and “first offenders”. <p>*Chair Christine Johnson made a disclaimer prior to this agenda item that although she is an employee with the Todd Prager firm, she is acting on a volunteer basis with the Urban Forestry Subcommittee and would remain impartial with comments or recommendations provided during the meeting.</p>
Decisions:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
Action:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A

Agenda Item #5 – Division Street Project Update	
Discussion:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chris Strong led Department of Environmental Services’ update of the Division Street Project (Birdsdale to Wallula) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Project aims to preserve the two vehicle lanes per direction, a median, and bike lanes and continuous sidewalk on both sides of the street. ○ Moore Excavating started limbing up trees last week and will remove them this coming week – wanting to remove them early to avoid conflict with Migratory Bird Treaty Act. ○ A total of 49 trees to be removed. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 22 trees in City’s right of way, 10 trees in property that was acquired by the City for the project, and 17 with temporary construction easements. ▪ Approximately 41 trees to be replaced. • Steve asked about the future plans for median tree planting and recommended that DES continue to look at opportunities for things like street trees and median development as a part of the City’s overall effort to increase tree canopy.

Decisions:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
Action:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A

Agenda Item #6 – General Update	
Discussion:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Southwest Community Park <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Report from Northwest Natural Resource Group (shared with UFS on 1/8/2025) ○ Status of kickoff meetings for park planning - No update on kickoff meeting. - Significant tree delisting (Spanish Chestnut #25, Incense Cedar #29, and Hawthorn #40) - Delisting has been completed – MISC-24-00709 - Tree cookie from 296-year-old tree that was struck by lightning - No further update, might be February but probably March (waiting to hear from dendrologist) - Membership Recruitment - Need to look at the qualification requirements – to retain the professional background requirements, but not as stringent as currently required. - Need direction from the City how to promote that there are openings. - Eagle Scout Project – East Gresham Park on Williams - Austin Hendrickson to remove invasive plants and plant native landscaping and provide trail and signage improvements in March.
Decisions:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
Action:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A

Agenda Item #7 – Upcoming Events	
Discussion:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • February 8, 2025 – Friends of Trees planting, designated 2025 Arbor Month planting event <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Harmony Montessori school is the staging site ○ Planting over 35 trees in and around their parking lot area ○ 60+ trees going out to the greater Gresham area • February 11, 2025 – Insect/Disease presentation to the Neighborhood Coalition Meeting • April 2025 – Tree and Garden walk between Portland and Gresham
Decisions:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
Action:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A

*These minutes were approved by the Urban Forestry Subcommittee on the March 17, 2025, meeting.