

# URBAN FORESTRY SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES

Date:	2-26-2024
Time:	4:30 – 7:00 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, Shannon Martin <b>PC Liaison:</b> Greg Schroeder <b>Guests:</b> Janet Unruh, Kate Mullins, Trevor Koch, Alex Cooper-Wright, Sahara Miller
Absent	Councilor Morales, Councilor DiNucci

Agenda Item #1 - Meeting Minutes for January 2024	
Discussion:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A motion was made and seconded without discussion to approve the minutes.</li> </ul>
Decisions:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>January 2024 meeting minutes approved unanimously.</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 – Climate Action Plan (CAP) Update	
Discussion:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Shannon Martin presented an update of the CAP process. The CAP draft that incorporates community engagement feedback will be posted with a summary from the community engagement process on the project website. The plan will go to Council for approval on April 16<sup>th</sup>.</li> <li>The plan encompasses a 5-year time period and will be updated periodically.</li> <li>Feedback from Council encouraged a focus on community outreach and inclusion. The City’s Equity Manager is providing assistance with this component of the CAP and its rollout.</li> <li>UFS can be focused on tree canopy related initiative of the CAP including the Neighborhood Tree Plan and Miyawaki mini forests. Waste Mgmt. team focused on seeking funding sources for energy efficiency and climate resiliency initiatives.</li> <li>Goal (tree canopy coverage) and visioning not included in the CAP.</li> </ul>
Decisions:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>N/A</li> </ul>
Action:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Shannon will post the draft CAP on the project web page on the City’s website and will notify John Heili so he can let the UFS members know it is available for review and comment.</li> <li>Staff will continue to track status on the grant funding to inform when UFS CAP-related initiatives could get underway.</li> <li>Shannon will attend future UFS meetings to discuss CAP-related initiatives for UFS involvement and ways to get community involved in actionable items that could include Arbor Day events.</li> </ul>

<b>Agenda Item #3 – UFS draft Work Plan</b>	
Discussion:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chair Johnson presented the updates to the work plan activities to the members and solicited feedback. The items are categorized by advising, engaging, reviewing, and recommending.</li> <li>• Shannon Martin suggested looking at the implementation items in the CAP to arrive at specific initiatives and partners for UFS work plan.</li> <li>• Neighborhood Tree Plan should be a priority for UFS as this has direct connection to the CAP tree canopy and heat island implementation items. Staff will get an update on the status of the grant funding and Friends of Trees resources to assist in this initiative.</li> <li>• The tree code is expected to take up to 2 years, but the City is working on interim code standards to address street tree issues within subdivisions. The City has the previous UFS code improvement recommendations and will be consulting with the UFS regarding tree code improvements including any interim code changes. This includes tree preservation code.</li> <li>• Green space and Natural Resource as a work plan item might be best aligned with UFS initiatives as community volunteer efforts coordinated with Parks and Natural Resources for maintenance and restoration of these spaces.</li> <li>• Greg Schroeder will serve as the UFS conduit to the Planning Commission (PC) and will communicate these UFS work plan discussions at the PC meeting tonight and provide feedback.</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 plan with a goal of finalizing it at the March meeting of the UFS to then send it to the Planning Commission. The goal is PC will finalize the CCAC work plan at the April meeting.</li> <li>• Staff will work with Tina Núñez-Osterink and Chair Johnson to determine when the UFS agenda might include the Neighborhood Tree Plan re-start.</li> </ul>

<b>Agenda Item #4 – Significant Tree Survey Follow-up</b>	
Discussion:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Steve identified the grove of trees on the Albertina Kerr campus as a candidate for listing. Jim noted the historic building on the campus near this grove could be a contributing factor.</li> <li>• Chair Johnson suggested the Spring resurvey would be an opportunity to look for other trees to add to the list.</li> <li>• Jim Buck suggested a focus might be on areas that currently don't have significant trees.</li> </ul>
Decisions:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• N/A.</li> </ul>
Action:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Steve Stevens will contact the Albertina Kerr owners regarding their interest in having the grove considered for Significant grove listing.</li> <li>• Jim will follow up with owners of a couple properties with trees he has in mind as candidates for listing.</li> </ul>

<b>Agenda Item #5 Community Observations &amp; Other UFS Business</b>	
Discussion:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UFS heard from residents of the Rockwood neighborhood seeking UFS support for a City park at the site at 270 NE 188th. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Staff indicated the UFS can advocate to Council and PC to support City ownership of the property for use as a public park.</li> <li>○ UFS expressed concerns with resources for the ongoing maintenance of the site and the need to identify any issues with the site prior to acquisition.</li> <li>○ The UFS suggested the neighbors research any details regarding the grove and it's benefits to the community.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Shaull Property/SW Community Park Tree Removal <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Chair Johnson explained her reasoning in holding this item to the original agenda and asked members to keep the conversation respectful.</li> <li>○ The members expressed their concerns with the process, especially that UFS was not advised about the condition of the grove, and concerns with the decisions to remove these trees so quickly after the storm and the perceived precedent this may set from the perspective of homeowners in Gresham.</li> <li>○ The members communicated several questions for Chair Johnson to share with Parks Manager Joe Walsh including the use of tree topping as a tool to preserve overall groves, creating snags, or whether other mitigation measures were considered, how the removal was funded and what future issues with the grove can be anticipated due to this tree removal. The members felt this action warrants a comprehensive review of City policy on these types of events.</li> <li>○ Janet Unruh commented that she heard from neighbors that blackberry removal efforts within this grove may have exacerbated the decline in tree health.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Multnomah County Tree Removal. Staff indicated that the County has yet to respond to City's requests for information and will continue to pursue a response.</li> </ul>
Decisions:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A motion was made to prepare a letter to Council advocating for the City purchase of the property in the form of proceeding with a due diligence effort regarding the condition of the property including the condition of the trees. The UFS members voted unanimously to approve the motion.</li> <li>• Chair Johnson will prepare a letter to Parks Manager Joe Walsh related to the Shaull property tree removal focused on the communication and decision-making process, the health of the stand, and public perception and including the UFS questions and concerns raised in this discussion.</li> </ul>
Action:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jim Buck will prepare a draft letter to Council regarding the UFS support for the City to conduct due diligence related to the purchase of the property at 270 NE 188<sup>th</sup> to be shared with the UFS members at the next meeting.</li> <li>• Chair Johnson will communicate the questions from UFS members regarding the tree removal at the Shaull Property/SW Community Park to Parks Manager Joe Walsh.</li> </ul>
Next Meeting:	March 18, 2024 at 4:30 PM remotely via ZOOM
Adjournment:	7:09 pm