

# URBAN FORESTRY SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES

Date:	9-18-2023
Time:	4:30 – 6:15 pm
Place:	Virtual Zoom Meeting
Attending:	<b>UFS:</b> Vice Chair Jim Buck, Steve Stevens, Keith Warren <b>Staff:</b> John Heili, Michael Gonzales, Tina Núñez-Osterink <b>Guests:</b> Councilor Morales, Janet Unruh, Spencer Trumm, Jacquenette McIntire, Laura Pramuk, Thea Hayes
Absent	Councilor Dina DiNucci, PC: Phil Wich

1. Agenda Item #1 - Meeting Minutes for August 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>

2. Agenda Item #2 – CCAC project update by Michael Gonzales	
Discussion:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Michael acknowledged that recruitment is a priority for the UFS and other Committees. This and other issues with the CCAC project, including staff workloads and prioritization of Council work plan projects, have led to the City Manager’s decision to “pause” the CCAC improvement project indefinitely.</li> <li>Michael stated that UFS recruitment is open on the CCAC <a href="#">website</a>.</li> <li>After Michael left the meeting, Chair Buck inquired about the recruitment process.</li> </ul>
Decisions:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>N/A.</li> </ul>
Action:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Staff will confer with Michael regarding the recruitment process and report back to the UFS.</li> </ul>

3. Agenda Item #3 – IRA Grant funding Status Update by Tina Núñez-Osterink	
Discussion:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tina stated that IRA Grants totaling \$12M. have been awarded. A portion of these funds (+/- \$6M.) will be distributed to Gresham earmarked for projects during 2024-2028. Begins January 2024.</li> <li>Projects receiving funds are;             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Equitable community outreach and engagement</li> <li>Community tree planting</li> <li>Community tree care</li> <li>Community education (inc. K-12)</li> <li>Workforce development</li> </ol> </li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Councilor Morales recognized Tina’s work to advance Greham’s efforts toward an improved urban forest and asked Tina to let him know if there are things the Council can help support.</li> <li>• Councilor Morales also acknowledged the work of the UFS, their actions, and how that has influenced the decision to pause the CCAC project.</li> </ul>
Decisions:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• N/A</li> </ul>
Action:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tina will report back at future UFS meetings with updates on the funding timeline and projects rollout.</li> <li>• Tina will work with Councilor Morales on supporting other funding opportunities.</li> </ul>

<b>4. Agenda Item #4 – Tree Code by Jim Buck</b>	
Discussion:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chair Buck provided staff with a link to the Palo Alto code and specifically mentioned the tree manual that accompanies the code.</li> <li>• Learnings from the stormwater facility tour should inform code improvements including focused reviewed of tree planting plans with a lens toward success of tree growth/survival, City follow up to assure final build meets the approved plans, looking at specific tree species to exclude/include, etc.</li> <li>• Staff encouraged UFS members to continue to research and forward this important tree-code related examples. Tree list updates are planned to be included in the scope of the Tree Code update project.</li> <li>• Steve suggested tree removal and mitigation needs to be prioritized in tree code with emphasis on preserving mature trees and more requirements for mitigation.</li> <li>• Keith suggested reconsidering street tree definition to include trees adjacent to sidewalk but outside ROW for large canopy trees that would serve as street trees.</li> <li>• Chair Buck suggested staff provide an overview of the subdivision review process to better understand where improvements to the tree code might be informed to ensure more trees can be included. He also suggested staff perform periodic surveys of locations where missing trees can be planted. Possibly done by a staff Urban Forester.</li> </ul>
Decisions:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chair Buck suggested, and members agreed, continuing these ongoing code-related discussions with UFS and sharing those suggestions with the tree code staff.</li> </ul>
Action:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Staff will consider these suggestions for code improvements.</li> <li>• Staff will keep this as an agenda item for future meetings.</li> </ul>

<b>5. Agenda Item #5 –Significant Trees Survey</b>	
Discussion:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Staff noted that Brian Peachy is doing the survey for the last quadrant of the City with the goal of finishing by end of Sept.</li> <li>• Other members noted they are underway with their surveys.</li> <li>• Staff asked that tree images be named to correspond to the tree to assist in the documentation process. UFS can email their images and survey results to staff for coordination before the Oct. meeting.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chair Buck noted some trees had Significant Tree markers, but others don't. Also, noted some tree beetle infestation and questioned whether to recommend owners treat this condition.</li> </ul>
Decisions:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>UFS generally felt they don't want to make recommendations for chemical treatments. Other impacts and possible actions will be reviewed at next meeting.</li> </ul>
Action:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Staff will research the history of the tree markers and what resources might be available to re-start this process.</li> <li>Staff will mail notices to the property owners and will provide the inspectors with a survey template and list of assigned trees for the survey.</li> </ul>

<b>6. Agenda Item #6 – Brookside SD Stormwater Facilities Tour</b>	
Discussion:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>See Agenda Item 4 Tree Code for additional comments on this topic.</li> <li>Chair Buck suggested a note of appreciation be sent to Torrey and Karen for hosting the tour.</li> <li>Keith noted the City seems focused on making improvements to these facilities from ongoing review and learnings. He was disturbed to see the issues with trees planted in less-than-ideal locations or not being planted at all. Suggested better design process with priority given to accommodating trees rather than just paying into tree fund. Keith suggested code be modified to include container grown trees as option to caliper size vs. using a less desirable tree species.</li> <li>Chair Buck reiterated the suggestion that some flexibility in tree caliper might provide better results. He recognized there are many challenges to accommodating trees due to utilities, driveways, streetlights, etc. and a need to overcome these conflicts. Also expressed concerns with maintenance/watering of new trees and need to get creative about how to provide watering.</li> </ul>
Decisions:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chair Buck will send an email message to Torrey and Karen.</li> </ul>
Action:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Staff will consider these suggestions for code improvements and incorporation into a tree tech. manual.</li> <li>Staff will coordinate future tours of new subdivisions as warranted.</li> </ul>

<b>5. Agenda Item #5 Community Observations &amp; Other UFS Business</b>	
Discussion:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chair Buck mentioned a sculpture for the Peace Garden at Main City Park is nearing completion and ready for installation. Steve is coordinating on this.</li> <li>Climate Action Plan meeting focused on trees on Sept 28<sup>th</sup>.</li> <li>Janet offered to work on the Tree Manual. Chair Buck mentioned this needs to be handled by staff.</li> <li>Laura Pramuk mentioned issues with sidewalk damage from tree roots and questioned any solutions. Staff noted this occurs more with older housing developments. The updated tree list addresses this issue. Any street trees being</li> </ul>

	removed need to be replaced with trees from the list unless planter is less than 3-foot width.
Decisions:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• N/A</li> </ul>
Action:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chair Buck will update UFS and staff following his meeting with the City Manager.</li> </ul>
Next Meeting:	Oct. 16, 2023 at 4:30 PM remotely via ZOOM
Adjournment:	6:15 pm