

URBAN FORESTRY SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES

Date:	4-15-2024
Time:	3:30 – 5:30 pm
Place:	Virtual Zoom Meeting
Attending:	UFS: Chair Christine Johnson, Vice Chair Thea Hayes, Jim Buck, Steve Stevens, Keith Warren, Charlotte Becker Staff: John Heili, Joe Walsh, Jeff Lesh, Kathy Majidi, Tina Núñez-Osterink, James Dunn PC Liaison: John Hartsock Guests: Janet Unruh, John Maxwell, Matt G., Nic Niggemeyer
Absent	Councilor Hinton

Agenda Item #1 - Meeting Minutes for March 2024	
Discussion:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A motion was made and seconded without discussion to approve the minutes.
Decisions:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> March 2024 meeting minutes approved unanimously.
Action:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minutes will be posted on the UFS website by staff.

Agenda Item #2 – Shaull Property/SW Community Park Tree Removal	
Discussion:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jeff Lesh presented a summary of the city’s forest management efforts since the time the city acquired the Shaull Property. Those efforts include blackberry removal using an herbicide applied in 2022 by licensed contractors following mfr. and agency regulations. The dead blackberry was then removed with hand tools. The goals of blackberry removal include fire risk reduction, allowing for access to the site, and creating environment for reforestation of the area. The tree removal occurred following the winter storm of 2024. Prior to removal, the trees had been identified with laminated root rot and other health issues associated with loss of tree crowns, red ring rot and other windthrow issues as identified in arborists reports and a site report from USFS. Laminated root rot testing was not conducted because it was determined this testing does not provide definitive results and is not an efficient use of resources due to uncertainty in test results. Tree removal was the arborist’s definitive recommendation. Jeff indicated the city is currently working with a consultant to develop a forest management plan for the site. That plan can be shared with the UFS when available. James Dunn provided a summary of the tree removal logging process and costs. Funds from the felled trees will be allocated toward the management and reforestation of the site exclusively. Joe Walsh provided a summary of Natural Resources and Parks efforts regarding this site before and after the city’s acquisition of the property. He noted that from the beginning tree removal was always anticipated at some level but had planned to occur over a period of time. Since acquiring the property there have been tree failures and those were accelerated by the storm that highlighted the risks to

	<p>adjacent properties. Those risks were a determining factor in the decision to remove these trees soon than later. Public noticing did occur, and the State Forester waived the states permit process due to the emergency situation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UFS members appreciated staff’s time to report on this issue, but also expressed frustration with the tree removal process and lack of transparency.
Decisions:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The UFS members generally agreed their concerns regarding the decision for tree removal at this property have been addressed. • In the future, the UFS would appreciate periodic updates from NR/Parks on management plans for the city’s open spaces. Parks staff explained that there is a distinction between initiative that require staff or consultant expertise vs. projects that seek community engagement. A tree removal project would not warrant that community engagement. UFS members expressed their understanding of the code does warrant committee input as this tree removal evolved beginning with the city’s acquisition of the property. • UFS suggested again that an urban forester on staff might mitigate perceived over-reaching by UFS by providing that expertise and responsibility for tree-related urban forest issues.
Action:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff will share the USFS site report with UFS. • Parks/NR will share the site’s forest management plan with an ETA in August 2024.

Agenda Item #3 – Arbor Day Event Recap	
Discussion:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tina summarized the arbor day tree planting at Nadaka Park. Four trees were planted. • City and UFS to consider moving the Arbor event to Fall due to drier climate being experienced in late Spring.
Decisions:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A
Action:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A

Agenda Item #4 – Significant Trees – Listing Update and Spring Inspection	
Discussion:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff summarized the four trees awaiting a recommendation from UFS regarding their listing status. • Staff noted the code criteria for significant trees includes heritage characteristics but is not a requirement.
Decisions:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A.
Action:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The discussion/decision on the Magnolia will hold until next meeting, and Jim Buck will re-inspect/follow up with the owner of the Incense Cedar re. status of arborist work and possible re-inspection, Keith will re-inspect the Hawthorn, Christine will re-inspect the Spanish Chestnut. • Staff will provide listing findings from the staff report for the Hawthorn.

Agenda Item #5 – Community Outreach and Education	
Discussion:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UFS members decided to table this discussion until the next meeting due to time limitations.
Decisions:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A.
Action:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A.

Agenda Item #9 - Community Observations & Other UFS Business	
Discussion:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jim Buck deferred the ODOT discussion to give the general public time to speak. • Nic Niggemeyer sits on the Portland Parks and Rec Native Gathering Garden Committee. Has worked with elders of his community to harvest from the site. He expressed concerns with the pesticide applications based on his sampling of the vegetation on the Shaull property. He is also concerned about the effects on the water sources in the area. • Staff suggested Nick forward any unanswered questions to staff for follow up with Parks/NR staff. • Matt G. @ Symbiop has conducted a visual survey of the approx. 83 stumps and remaining roots at the Shaull property. He will share his observations. He understood staff to say no ground cover was present on site but may have misunderstood these comments was associated with the area below the blackberry. His goal is for better management of the site. • John Maxwell expressed concerns with the extent of tree removal that was based on trees proximity to houses, use of a pesticide that is effective in controlling Doug Fir, and the notion that the UFS does not have oversight on these issues.
Decisions:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A
Action:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A
Next Meeting:	May 20, 2024 at 3:30 PM remotely via ZOOM
Adjournment:	5:32 pm