



URBAN FORESTRY COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes
September 17, 2020
Online Meeting

Commission Members present: Chair Vivek Shandas, Vice Chair Barbara Hollenbeck, Anjeanette Brown, Gregg Everhart, Bruce Nelson, Daniel Newberry, Megan Van de Mark, Damon Schrosk

Commission Members absent: Lorena Nascimento, Brian French

Urban Forestry staff present: Jenn Cairo, City Forester; Brian Landoe, Analyst I; Nik Desai, Botanic Specialist II; Clare Carney, Botanic Specialist I

City staff present: Emily Sandy, BDS

Public Hearing on Proposed Amendments to Title 11

- The UFC continued its hearing which began on September 4th.
- Two members of the community provided public comments:
 - Bob Gelpke, representing the Downtown Neighborhood Association, expressed support for removing the exemption from tree preservation and density requirements for the CX zone.
 - Mary Jo Mann supported removing the exemption for IH zones.

Title 11 Amendment Discussion & Recommendation

- Following the conclusion of public testimony, the Commission held a discussion on the proposed amendments.
- The Commission expressed support for the staff recommendations to remove the exemption from tree preservation and density requirements for the CX, EX, and IG1 zones, and the recommendation to reduce the DBH threshold for required preservation and inch-for-inch mitigation to 20”.
- Bruce began the discussion by disagreeing with the staff recommendation to maintain the exemption for IH zones.
- Daniel shared details of the collaboration with Mike Houck and Eli Spevak (Chair) of the Planning and Sustainability Commission (PSC).
 - Goal 9 currently does not take into account issues like equity and climate change. As such, the City’s analysis did not consider these issues either and only focused on employment.
 - The Economic Opportunity Analysis is due for an update in 2021 and there appears to be an opportunity to more fully consider these issues when determining the amount of land

Urban Forestry Commission

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set aside for IH. This work will require resources and it is imperative that City Council allocate necessary funding to bureaus participating in that process.

- The UFC/PSC working group explored what options are available given these current constraints and upcoming opportunities. One could be waiving certain City development fees if the cost of preserving trees makes a parcel undevelopable.
- Damon disagreed with the framing that preserving trees is in conflict with building housing and creating jobs. Industrial zones should be treated the same as all other zones in the city.
- Barbara noted that the overwhelming response from public testimony is in favor of preserving and increasing tree canopy.
- Megan recommended applying Title 11's requirements across all zones. It is the role of the UFC to make its recommendation based on what is best for the urban canopy and the community.
- Emily Sandy clarified that the PSC does have an official role in the upcoming EOA update. The Commission expressed a desire to be involved as well given the heightened focus on preserving canopy through that process.
- Eli Spevak shared that the PSC is concerned about potential legal challenges if the IH exemption is removed. Their preference is to maintain the IH exemption at this time and attempt to address that issue during the upcoming EOA update.
- Following additional discussion, the UFC made the following recommendation:
 - Remove the exemption from Title 11 tree preservation and density requirements for CX, EX, IG1, and IH zones.
 - Reduce the threshold for required preservation from 36" to 20" DBH.
 - Reduce the threshold for inch-for-inch mitigation from 36" to 20" DBH
 - Gregg made the mention and Daniel seconded it.
 - Yay: Vivek Shandas, Anjeanette Brown, Barbara Hollenbeck, Gregg Everhart, Daniel Newberry, Damon Schrosk, Megan Van de Mark
 - Nay: Bruce Nelson

Meeting Minutes

- Barbara made a motion to approve the July 2020 minutes. Bruce seconded the motion.
 - Yay: Vivek Shandas, Anjeanette Brown, Barbara Hollenbeck, Gregg Everhart, Bruce Nelson, Daniel Newberry, Damon Schrosk
 - Abstained: Megan Van de Mark

Forestry Report – Jenn Cairo, City Forester

- The recent wind event resulted in more than 400 emergency requests across the City.
 - Urban Forestry staff received many positive responses from members of the public for the response to these emergencies.
- The poor air quality from nearby forest fires is preventing City staff from performing work outside. Only essential work is currently being performed.
- Portland Parks & Recreation has been reassigned to Commission Fritz for the remainder of her term in office.
- Construction of the new operations facility at Urban Forestry's Delta Park location is currently underway. Members of the public are discouraged from visiting this location while construction is still underway.
- The Yard Tree Giveaway is pivoting to a no-contact pickup model and is still planned for this fall. Urban Forestry expects to giveaway 1,200 trees this year.
- There are no updates on PBOT's Streets 2035 project.
- The Neighborhood Tree Stewards program is scheduled for next week. Twenty-five people have signed up so far.
- Urban Forestry has confirmed 31 elm trees have tested positive for Dutch elm disease this year. A report will be released in November.

Audio recordings of Urban Forestry Commission meetings are available upon request.

Bill Naito Community Tree Award – Claire Carney, Urban Forestry

- The following individuals were nominated for the award:
 - Kyna Rubin
 - Linda Robinson
 - Oriana Manger
- The following groups were nominated for the award:
 - Tree Emergency Response Team
 - Friends of Mt. Tabor Park Weed Warriors
 - Pop-Up Arboreta Volunteers
 - Trees for Life Oregon
 - Arbor Lodge Tree Team
- The Commission voted to give the awards to Linda Robinson and the Tree Emergency Response Team.