



URBAN FORESTRY COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

November 19, 2020

Online Meeting

Commission Members present:

Vice Chair Barbara Hollenbeck, Anjeanette Brown, Gregg Everhart, Bruce Nelson, Daniel Newberry, Megan Van de Mark, Damon Schrosk

Commission Members absent:

Lorena Nascimento, Chair Vivek Shandas

Urban Forestry staff present:

Jenn Cairo, City Forester; Brian Landoe, Analyst I;

City staff present:

Tony Garcia, City Attorney

Meeting Minutes

- Barbara made a motion to approve the September 2020 minutes. Bruce seconded the motion.
 - Yea: Barbara Hollenbeck, Anjeanette Brown, Gregg Everhart, Bruce Nelson, Daniel Newberry, Megan Van de Mark, Damon Schrosk
- Bruce made a motion to approve the October 2020 minutes. Barbara seconded the motion.
 - Yea: Barbara Hollenbeck, Anjeanette Brown, Gregg Everhart, Bruce Nelson, Daniel Newberry, Megan Van de Mark, Damon Schrosk

Forestry Report – Jenn Cairo, City Forester

- PP&R Urban Forestry was featured in City Trees, a publication of the Society of Municipal Arborists. The write up includes a summary of the City's urban forestry program.
- The PP&R Operations Levy was approved by voters in the November election. More details on what this will mean for Urban Forestry will be presented at a future meeting.
- Commissioner Fritz will be retiring when her term expires at the end of 2020. The mayor will make bureau assignments at that time which will be effective in January.
- Jenn provided a follow-up on a public comment received at the October meeting regarding a property under development. Jenn spoke with the property owner to clarify the City's tree requirements and their role in supporting the forest infrastructure.
 - The species on the City' Approved Street Tree Planting List are selected specifically to avoid the concerns that the property owner raised. This situation illustrates the need for regulations and how Urban Forestry applies full lifecycle expertise to the regulatory process.
 - Jenn also clarified that Urban Forestry did not require a giant sequoia to be planted in that space. That species was simply one of the options on the Approved Street Tree Planting List.

Urban Forestry Commission

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Sustaining a healthy park and recreation system to make Portland a great place to live, work and play.

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- Daniel asked about the recruitment for new UFC members.
 - About 14 applications have been received for the two vacant UFC positions. Interviews will be held in December with a goal of appointing the new Commissioners in early 2021. The process will be delayed due to Commissioner Fritz's retirement and a new Commissioner-in-Charge of Parks & Recreation coming onboard in January.
- Gregg asked about staff support for the Heritage Tree program considering the impacts of furloughs and COVID-19.
 - Jenn noted that Gina Dake, who currently supports the Heritage Tree Program, has been assigned to work on the City of Portland's new website transition, which has required a great deal of her time.

Title 11 Update – Brian Landoe, Urban Forestry

- City Council approved the proposed Title 11 amendments on November 12, 2020
 - Remove exemptions from Title 11 tree preservation and density requirements for CX, EX, and IH1 zones.
 - Reduce the threshold for required tree preservation and inch-for-inch mitigation from 36" to 20"
- In addition, City staff pursued an additional amendment to remove the exemption from tree preservation and density requirements for City owned or managed properties zoned IH. Commissioner Fritz introduced this proposal and it was adopted by Council. Approximately 150 acres of IH property is no longer exempt as a result.
- City Council also passed a resolution directing PP&R to return by March 31, 2021 with a high-level scope of work for additional Title 11 amendments.

UFC Bylaws Approval – Brian Landoe, Urban Forestry

- The Commission continued its discussion on the new bylaws under consideration.
- The majority of the discussion concerned the composition of committee members and whether voting positions could be filled by non-UFC members.
- Gregg noted that the Heritage Tree Committee relies on many volunteer members in order to perform its work. The ability to vote on recommendations is an important function of Heritage Tree Committee members.
- The Commission did not vote on the bylaws in this meeting. The issue will be revisited in early 2021.

Title 21 Amendments – Bruce Nelson, UFC

- Bruce reviewed recent activities pertaining to the Portland Water Bureau's proposed amendments to Title 21 that affect street trees.
- On October 15, 2020 this item was discussed at the UFC meeting.
- On October 27, 2020 a Portland City Council work session heard testimony of the draft amendments and discussed at length the proposal for required separate water meters for new developments with 10 or fewer units (commercial, residential or mixed).
- On November 19th, Commissioner Amanda Fritz withdrew the requirement from the amendments and made it optional. In the language City Commissioner Fritz suggested bringing to City Council on December 2, 2020, there is no language addressing UFC's previously stated concern about the loss of space for trees in the right-of-way due to required water meter placement within that right-of-way space.
- The Commission reviewed a statement to be sent to Commissioner Fritz and the Water Bureau expressing concerns and requesting changes to the proposed amendments. The UFC supported the statement.