



URBAN FORESTRY COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes
December 15, 2022
9:30am – 11:30am
Online Meeting

Commission Members present: Chair Vivek Shandas, Adrienne Feldstein, Ivory Iheanacho, Roberta Jortner, Daniel Newberry, Megan Van de Mark, Melinda McMillan, Bruce Nelson, Leah Plack

Commission Members absent: Anjeanette Brown

Urban Forestry staff present: Jenn Cairo (City Forester), Brian Landoe (Analyst III), Belinda Judelman (Planning & Policy Analyst)

City staff present: Donnie Oliveira, BPS Director; Andria Jacob, BPS Climate and Policy Program Manager

Public Comments

1. No public comments were provided.

Foresters Report – Jenn Cairo, City Forester

1. The City is forming 15-member advisory committee to inform the government formation.
2. Urban Forestry’s tree planting is underway for the 2022-23 season. UF staff have provided training for contractors in English and Spanish as part of its effort to support workforce development through this program.
3. The Portland Clean Energy Fund will be developing a five-year Climate Investment Plan (CIP) to help direct future investments from the fund. In addition to the CIP work, PCEF is fast tracking two funding programs, one of which is the previously announced \$40 million investment in the urban forest. Community engagement has already begun, and PCEF anticipates releasing a plan for public comment in early 2023.
4. PBOT’s Streets 2035 has been renamed to Streets PDX. The project is nearing completion and PBOT staff are expected to return to the UFC for a briefing in the next few months.
5. The joint PBOT/PP&R project to plant trees in the curb zone continues with designs expected by August 2023. The PBOT project manager will be attending a UFC meeting soon for briefing and comment.
6. There are two new projects which may be coming to a future UFC meeting. First, the Bureau of Planning & Sustainability is revising the Title 33 Land Division code including the tree preservation aspects. Second, PBOT is leading a project to create a code framework for installing EV charging stations in the right-of-way. Urban Forestry is involved in both.
7. Urban Forestry’s facilities at Delta Park are being reviewed for improvements. The bureau has long planned to replace the house and trailer with a new facility which has sufficient space for staff. The current trailer houses nearly two dozen staff and has far exceeded its 15-year life span.
8. Parks continues to identify funding sources for street tree maintenance as part of the Sustainable Future program.

Climate Emergency Workplan – Donnie Oliveira, BPS Director; Andria Jacob, Climate Policy and Program Manager, BPS

1. Director Oliveira briefed the UFC on the City’s climate Emergency Work Plan which was adopted by City Council in October.
2. In 2019, the City, led by BPS, began a process to create a climate emergency declaration. The project was primarily done internally which drew critiques from community partners about the lack of external engagement. BPS prolonged the project timeline to conduct more engagement. The declaration was adopted by City Council in June 2020 with a commitment to provide annual updates.
3. The declaration which was adopted was aspirational and did not include clear steps for implementation. The Climate Emergency Work Plan is intended to address that issue.

Urban Forestry Commission

1120 SW 5th Avenue, Suite 1302, Portland, Oregon 97204

Phone 503-823-TREE (8733) | Fax 503-823-4493

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

portlandoregon.gov/trees | Commissioner Carmen Rubio | Director Adena Long



4. The work plan includes action items which are planned for the next three years (2022 through 2025). Significant decarbonization is needed in Portland with the largest sources of emissions being transportation and buildings.
5. Megan commented that the City assuming the responsibility for street tree maintenance is not included in the work plan.
 - a. Donnie acknowledged this and responded that street tree maintenance is one of many action items not included, and that achieving those listed will be a challenge.
6. Several Commissioners expressed the need to prioritize the preservation of large trees. The City's land use policies currently encourage infill development which could lead to increased tree removal. Some infill housing is used for short-term rentals rather than permanent housing which puts additional strain on housing supply.
7. Roberta expressed the need for the City to reduce the amount of impervious surfaces on private property.
8. BPS has committed to providing regular updates to City Council on the progress of the work plan. BPS will in frequent contact with City bureaus on this ongoing effort.

Urban Forest Management Plan Scope of Work– Belinda Judelman, Planning & Policy Analyst, PP&R Urban Forestry

1. The UFC was provided with a scope of work ahead of the meeting to review and provide advice and comments.
2. Roberta highlighted the need to include other bureaus throughout the project to ensure buy-in and ongoing engagement.
 - i. Belinda agreed and noted that a Technical Advisory Committee which includes bureau representatives is planned.
3. Bruce emphasized the importance of community engagement and using this project to build trust.
 - i. Belinda thanked Bruce for the comment added that conversations are ongoing on how to include engagement prior to the start of the project. A significant amount of funding has also been allocated to support community outreach.
4. Megan thanked Belinda for her leadership of this project and asked for clarification of what “buy in” from other bureaus would look like. She noted the connection with the prior presentation and the challenge of competing priorities.
 - i. Belinda agreed this is always a challenge and expressed that the goal is for the UFMP process to facilitate collaboration and create a shared vision.
5. Roberta complimented the scope of work and added that the management plan should also include a work plan to address implementation. It should be a living document with an achievable timeline which can be updated as needed. She also proposed updating the canopy targets through this process.
6. Several Commissioners recommended the plan address impervious surface and explore incentives for property owners to reduce impervious surfaces on private property.
7. The policy committee will take additional time to review the scope of and provide additional comments.

Meeting adjourned.