

URBAN FORESTRY SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES

Date:	3-18-2024
Time:	4:30 – 6:30 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, Helen Toloza PC Liaison: Greg Schroeder Guests: Janet Unruh, Sahara Miller, Rick Dwyer, David Porter, Jacquenette McIntire, Stephenie Holwege
Absent	Councilor Hinton

Agenda Item #1 - Meeting Minutes for January 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"> February 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 – Public Meeting Training	
Discussion:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assistant City Attorney Helen Toloza presented committee member ethics - public meeting and records laws.
Decisions:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N/A
Action:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assistant City Attorney Helen Toloza will provide staff with follow up information packets for distribution to the UFS members.

Agenda Item #3 – UFS draft Work Plan	
Discussion:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> City staff presented an overview of the draft Planning Commission and Subcommittees work plan with a focus on the UFS section of the plan and the work plan items related to Tree Code, Climate Action Plan, Neighborhood Tree Plan, and Parks Master Plan and how these plan items are connected to the Council’s Strategic Action Plan. City staff presented comments and recommendations for the UFS work plan that demonstrate how the plan items align with the draft Planning Commission and Subcommittees work plan and Council’s Strategic Action Plan. UFS discussed the merits of staff’s recommendations noting the importance of preserving the original work plan items while including specificity and/or reclassification of several items. Thea suggested the UFS workplan be updated to list the specific reference to the Planning Commission and Subcommittees work plan and Council’s Strategic Action Plan numbering.
Decisions:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The UFS members voted to support the proposed UFS section of the draft Planning Commission and Subcommittees work plan.

Action:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff will forward the proposed UFS section of the draft Planning Commission and Subcommittees work plan to the PC staff liaison for incorporation into the document and presentation to the PC at their April 22nd meeting. • Chair Johnson will make the discussed adjustments to the UFS work plan for review and approval at the April 15th UFS meeting.
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Agenda Item #4 – Shaul Property/SW Community Park Tree Removal	
Discussion:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chair Johnson provided a summary update of the topic and opened the floor for discussion on the topic. • Jim Buck expressed frustration with the process and lack of sufficient response from the City. He indicated he intends to make a public comment at the next Council meeting. He and Keith Warren felt this lack of response warrants a broader notification and public awareness of the tree removal. • David Porter, Centennial NA Vice Chair has questions and concerns for the city that the NA would like to have addressed. Staff suggested he email those to staff for coordination with Parks Dept. • Keith Warren and Thea Hayes expressed concerns and questions regarding the determination of laminated root rot being made by an arborist rather than a pathologist being consulted. • Chair Johnson provided her professional insight into the subject of laminated root rot and its impact on risk threshold determinations and cautioned against the committee taking actions to “embarrass” the city and instead focus the committees’ efforts on seeking insight into the process and decisions to better advise the city on code and process improvements. Charlotte Becker suggested the focus should be on moving forward with actions to assure this type of tree removal process does not reoccur.
Decisions:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The committee members agreed to table the discussion topic until the next meeting due to time limitations.
Action:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • T.B.D. at next meeting.

Agenda Item #5 – Rockwood Property Preservation (270 NE 188th) Follow-up	
Discussion:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jim Buck provided an update and summary of the letter that was sent to the Mayor and Council describing the UFS support for city acquisition of the subject property for tree preservation as discussed at the February UFS meeting. • Staff and public comment confirmed the Mayor’s plan to meet with residents of the neighborhood.
Decisions:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A.
Action:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No further action at this time.

Agenda Item #6 – Tree Code Update	
Discussion:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff provided a brief update of the grants-funding status indicating the city anticipates funding contracts should be resolved by end of April. In the meantime,

	the city continues to work toward code consultant solicitations, public outreach plans, etc. in preparation for project funding.
Decisions:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A.
Action:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A.

Agenda Item #7 – Memorial Tree Planting Recap	
Discussion:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chair Johnson attended the tree planting event and reported there was a good turnout with trees being planted in Nadaka Park and throughout the Rockwood Neighborhood.
Decisions:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A.
Action:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A.

Agenda Item #8 – Significant Trees – Listing Update and Spring Inspection	
Discussion:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Steve Stevens contacted the Albertina Kerr owners regarding their interest in listing the tree grove at the site. He awaits their reply. • Members discussed conducting a re-survey in May of the trees being considered as possible candidates for delisting.
Decisions:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A.
Action:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff will provide members with the resurvey list at the April meeting so inspectors can be assigned.

Agenda Item #9 - Community Observations & Other UFS Business	
Discussion:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chair Johnson mentioned she is coordinating an Arbor Day planting event with city staff and Friends of Trees with one option being tree planting at Nadaka Park and asked members for other options and insight into what has occurred in the past. • Jim Buck questioned if grant funds and Friends of Trees were available to plant trees in other Justice 40 tracts of the City. Staff suggested tree planting efforts in those areas might be better served once the CAP initiatives begin and can be coordinated with the UFS Neighborhood Tree Plan efforts in consideration of the limited time available to plan the April Arbor Day tree planting event. • Thea Hayes asked if the UFS has done tabling at tree planting or other city-sanctioned events.
Decisions:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A
Action:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chair Johnson and staff will meet with Parks staff and Friends of Trees to determine possible dates/times for an event in early April or other event to occur later in the year that may or may not include non-tree planting activities. Chair Johnson will send a doodle poll to the members if the event is to occur before the next UFS meeting to gauge UFS participation.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Staff will reach out to the past UFS liaison for insight into previous UFS out-reach events.
Next Meeting:	April 15, 2024 at 4:30 PM remotely via ZOOM
Adjournment:	6:35 pm

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