



URBAN FORESTRY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Vancouver City Hall – Aspen Conference Room
415 W. 6th Street
PO Box 1995 – Vancouver, Washington 98668-1995
www.cityofvancouver.us

Melissa Johnston - Chair, Clif Barnes - Vice Chair
Susan Law - Immediate Past Chair, Jamie Beyer, Jeff Kessenich, Khanh Tran, Chuleana Wheeler

September 20, 2023

REGULAR MEETING (Aspen Room at City Hall and remote via Microsoft Teams)

ITEM 1: CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The September 20, 2023 meeting of the Urban Forestry Commission was called to order at 6:01 pm by Melissa Johnston (Chair) in the Aspen Room at City Hall. This meeting was held in person and online.

Present: Melissa Johnston – Chair, Clif Barnes – Vice Chair, Jeff Kessenich, Susan Law, Jamie Beyer, Khanh Tran, Jessica George – Urban Forestry, Charles Ray – Urban Forestry, Riley Lynch—AmeriCorps, Guy Lennon – Pearson Airfield, Angela Kearney – Pearson Airfield

Excused: Chuleana Wheeler

ITEM 2: APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Susan Law, seconded by Jeff Kessenich, and carried unanimously to approve the minutes from August 19, 2023 Commission meeting.

ITEM 3: HERITAGE TREE PUBLIC HEARING-RESCHEDULED TO OCTOBER 18, 2023

At October 18, 2023 meeting, Heritage Tree Hearing will take place in City Council Chambers. Commissioners and public will be in attendance, with both virtual and in-person options available.

An email containing Heritage Tree Public Hearing procedures will be re-sent by Charles.

An update was presented regarding one of the nominations: the Oak trees on Columbia Blvd. may be impacted by the I-5 Bridge Project; subsequently, the implications are currently being determined and will be addressed in the staff report.

ITEM 4: APPROVE FINAL DRAFT URBAN FORESTRY MANAGEMENT PLAN (UFMP)

Final draft is currently posted on the "[BeHeard Vancouver](#)" page.

The Commission's recommendation tonight will go to the Planning Commission, then to City Council for adoption and to then be referenced by the City's Comprehensive Plan.

A presentation was given by Charles covering an overview of the UFP process, review of the data found, current opportunities for improvement, forward-looking goals, long-term framework, and next steps for adoption, including today's opportunity for approval by Commission.

Motion by Jamie Beyer, seconded by Susan Law, and carried unanimously to recommend adoption of Urban Forestry Management by City Council.

ITEM 5: PROGRAM UPDATES

See reports.

In-meeting program updates include:

- The Silva Bolds Award will be presented to Susan Sanders on Monday, September 25th, 2023. Commission will present card (to be signed by all) and gift to Susan at ceremony.
- Introduction of new AmeriCorps member Riley Lynch
- Corridor Committee: Mailers have gone out to Fruit Valley industrial businesses and residents, with plans underway for a flyering event within the next month.
- Policy Committee: Reviewing code updates.
- Outreach Committee: Event planning has been taking place for Old Apple Tree Festival and Silva Bolds Award ceremony, as well as discussion of Tree of Heaven treatment strategies. In next committee meeting, brainstorming session will take place on how to increase overall outreach and engagement.

- Pollinator Committee: Have set regular meetings for first Tuesday of the month at 3:30pm. Committee has adopted Port Pollinator Meadow project, its first Pollinator Committee project, hope to use it as an example to further outreach with industrial and commercial properties. Commission has also received much support from agencies and Vancouver Bee Project. Logistics of the committee are currently being determined, such as the number of members and how roles should be seated.
- Tree of Heaven: Meeting on a quarterly schedule with the next date scheduled in November. Current efforts are on treatment. The committee has gained a new member.

ITEM 6: COMMUNITY & ARBORIST COMMUNICATION

Airport Manager of Pearson Field Guy Lennon and Administrative Assistant Angela Kearney were in physical attendance with news of the creation of Airport Advisory Committee.

ITEM 7: URBAN FORESTRY REPORT

Jessica and Charles submitted staff report.

Urban Forestry secured a grant from the Inflation Reduction Act of \$300k to develop summer tree care workforce for five years.

Interviews are currently being held for two vacant staff positions, Planting Outreach Coordinator and Urban Forestry Specialist.

ITEM 8: COMMISSION COMMUNICATIONS

Khanh – Enjoyed the Heritage Tree Tour and will be able to enjoy more nature soon with wedding attendance in a beautiful area of the region.

Clif – Involved with the Heritage Tree Tour and waterings within in neighborhood.

Jeff – Preparing for Tree of Heaven walk and presentation, Tree of Heaven treatments, consultations in invasive trees and pruning, along with working with libraries and National Park Service, attending webinars, signing up with Friends of Trees for plantings in Vancouver, and collaborations with local conservation districts in eradicating Tree of Heaven.

Jamie – Unable to attend physical Heritage Tree tour but will conduct virtual one. Pollinator Committee work and meetings. Visited East Coast and saw spotted lantern flies in person: learnings include example of eastern region’s program flyers with number to call, implications

for national forests, and the pertinence of proactive action. Seat on Corridors Committee volunteered as open due to scheduling, but able to stay if needed.

Susan – Correspondence with Watershed Alliance regarding grant for Fruit Valley trees and watering bags. Continuing search for neighborhood association near Fruit Valley that can facilitate grant funding.

Melissa: Involved with event planning of Silva Bolds Award Ceremony and Old Apple Tree Festival.

ITEM 9: NEW BUSINESS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

7:02pm

Melissa Johnston, Chair

Meetings of the Urban Forestry Commission are electronically recorded on audio. The audio tapes are kept on file in the office of the City Clerk for a period of six years.



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