



# URBAN FORESTRY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Vancouver City Hall – Council Chambers  
415 W. 6<sup>th</sup> Street  
PO Box 1995 – Vancouver, Washington 98668-1995  
[www.cityofvancouver.us](http://www.cityofvancouver.us)

Melissa Johnston - Chair, Clif Barnes - Vice Chair, Susan Law - Immediate Past Chair, Jamie Beyer, Jeff Kessenich, Khanh Tran, (Vacancy)

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## ***October 18, 2023***

**HERITAGE TREE PROGRAM PUBLIC HEARING + REGULAR MEETING** (Council Chambers at City Hall and remote via Microsoft Teams)

### **ITEM 1: CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

The October 18, 2023 meeting of the Urban Forestry Commission was called to order at 6:02 pm by Melissa Johnston (Chair) in Council Chambers at City Hall. This meeting was held in person and online.

**Present: Melissa Johnston – Chair, Clif Barnes – Vice Chair, Jeff Kessenich, Jamie Beyer, Khanh Tran, Jessica George – Urban Forestry, Charles Ray – Urban Forestry, Riley Lynch—AmeriCorps, Adela Miller—Urban Forestry**

**Excused: Susan Law**

**Public Comment: Gail Walsh, Donald Jenkins, Cynthia Thorton-Tang, Teresa Torres**

### **ITEM 2: APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Motion** by Melissa Johnston, seconded by Jeff Kessenich, and carried unanimously to approve the minutes from September 20, 2023 Commission meeting.

### **ITEM 3: HERITAGE TREE PUBLIC HEARING**

Charles gave brief background on the Heritage Tree program and presented the staff report on the nominations, including tree information and description, qualifying and disqualifying factors, and the ultimate staff recommendations on each nomination. Commission followed up with clarifying questions. Public testimony was opened up on Heritage Trees, beginning with

comments in Chambers and then online. Commissioners each offered comments on nominations, followed by further discussion.

**Motion** by Jamie Beyer, seconded by Jeff Kessenich, and carried to approve the Giant Sequoia #2, Giant Sequoia #3, Grove of Douglas Fir #5, Dougal Fir at Cascade Park Community Library #6, and the Coastal Redwood #7 entrance into the Heritage Tree Program.

**Motion** by Jamie Beyer, seconded by Jeff Kessenich, and carried to approve Douglas Fir #8 and deny Big Leaf Maple #8 entrance into the Heritage Tree program.

**Motion** by Jamie Beyer, seconded by Khanh Tran, and carried to deny Northern Red Oaks #4 entrance into the Heritage Tree program.

**Motion** by Khanh Tran, seconded by Jeff Kessenich, not carried to deny the Black Walnut #1 entrance into the Heritage Tree Program.

**Motion** by Jamie Beyer, seconded by Clif Barnes, and carried to approve the Black Walnut #1 entrance into the Heritage Tree program.

**Motion** by Clif Barnes, seconded by Jamie Beyer, and carried to approve Oregon White Oak #9 entrance into the Heritage Tree program.

Commissioners shared closing comments on nominations, process, and thanked public for participation, nominating, and testimony.

Heritage Tree program concluded, followed by a short break.

#### **ITEM 4: PROGRAM UPDATES**

Pollinator Committee hosted a guest speaker and learned more about having an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) plan.

Policy Committee: No updates.

Outreach Committee: No updates.

Tree of Heaven Committee will be meeting in early November and are completing final week of treatments until next summer.

Corridor Committee: No updates.

AmeriCorps shared of the Friends of Trees pruning event on 10/21 in NE Vancouver of a total 120 trees and a planting event on 11/11 in Central South Vancouver with 11 trees on order, with Crew Leader training also taking place. The second Friends of Trees planting will take place on 12/2 in SE Vancouver.

All five AmeriCorps positions are now filled.

Staff presented at a virtual event for the Washington Department of Natural Resources on Vancouver's Emerald Ash Borer management plan. Currently, a list is being developed of priority Ash trees for removal over the winter, with a plan of approximately 20 to be removed by March, with next spring's treatment plan following.

Staff also presented the Urban Forestry Management Plan to the Planning Commission. The plan will next be presented to City Council; if Council approves, the plan will be incorporated into long range planning's update of the Comprehensive Plan.

Charles shared and distributed a list of 786 trees to be planted, with 141 new trees being planted in the Proactive Street Tree program. The ultimate 2023 goal is 1700-2000 trees total.

#### **ITEM 5: COMMUNITY & ARBORIST COMMUNICATION**

None.

#### **ITEM 6: URBAN FORESTRY REPORT**

Multiple events are now completed, included the Silva Bolds Award Ceremony, this year's Heritage Tree Program, and the Old Apple Tree Festival.

Staff are working to ensure workload while staff member is out on medical leave.

Planting season is underway with fall and winter plantings being finalized, and the Tree Giveaway program will take place later in the month.

Site visit inspection backlog is currently at 20 days (goal is 10 days), currently hovering at 40 requests. Development and inspection requests are steady, with staff beginning to complete final inspections to ensure final plantings match approved plans.

Two new staff members will be starting early next month.

Outreach continues for the Proactive Street Tree Program in order to develop planting plans along the corridors.

2024 street maps should be arriving in coming months.

**ITEM 7: COMMISSION COMMUNICATIONS**

Jamie shared of Pollinator Committee meeting, neighborhood association interest in explanation of tree code and ideas for a tree walk, gratitude to Jeff for treating neighbor's Tree of Heaven, and worksite pollinator meadow being planted on November 4<sup>th</sup>.

Clif shared of attending the Silva Bolds Award Ceremony and the Old Apple Tree Festival.

Khanh shared of recent travels, including experiencing the different topography and trees of the state.

Jeff shared of mapping Tree of Heaven with volunteers, continued correspondence with WA Department of Agriculture regarding Tree of Heaven, treating Jamie's neighbor's tree, and attending Silva Bolds Award Ceremony.

Melissa shared of attendance at Silva Bolds Award Ceremony and Old Apple Tree Festival, including tabling at Urban Forestry Booth, and a highly rated tree climbing experience through PCC at Silver Falls Park.

**ITEM 8: NEW BUSINESS**

Logistics for the December Social were discussed, with tentative plans for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday in the month at Firehouse Axes.

**ADJOURNMENT**

7:49pm

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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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City Manager's Office

(360)487-8600 | WA Relay: 711

[Amanda.Delapena@cityofvancouver.us](mailto:Amanda.Delapena@cityofvancouver.us)