



Urban Forestry Commission

Meeting Minutes

Date Wednesday, April 17, 2024

Time 6 p.m.

Location City Hall

Aspen Conference Room

415 W. 6th St

Vancouver, WA 98668-1995

Commissioners/Board Members Present:

Melissa Johnston, Clif Barnes, Jamie Beyer, Jeff Kessenich

Commissioners/Board Members Absent: Susan Law, Khanh Tran

Staff Present: Jessica George, Nick Redmond, Charles Ray

Guests: Riley Schleiss, AmeriCorp; Jane Tesner Kleiner, Nature+Play Designs and 2024 Mac Award recipient

ITEM 1: Call to Order and Roll Call – Chair/Vice Chair

The April 17, 2024 meeting of the Urban Forestry Commission was called to order at 6:08pm by Melissa Johnston (Chair). This meeting was held both in-person and online.

ITEM 2: Approval of Minutes – March 20, 2024

Motion by Jamie Beyer, seconded by Jeff Kessenich, and carried unanimously to approve the minutes from the March 20, 2024 Commission meeting.

ITEM 3: Introductions

The Commission offered introductions for community members present.

ITEM 4: Arbor Day Debrief

On behalf of the UFC, Commissioner Khanh Tran accepted the Arbor Day Proclamation from the Mayor, and Parks Commission Chair Jaynee Haygood accepted the Native Plant Awareness Month Proclamation.

Members

Melissa Johnston Chair

Clif Barnes Vice Chair

Susan Law Past Chair

Jamie Beyer

Jeff Kessenich

Khanh Tran

Vacant

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Commissioner Clif Barnes and UF Staff attended the Arbor Day event at Hough Elementary School, including a school assembly, Mac Award presentation, and tree planting.

ITEM 5: Review Heritage Trees Criteria Research and Findings

After reviewing other communities' heritage tree criteria and professional industry journal, Staff found that Vancouver's Heritage Tree criteria is comprehensive. Charles shared presentation of findings from journal article, followed by discussion from Commissioners. Key learning for future Heritage Tree cycles includes discussion about nominations during the site visit.

Next steps include a test run with scorecard at Esther Short Park.

ITEM 6: Program Updates

Emailed out.

In-meeting updates include:

Pollinator subcommittee is working on charter, plans to present to City Council later this year, and making strides towards Bee City USA status.

Staff put out a call for volunteers for upcoming events, including Earth Day, El Día Del Niño, and a multilingual tree walk, with any Commissioner interest to be emailed to Jessica or Riley.

ITEM 7: Community & Arborist Communications

None.

ITEM 8: Urban Forestry Report

Discussed in Program Updates.

ITEM 9: Commission Communications

Jeff shared of Tree of Heaven work.

Clif shared of Friends of Trees planting.

Melissa shared of pop-up arboretum at Harney Elementary School and upcoming Mother Camas Earth Day celebration.

Jamie shared of Pollinator subcommittee meeting.

ITEM 10: New Business/Agenda topics for future meetings

Commission discussed interest in Community Mapping events related to City's Comprehensive Plan, including City's potential utilization of new mapping software for tree planning.

ADJOURNMENT

6:54pm

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.