

GRANTS PASS URBAN TREE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes – January 10, 2022, 6:30 PM
City Council Chambers

Committee Members:

Doug Tripp, Chair - Absent
David Renton, Vice Chair
Michael Holzinger - Virtual
James Love
Dan McBerty
Chris Rudd - Virtual
Nicole Kieffer - Virtual
Barbra Villona - Virtual

City/Staff/Council Liaisons:

Joel King (City Councilor)
Tony Mecum (Community Development & Public Works)

Guests:

None

AGENDA:

- 1. Roll Call:**
 - a. Vice Chair Renton started the meeting at 6:30pm.
- 2. Introductions:**
 - a. None.
- 3. Items from Public:**
 - a. None
- 4. Approval of Minutes:**
 - a. Approval of Minutes from December 13, 2021.

MOTION/VOTE

Member Love moved and Member Holzinger seconded the motion to approve the minutes as submitted. The vote resulted as follows: “AYES”: Vice Chair Renton, Members Holzinger, Love, Rudd, and Kieffer. “NAYS”: None. Abstain: Member McBerty. Absent: Member Villona.

- 5. Action Items:**
 - a. Washington BLVD Median Island Tree Replacement Project
 - i. Urban Forester presented an update on the project. City Administration requested the Committee to provide feedback on a plan to plant one ornamental cherry tree on the most southern median island. This would accommodate the limited growing space from a nearby oak tree’s canopy.
 - ii. The Committee discussed the proposed plan and all members expressed support for the planting of one ornamental cherry tree in this specific location.
 - b. Tree Canopy Program Extension to Backyards
 - i. Committee discussed the current policy of the Tree Canopy Program, including its limit to front yards, rights-of-ways, and side yards of corner streets facing streets.
 - ii. Constituents have requested trees in their back yards due to limited spacing in front of their houses.
 - iii. Urban Forester reviewed other City’s planting programs, including the City of Portland’s “Free Yard Trees,” which can be planted in back yards.
 - iv. Committee discussed the option of having a waiting list for back yards if there are extra trees prioritized for front yards.

MOTION/VOTE

Member Love moved and Member Villona seconded the motion to encourage City staff to include back yards as part of the Tree Canopy Program while giving priority to front yards. The vote resulted as follows: “AYES”: Vice Chair Renton, Members Holzinger, Love, McBerty, Rudd, Villona, and Kieffer. “NAYS”: None. Abstain: None. Absent: None.

- c. Arbor Day Growth Award Review
 - i. Urban Forester reviewed the growth award program and briefly reviewed the various categories of actionable items cities can accomplish to receive growth awards.
- 6. Matters from Committee Members**
 - a. Member Holzinger asked about a tree that failed across M Street.
- 7. Matters from Staff**
 - a. Arbor Day 2022 Planning
 - i. Urban Forester stated that Arbor Day is coming up in April. He is unsure how COVID will play into the planning of the event.
 - b. Committee Chair Election - February Meeting
 - i. Urban Forester explained that the last election was in February of 2021. Urban Forester will send a document listing the role of Committee Chairs when the minutes and agenda are sent for the February meeting.
 - c. Strategic Planning for City Council is January 20-22
 - i. Urban Forester explained that Chair Tripp will present the Committee's goals to Council at the meeting.
- 8. Future Agenda Building for Next Meeting**
 - a. Committee Chair Election
 - b. Heritage Tree Program and Nominations
 - c. Tree Deposit Update from Councilor King
 - d. Coordination and Input into the Energy Taskforce
- 9. Adjournment**
 - a. Member Love moved and Member Holzinger seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting, which was approved unanimously, at approximately 7:45pm.

Next Meeting: February 14, 2022, at 6:30 PM

Minutes prepared by Tony Mecum, Urban Forester, Community Development & Public Works