

GRANTS PASS URBAN TREE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes April 10, 2023, 6:30 PM
River Room

Committee Members:

Doug Tripp, Chair - Absent
Michael Holzinger, Vice Chair - Virtual
James Love
Michael Cartmill
Nicole Kieffer - Absent
Barbra Villona
Diana Thornton
Cambrie Nelson

City/Staff/Council Liaisons:

James Pasley – Urban Forester
Joel King - City Council
Josh Hopkins – Parks Superintendent

Guests:

Dan Durphy – U.S. Forest Service

AGENDA:

1. Roll Call:

- a. Member Villona took roll and started meeting at 6:33 p.m.

2. Introductions:

- a. New Member – Cambrie Nelson
 - Member Nelson is a former Registered Nurse and a homesteader.
- b. Public Attendee – Dan Durphy
 - Mr. Durphy works for the U.S. Forest Service coordinating statewide forestry inventories.

3. Public Comments:

- a. Urban Forest Analysis Project
 - Mr. Durphy explained how this project has proceeded in Portland, OR and San Diego, CA. It spans urban and wilderness settings, private and public land. It is not a 100% survey but takes plots along lines of latitude and longitude searching for areas of greater than 10% tree canopy coverage. They use satellite and on-the-ground inventory approaches. The data is publicly available.

4. Approval of Minutes:

- a. Approval of Minutes from: March 13, 2023

MOTION TO APPROVE MINUTES

Member Nelson moved, and Member Villona seconded the motion to approve the minutes of March 13, 2023, as submitted. The vote resulted as follows: “AYES”: Members Cartmill, Villona, Thornton and Nelson. “NAYS”: None. Abstain: Vice Chair Holzinger and Member Love. Absent: Member Kieffer and Chair Tripp.
The motion passed.

5. Action Items:

a. Tree Deposit Fund for Tree Planting:

- From last meeting
 - ~\$60,000 in funding
 - Changed language in description to include maintenance costs
 - Approved planting 30+ trees in downtown corridor
- Urban Forester Pasley reviewed site maps previously created by Member Love for potential planting sites in historic downtown area.
 - Identified seven potential planting sites in the historic district–

- Focused on sites that would not require site modification or bordered existing parking lots (would require site modification)
- Potentially 14-21 trees could be planted
- 11 trees are being planted in the downtown corridor during the month of April to celebrate Arbor Day.

b. Parking Lots – Structural Soils / Tree Canopy Coverage:

- Staff is updating code to reflect language used in Medford’s code for parking lot tree wells and structural soils
- There will be options, so structural soil may not be required but is one option to achieve soil volume standards
- Member Love spoke at council meeting as well as Urban Forester Pasley and Parks Superintendent Hopkins

c. Urban Forest Management

- Review of Chapter 1 – Vision
- Member Villona uploaded current draft to Teams
- Chapter 2 will be next week

6. Matters from Committee Members

- Vice Chair Holzinger brought up recent tree loss at the Masters in Augusta, GA
- Member Cartmill brought up Firewise Communities and Wildfire Management
 - Firewise Coordinator has not yet been hired by the City
 - Dollar Mountain has had some work done with ODF
 - Woodson Park Reserve is a concern as well as Mountain Bike Hill
 - Member Cartmill suggested incorporating Firewise Management into the Urban Forestry Management Plan and searching for grants to help with fuel reduction

7. Matters from Staff

- a. Parks Superintendent Hopkins reminded the committee about the upcoming Arbor Day Tree Planting on April 17th, 2023, in Fruitdale Park at 10 am.
- b. The City is looking at updating the tree well deposit requirements for developers.
- c. SEAT Committee will be releasing a draft of their recommendations for the city, with some recommendations pertaining to Urban Forestry.
- d. Parks Superintendent Hopkins will be turning over the staff liaison position to Urban Forester Pasley.
- e. Urban Forester Pasley would like to discuss updating the recommended street tree list in a future meeting

8. Future Agenda Building for Next Meeting

- a. Tree Location Update
- b. Urban Forestry Management Plan
- c. Street Tree List

9. Adjournment

- a. Meeting adjourned at approximately 7:43 pm

Next Meeting: May 8th, 2023, at 6:30 PM

Minutes prepared by James Pasley, Urban Forester