

GRANTS PASS URBAN TREE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes – October 12, 2020 6:30 PM
Council Chambers Room

Committee Members:

Doug Tripp, Chair
Stormy Shannon, Vice Chair - Absent
Michael Holzinger - Telephone
James Love - Absent
Dan McBerty
Jeff Soash
Logan Werner
Elaina Juknies - Absent

City/Staff/Council Liaisons:

Joel King (City Councilor)
Tony Mecum (Parks)
Chad Westbrook (Parks)

Guests:

None

AGENDA:

- 1. Roll Call:**
 - a. Chair Tripp took roll and started the meeting at 6:30pm.
- 2. Introductions:**
 - a. None.
- 3. Items from Public:** (Opportunity for citizens to share information with the Committee regarding items that are not on the agenda).
 - a. None.
- 4. Approval of Minutes:**
 - a. Approval of Minutes from September 14, 2020.

MOTION/VOTE

Member McBerty moved and Member Holzinger seconded the motion to approve the minutes as submitted. The vote resulted as follows: “AYES”: Chair Tripp, Members Holzinger, McBerty, Soash, and Werner. “NAYS”: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Members Shannon and Juknies

The motion passed.

- 5. Action Items:**
 - a. Washington Boulevard Islands
 1. Urban forester presented on current state of the four boulevard islands.
 2. Urban forester presented on four possible options for tree plantings, which included planting trees in current open locations across three of the four islands, while the other options involved the removal of cherries from one island and plant new trees in that island.
 3. Committee debated the options. Member Holzinger stated that water infrastructure may be under the islands. Member Werner stated that he was made aware of possible infrastructure underneath as well. Committee requested Urban forester investigate any possible infrastructure conflicts and report back.

MOTION/VOTE

Chair Tripp moved and Member McBerty seconded the motion to endorse “Option 3”: the removal of the cherry trees from the most northern island and replace them with six new trees. The vote resulted as follows: “AYES”: Chair Tripp, Members Holzinger, McBerty,

**Soash, and Werner. “NAYS”: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Members Shannon and Juknies
The motion passed.**

4. Committee discussed tree species for the island.

MOTION/VOTE

**Chair Tripp moved and Member McBerty seconded the motion to plant six Swamp White Oaks (*Quercus bicolor*) in the most northern island after the cherries are removed. The vote resulted as follows: “AYES”: Chair Tripp, Members Holzinger, McBerty, Soash, and Werner. “NAYS”: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Members Shannon and Juknies
The motion passed.**

- b. Prioritization of Other Planting Locations
 1. Committee discussed locations in town that are missing tree canopy. Some locations mentioned included “E” Street near Mill Street, “F” Street behind Fred Meyer.
 2. Councilor King recommended that Committee members email Urban forester of locations. Urban forester can then prioritize the list and present that back to the Committee. Committee agreed.
 3. Urban forester will take watering into consideration for prioritization.
- c. Discussing Watering for Right-of-Way Street Trees
 1. Committee discussed water availability in the rights-of-way as a barrier to new tree establishment.
 2. Chair Tripp mentioned that the Committee could investigate the current City codes to see if language could be changed to encourage property owners to water trees.
 3. Committee would like to review the current code and see what other cities do on this matter.
- d. Tree Planting Program Funding Update
 1. Urban forester stated that the strategic planning goal of funding for 100 street trees was not funded this fiscal year.
 2. Councilor King stated that due to prioritization of all City budget items, and the current COVID situation, the funding was not allocated this year.
 3. Funding was, however, allocated to the Washington BLVD project.
- e. Review Committee Applications
 1. Committee reviewed applications and discussed the quality of candidates, including experience and passion.
 2. Committee discussed the attendance record of Member Juknies.

MOTION/VOTE

**Chair Tripp moved and Member Holzinger seconded the motion to recommend Council review all applications for the open positions. The vote resulted as follows: “AYES”: Chair Tripp, Members Holzinger, McBerty, Soash, and Werner. “NAYS”: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Members Shannon and Juknies
The motion passed.**

MOTION/VOTE

Chair Tripp moved and Member Werner seconded the motion to request that Council remove Member Juknies from the Committee due to her lack of attendance. The vote

**resulted as follows: “AYES”: Chair Tripp, Members Holzinger, McBerty, Soash, and Werner. “NAYS”: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Members Shannon and Juknies
The motion passed.**

- f. Tree Inventory Update
 - 1. Urban forester stated that the Master Gardeners of Josephine County, through the OSU Extension Office, will participate in a video conference on Monday, October 19. Committee members are welcome to join. Urban forester will notify the committee on the date and time when scheduled.
 - 2. The inventory may go into Spring 2021 due to difficulty identifying trees in the winter, and with ongoing COVID situation.
 - 3. Volunteers are now given limited access to tree data per Member Soash’s recommendation.
- g. Tree Board Manual Handout
 - 1. Urban forester forgot to bring the manuals but will accommodate any way to give members the handout.
- h. Strategic Planning/Goals
 - 1. Committee discussed potential goals to present to Council, including the Tree Planting Program for 100 new street trees, new code changes for improved tree maintenance and establishment, public education, and redwood grove near river.
 - 2. Councilor King recommended that he, Chair Tripp, Urban forester, and Liaison Westbrook meet before the next Committee meeting to go over goals so that the Committee can finalize their recommendations in time.

6. Matters from Committee Members and Staff:

- a. Member Werner stated that because Vice Chair Shannon will no longer be on the Committee that a new Vice Chair should be elected.

7. Future Agenda Building for Next Meeting

- a. Vice Chair Election
- b. City Tree Code Review
- c. Strategic Planning/Goals
- d. Washington BLVD Tree Planting Progress

8. Adjournment

- a. Chair Tripp moved, and Member Soash seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at approximately 8:30 PM. All present approved.

Next Meeting: November 9, 2020 at 6:30 PM

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