

URBAN FORESTRY SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES

Date:	09-15-2025
Time:	4:30 – 5:30 pm
Place:	Virtual Zoom Meeting
Attending:	UFS: Chair Christine Johnson, Jim Buck, Keith Warren, Steve Stevens, Thea Hayes Staff: Torrey Lindbo (Staff Liaison), Hayley Hamann, Jim Wheeler PC Liaison: Greg Schroeder, John Harstock Council Liaison: Guests: Janet Unruh
Absent	UFS: N/A

Agenda Item #2 – Public Comments

Discussion:	None
Decisions:	N/A
Action:	N/A

Agenda Item #3 – Approval of Meeting Minutes

Discussion:	No discussion on August 18, 2025, minutes
Decisions:	August 18, 2025, minutes approved unanimously
Action:	Question about posting of minutes on-line. Hayley confirmed that they have been uploaded to UFS webpage.

Agenda Item #4 – Staff Liaison Introduction

Discussion:	- Chair Johnson asked Torrey Lindbo to introduce himself, as he will be replacing Jim Wheeler as the new staff liaison. Jim was in attendance and thanked for his service. - Torrey gave a brief overview of his role at the City. He is the Water Quality Program Manager and has been at the city for 18 years. Torrey has presented on tree related issues to the UFS on many occasions over the past years, but looks forward to serving in this role. While his daily tasks focus on stormwater management, but his position is within the Watershed & Parks Department, which includes staff from both Natural Resources and Parks.
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Agenda Item #5 – 2025-2026 Work Plan Review and Calendar

Discussion:	- Chair Johnson reviewed the items on the current work plan. There are currently 2 items – 1) Parks Master Plan and 2) Tree Code. There is also a list of additional responsibilities, which include maintaining list of significant trees, public education, and helping ensure Tree City USA status. Calendar has been updated, as this helps Tina track info needed for Tree City USA. - Jim Buck asked whether the UFS could be kept informed about tree code status and plan for council, Hayley provided an update on changes to schedule. Tree code will be going to a City Council work session on Nov. 4 at 4pm and then to Planning Commission on Nov. 10 at 6:30pm. Adoption date will likely be December or January. Mary and Gabby will be bringing code to UFS at November meeting. There was some interest in hearing about what happened at the September City Council work session meeting and seeing a link to that meeting. Jim was curious about the changes being proposed to spacing
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	and wondered whether the larger spacing was to accommodate larger trees; this is something that Mary and Gabby can provide info about in November. Jim was also curious to know whether there might be an opportunity to plant smaller trees in existing small landscape strips (2-2.5' wide); Torrey said there may be mapping data showing where narrower landscape strips are in City. Tree list discussion. Christine provided comments on list related to availability, ensuring they are drought and/or fire resistant. Keith has provided comments in past as well, but would like to review latest list before it is finalized. Questions about whether evergreen trees might need to be limited in some places due to blow down a few years ago. Tree list may also need to consider those that are suitable in wider planting strips where stormwater management will occur.
Decisions:	None
Action:	- Hayley will send out a link to the Sept 2 city council work session where tree code was discussed. https://greshamor.new.swagit.com/videos/354197 - Christine and/or Torrey will check with Mary and Gabby about if/when latest tree list could be reviewed. Perhaps review at October meeting (if Mary/Gabby not needed) or include as part of November meeting? - Torrey will check with Tina and/or GIS team to see if layer exists of landscape strip widths (esp. those in the 2-2.5' range)

Agenda Item #6 – Arbor Day Event 2026

Discussion:	- Typical events have been tree planting in April, which is often too late for planting. Christine looked into options for having the Arbor Day event be a follow-up to a winter tree planting event, like mulching trees planted at the 1/24/26 FOT event planned at Nadaka Park. - Other ideas besides mulching trees could be ivy removal or doing some pavement conversion, like at one of the park & ride lots. - Question about whether the Arbor Day event should include info about or focus on Emerald Ash Borer
Decisions:	None
Action:	- Christine and/or Torrey will follow up with Tina to see who current Friends of Trees contact is. - Torrey to check with Natural Resources staff to see if there are any mulching or ivy removal needs that could be made into event in April

Agenda Item #7 – Emerald Ash Borer Update

Discussion:	- There has been positive identification of EAB in east Multnomah County/Portland. One on David Douglas School property is close to Gresham, so will be here soon. What resources can UFS or the city provide? - Christine put together a list of resources and web examples from other cities and shared that with Torrey to help guide what other cities are doing and what a web page or newsletter article could look like. - The group was curious to know if the city has an EAB response plan. There were questions about whether other trees might also be considered, as some others might be affected. The group was curious about whether city might treat any trees or plan any homeowner assistance. - UFS recommends that any public education and outreach include: - Basic website - Rate of spread - How to identify ash trees and EAB - How to stop the spread - How will residents be notified of the quarantine now in place?
Decisions:	None
Action:	- Torrey to check with city to see if there is an EAB response plan (it does not, but Torrey will try to find Portland's to share with other staff and try to create one) - Torrey to check to see whether city newsletter could feature an article about EAB

Agenda Item #8 – UFS Recruitment

Discussion:	- There are currently 2 open positions. Christine compiled info that could be used in creating a flyer or poster for posting or sharing with groups where we might recruit new members. - Group discussed places where members could be recruited, including watershed councils, colleges or universities (including OSU extension and MHCC), other places where local arborists might take training
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	programs (e.g. Clackamas CC)
Decisions:	• None
Action:	• Torrey to see if there is anyone in communications/marketing that can help make a recruitment flyer to fill the two open spots on the committee.

Potential October meeting topics:

- Tree list (if ok to discuss per Mary and Gabby)
- EAB (if any movement)
- UFS Recruitment flyer (if ready to review)
- Update on Parks Master Plan?
- Update on Gradin opening?

Meeting adjourned at 5:30pm

Next Meeting is October 20, 2025

*These meeting minutes were unanimously approved by the Urban Forestry Subcommittee on November 17, 2025.