

URBAN FORESTRY SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES

Date:	11-17-2025
Time:	4:30 – 5:40 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 PC Liaison: Greg Schroeder, John Harstock Council Liaison: Jerry Hinton Guests:
Absent	UFS: N/A

Agenda Item #2 – Public Comments

Discussion:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
Decisions:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N/A
Action:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N/A

Agenda Item #3 – Approval of Meeting Minutes

Discussion:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No discussion on September 15, 2025, minutes
Decisions:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> September 15, 2025, minutes approved unanimously
Action:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N/A

Agenda Item #4 – Chair Update

Discussion:	<p><u>Arbor Day Event Planning</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chair Johnson provided an update about reaching out to Friends of Trees (FOT) to inquire about partnering on upcoming events. The main event that FOT is planning in Gresham is a street tree planting on Saturday, November 22. UFS members could volunteer at that event, or help FOT with some planting after that event. Chair Johnson was invited to join FOT at the Green Gresham/Healthy Gresham planning meeting on December 4. She will report back any other opportunities she learns about after that meeting. Following the meeting, Chair Johnson forwarded along some options that Tina shared, including the option for an April mulching event at Bella Vista Park and/or Nadaka. <p><u>Recruitment Flyer</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A draft recruitment flyer was shared with the committee to review ahead of the meeting. The goal is to compile any additional feedback on this draft and then use it to post in various places for recruitment of new members. Locations to share include Planning counter at City Hall, bringing to public outreach and planting events, posting at library. UFS asked whether the recruitment flyer might be something that could be added to the UFS web page. Torrey will investigate. A few proposed edits were suggested. The QR code on draft flyer was no longer valid and needs updating. It was also suggested to have the main subheading lines stand out more by either adding color or using an icon (like a tree) in front of them.
Decisions:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None

Action:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UFS needs to review the potential planting options shared to determine if any would make a suitable Arbor Day event. • Torrey to forward on proposed revisions to communications staff to make edits to them share an updated draft with UFS. • Torrey to review UFS web page to see if the recruitment flyer could be added to it, or if it already adequately addresses ability for interested people to consider joining. It does appear that the page already addresses the need, so posting the flyer to the page would not be useful.
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Agenda Item #5 – Staff Update

Discussion:	<p><u>Tree Code Update</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Torrey provided an overview of the November 4th presentation that Planning staff working on the tree code gave to City Council during a work session. The work session was very technical, focused on specific questions from Council at the last meeting. In addition to the material in their presentation, staff prepared a very detailed memo for Council, which is available for review (as well as the meeting recording). Several UFS members watched the meeting, so were aware that there wasn't a lot of time for Council to provide staff with feedback. The result is that staff will be providing some Council briefings to talk through some of the material provided in the presentation and memo to help Council be fully prepared to provide feedback or make decisions that will help staff develop code that reflects their input. • UFS members brought up several concerns related to the tree code project, including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ How other Development Code updates that have been made recently dovetail with tree code revisions ○ The fact that there are so many different design districts with different tree requirements ○ How the approach selected, either a canopy goal of an explicit number of trees, might affect the trees that the City might have on various lists – especially if the goal is to have large canopy trees, while also having larger spacing between trees (35 feet) and/or allowing trees approved for smaller planter strip widths to be planted in larger planter widths. Should consider limiting smaller trees to just smaller (3 feet) planter strips, while only having larger trees in 10 foot planters. ○ If the City does opt for a canopy goal instead of mandating a specific number of trees, it will be more important to either have a staff arborist or use consulting arborist, to review proposals to ensure future goals will be met for canopy <p><u>Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Update</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Torrey provided an update on City work that is starting related to EAB. A City web page has been created with information for the public - https://www.greshamoregon.gov/environmental-services/natural-resources/emerald-ash-borer/ and an internal group of staff from various departments has been established to work on developing a response plan. Some of the items the work group is working on are providing an update for council and reviewing current inventories of ash trees and determining what needs to be done to assess current ash in city. Ash has already been removed from the approved tree list, and Planning staff are already working on a process to make it easier for residents to remove ash trees as a "hazard tree." • UFS inquired about whether some of the other trees that EAB has been shown to impact are on the approved tree list, including fringetree and olive trees. • There were questions about the inventory tool that the City might be planning to use. It was noted that ODF has their tree plotter tool, which might be useful. Some of the key attributes to note will be things like location, size, health, and whether the trees are near other ash trees. • Chair Johnson suggested that staff might consider inviting the City's consulting arborist along to the next internal meeting they have scheduled. <p><u>Rodlun Trees</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Torrey noted that 6 street trees were recently planted in the landscape strip stormwater facilities along Rodlun Road. These are replacement trees installed by the City and Watershed staff will be monitoring and maintaining. <p><u>Other Updates</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will determine if we need to hold the December 8 meeting, or it might just be short, depending upon topics identified. It was suggested that it could be a good work session meeting if the UFS were able to get the updated tree list by then. One of the items UFS wants to review with an eye to if how some species that have a lot of varieties gets treated on the list, since some species (e.g. Gingko) can be very tall and large canopy, but there are also varieties that are much more compact. • Chair Johnson forwarded a message from Tina for the public to review and provide input on the draft
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	<p>Gresham Parks System Plan. https://engagegresham.org/parks-2035 Public comments are due by November 28. There is also a Gresham Parks 2035 Virtual Q&A session scheduled for November 25 from 6-8:30pm.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There will be a public walking tour at Gradin Sports Park on Monday, December 8th, at 11am https://www.greshamoregon.gov/events/2025/parks-and-recreation/gradin-community-sports-park-walking-tour/
Decisions:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
Action:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Torrey will check with Gabby and Mary about the tree list to see if/when UFS might be able to review Torrey and/or Christine will check in with Gabby and Mary to see when they might have tree code policy updates to bring to UFS (expected to be sometime in 2026) Torrey to see if olive or fringetree might be things ODA is suggesting removing from tree lists.

Future meeting topics:

- Tree list
- Tree code update
- EAB

Meeting adjourned at 5:40pm

Next Meeting is December 8, 2025

These meeting minutes were unanimously approved by the Urban Forestry Subcommittee on January 20, 2026.