

URBAN FORESTRY SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES

Date:	02-23-2026
Time:	4:35 – 5:36 pm
Place:	Virtual Zoom Meeting
Attending:	UFS: Chair Christine Johnson, Jim Buck, Keith Warren, Thea Hayes Staff: Torrey Lindbo (Staff Liaison) PC Liaison: Greg Schroeder Council Liaison: Jerry Hinton Guests: Janet Unruh
Absent	UFS: Steve Stevens

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"> Jim moved and Thea seconded a motion to approve minutes
Decisions:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> January 20, 2026, minutes approved unanimously
Action:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hayley will finalize and post to web page

Agenda Item #4 – Staff Update	
Discussion:	<p><u>Gradin Tour with Parks staff</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Date set for tour of Gradin with Parks staff on Tuesday, March 10 from 1:00-2:30. Plan is to meet at the park at 1pm. <p><u>Tree Code Update</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> UDP is wrapping up Tree Code Audit which will help identify larger policy questions to bring to a Council Work Session and receive guidance. No work session scheduled yet, but UDP staff will keep UFS updated. Staff working with consulting firm on some additional edits and refinements to Approved Tree List. Several UFS members expressed concerns about the perceived lack of progress and the appearance that the development community was having a greater level of influence on the process than the rest of the public, who all provided input earlier on in the process. Councilor Hinton was asked whether City Council still had updating tree code on their priority list. He informed UFS that it was. UFS voiced concern about the timeline for seeing this project move forward. Councilor Hinton directed Torrey to ensure that staff find a date to get this in front of Council. <p><u>Arbor Day Events</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> See upcoming events list under agenda item 7 <p><u>Gresham “Lumberjack”</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The UFS letter was shared with the City Manager (CM), who has tasked the City Attorney’s Office (CAO) with following through and keeping the CM updated

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Torrey stated that he felt the approach CAO was taking seemed like it was going to be more effective than past efforts, as there is support from the Multnomah County DA for taking action based on the value of the trees that have been documented as lost over the past several years. Because this is a legal action, it will take a little time, but the city and county staff are dedicated to moving forward with action that will hopefully result in ending the current tree cutting behavior. <p><u>Butler Creek Estates</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> At January meeting, Thea asked whether the “settlement agreement” is something that can be shared Torrey checked in with Planning staff and learned that the agreement is already part of the accessible public record as Exhibit E of approval LD-21-00395 The funds from this settlement went into the general tree fund, where they need to be spent on items that fund is approved for, but not necessarily just in the impacted area near Butler Creek <p><u>Mr. Tree</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jim asked a question about whether the city has, or could, revoke the license of a business that violates local, state, or federal law. He had seen an article that the owner of Mr. Tree had violated IRS laws. Torrey learned from Gresham business licensing staff that Mr. Tree likely has a license through Oregon Metro, rather than just the city, as they aren’t based in Gresham and operate throughout the region. The city can choose to not renew or revoke a license for a business that violates local, state, or federal law, but a decision here would likely be at the state level.
Decisions:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UFS agreed that a tour of Gradin with Parks staff would be valuable
Action:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UFS will attend tour of Gradin with Parks staff on March 10 Torrey will pass along direction from Councilor Hinton to staff working on tree code Torrey will email the “settlement agreement” from Butler Creek Estates to UFS members

Agenda Item #5 – Significant tree Nomination	
Discussion:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An application was received for a western red cedar tree that is large (50-inch DBH), but has multiple leaders (person submitting nomination says 7). Owner feels it is unique and a natural landmark. Several UFS expressed concern over the reason that this tree has such a unique form being due to past damage it likely incurred. Listing it as a significant tree could make it harder for the property owner to remove if it does become a hazard. A question was asked whether “historical significance” is an important factor in determining whether a tree should be listed as significant.
Decisions:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Before reaching a decision to list or not, UFS members felt it was important to visit the tree first.
Action:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Christine will reach out to property owner and schedule a field visit that may include multiple UFS members.

Agenda Item #6 – Chair Update	
Discussion:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Christine reported that she got accepted to a graduate program that begins in June. Due to the time requirements of work and school, she is going to be resigning from UFS after May meeting. Will need to elect a new chair.
Decisions:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N/A
Action:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Torrey will look into the process for replacing chair.

Agenda Item #7 – Upcoming Events	
Discussion:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> February 24: Black Heritage Month Tree Stories at the Gresham Library March 18: Tree Mulching event at Bella Vista Park March 31: Rockwood tree well ribbon cutting. 10:30-12:00 at Rockwood Market Hall April 18: UFS Arbor Month Event at Nadaka Park (~9:00-12:00) TBD June/July? Park to Park Tree Walk with Equipo de Arboles, Verde, and other partners. Jim also noted that he has been working on some blackberry removal on Gresham Butte and has been planting native plants, in case anyone wants to reach out to him and assist.

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

Future meeting topics:

- Tree list
- Tree code update
- EAB
- Code enforcement – tree topping
- Update on Parks comprehensive plan

Meeting adjourned at 5:36pm

Next Meeting is March 16, 2026.

These meeting minutes were unanimously approved by the Urban Forestry Subcommittee on March 16, 2026.

Meeting Recording:

<https://greshamoregon.zoom.us/rec/share/RC9yfk8oT8f7CibXwjbiXQzhWctIZkAV09NhhJowfeHjPyREeFCpYbK8B4jl3lq5.o88ZhYvc3bDKVAmf>