

**TUMWATER TREE BOARD
MINUTES OF MEETING
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CONVENE: 7:02 p.m.

PRESENT: Chair Trent Grantham and Commissioners Brent Chapman, Michael Jackson, and Dennis Olson.

Excused: Commissioners Tanya Nozawa and Jim Sedore.

Staff: Planning Manager Brad Medrud, Associate Planner Suresh Bhagavan, and Recording Secretary Valerie Gow.

Others: Mayor Pete Kmet, John Bornsworth, Peninsula Urban Forestry, and Micki McNaughton, Arborea, LLC.

CHANGES TO AGENDA: There were no changes to the agenda.

NEXT TREE BOARD MEETING DATE: **The next regular meeting is on April 8, 2019 at 7 p.m.**

ARBOR DAY AND URBAN FORESTRY MANAGEMENT PLAN OPEN HOUSE: Planner Bhagavan reported the City's annual Arbor Day event will be held on April 20, 2019 at the Tumwater Library in conjunction with an Open House for the Urban Forestry Management Plan beginning at 10 a.m. to noon.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: JANUARY 14, 2019.

MOTION: **Commissioner Chapman moved, seconded by Commissioner Jackson, to approve the minutes of January 14, 2019 as published. Motion carried unanimously.**

PUBLIC COMMENT: **Jorjana Pedersen, 2425 Sapp Road SW, Tumwater,** shared information on some research she conducted on how the Department of Natural Resources would coordinate with the City of Tumwater's Urban Forestry Management Plan. The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has the jurisdiction for forestry practices for parcels 20 acres or more within the City limits. The City of Tumwater received jurisdiction from DNR for forestry practices for properties less than 20 acres. She suggested the Board consider including some information within the Urban Forestry Management Plan outline regarding forestry practices, the ability to utilize an urban forest of less than 20 acres, and the type of guidelines the City might implement to allow the owner to use the resource without depleting the urban forest. Ms. Pedersen provided the Board with written information on forestry practices in Tumwater. After researching Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 222 (DNR forestry practices) she recommended several of the provisions that might be pertinent to the

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Urban Forestry Management Plan. She cited some language to include within the plan to provide the ability for citizens to utilize their forests while also recognizing the intent of the Urban Forestry Management Plan.

SPECIAL ITEM:

STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS: Mayor Kmet presented the 2019 State of the City report.

Last year, voters approved two ballot measures. Voters reaffirmed the fireworks ban in the City and supported the creation of Tumwater Metropolitan Park District (MPD), which will provide a permanent and sustainable source of funding to improve maintenance, construct City parks, and construct a new community center.

Commissioner Chapman asked to receive information on how much revenue the MPD levy is anticipated to generate and the percentage that would be allocated for maintenance activities.

Mayor Kmet reported one major challenge encountered by the City last year was several homeless encampments located under Highway 101 near Percival Creek. Although homelessness is not as visible in Tumwater as it is in downtown Olympia, many homeless individuals live in wooded areas throughout the City. The City is working to locate alternative locations for homeless encampments.

The brewery property continues to experience no redevelopment activity other than the October 2018 three-alarm fire that destroyed a substantial portion of a brewery building located off Custer Way. Surrounding fire departments assisted Tumwater Fire Department in extinguishing the fire. Since October, three smaller fires have occurred during wire thefts. Recently, an oil spill occurred when one of the brewery transformers was breached by vandals causing a break in the oil lines feeding the transformers. The oil containing PCBs entered the City's storm drain system, which feeds into Tumwater Falls Park and the Deschutes River. The brewery property owner hired a spill clean-up contractor.

Because of the number of ongoing issues occurring on the brewery property, the City issued a series of violation orders and fines for failure to address issues. The owner recently visited the property, agreed to pay the fines, and reached an agreement with the City to hire security to monitor the property and secure the facilities. The owner will remove shrubs and other debris surrounding the facilities to afford a clean line of sight for security.

The City's biennial budget is developed through a series of Strategic Goals the Council reviews every two years. This year, the strategies essentially are the same except with adding focus on the City's role to provide social

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services and address homelessness and housing issues. The City's Strategic Goals include:

- Pursue Targeted Development Activities
- Build a Community Recognized for Quality, Compassion & Humanity
- Create and Maintain a Transportation System for all Modes of Travel
- Provide Quality Public Safety Services
- Refine and Sustain a Great Organization
- Be a leader in Environmental Sustainability

Last year, an important redevelopment activity was the restoration of the Chambers Prairie Grange by the owner of the property, Tom Schroeder. The building, although structurally in good shape, required a major renovation. The owner and the City negotiated and signed a development agreement that conditioned the City's acceleration of the rezones to preservation of the building. The building was renovated and it now houses a Starbucks.

In the southeast area of the City off Old Highway 99, the newly formed Warehouse District is developing with many new businesses, to include craft breweries, a bakery, and the Spuds Grocery store. The Warehouse District is proving to be an important commercial area for the City.

A substantial state and federal project is the fish capture facility at Tumwater Falls Park (renamed Brewery Park at Tumwater Falls). The project will remove the existing fish capture facility and replace it with a modern facility that will include windows for viewing fish and some educational components.

A military readiness facility is under construction near Bush Middle School for the National Guard to consolidate operations from Olympia and Puyallup. The \$40 million project will serve as the armory for the National Guard. The center could also serve as a good resource for the City in the event of an emergency.

Other development activities include a light industrial park south of the airport and 83rd Avenue. The park will add several small businesses to include a 40,000 square-foot warehouse distribution facility.

Housing construction continues to increase in the City. The Preserve subdivision is located southeast of the airport off Old Highway 99. When fully developed, the subdivision will include over new 500 single-family homes.

Last year, the City added 70 single-family homes and 80 apartment units. The number of new homes and apartments has been equal for the last three

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years. The trend to increase density in the community will likely continue this year. The City currently has 15 active applications for single-family subdivisions and six apartment complexes.

Some park improvements include the restoration of Tumwater Hill's Overlook Park.

Tumwater continues to promote an engaged community. Last year, an Eagle Scout restored a Historic sign overlooking the river valley. Community volunteers cleaned up and weeded Historical Park as part of Earth Day activities.

This year, the City celebrates its 150th anniversary of its incorporation. The City is planning some sesquicentennial activities. One of the first is a display in the City Hall lobby featuring the City's first woman Councilmember, Marion Argo. The City continues to preserve Tumwater's heritage by completing some improvements to the Crosby House and the Brewmaster's House (Henderson House), as well as restoring the old brewhouse tower. The City works in partnership with the Olympia Tumwater Foundation to provide historic programs in the City.

Mayor Kmet reported the City is striving to create a transportation system that is safe for all modes of travel. Some examples include the recent reconstruction of Desoto Street, which included the addition of a bicycle lane, completion of the City's largest repaving street project totaling nearly \$2 million through the City's Transportation Benefit District (passed in 2015), and installation of new water and sewer line and repavement of 70th Avenue. Last year, the City completed \$2 million in paving projects, which was funded by the TBD. This year, other transportation improvements include some utility work to prepare areas for future paving, as well as a chip sealing/crack sealing program. Work is underway on Capitol Boulevard as it transitions to Old Highway 99. However, the work is on hiatus because of gopher mitigation from some minor impacts confined to a small area of the project area.

One major transportation project in 2019 is the realignment of Tumwater Valley Drive. The Craft District project and the City partnered to complete some utility work and to move Tumwater Valley Drive to position the City for pursuing a future roadway extension from E Street across the valley to Cleveland Avenue.

The City continues to work on a series of roundabout projects at the Trospen Road and Capitol Boulevard intersection. This year, the work will finalize the project design and acquire right-of-way to position the project for construction in 2020/2021.

Mayor Kmet reported on last year's outstanding public safety responses by

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the City. The older brewery building involved in the fire has been removed. The community also experienced a shooting at Walmart during a multi-area crime spree involving a shooting near Israel Road and Tyee Drive, as well as in the Walmart parking lot.

To address public nuisance issues and other safety issues in the City, the Fire Department and the Police Department have hired additional personnel. The Police Department hired several new police officers and reorganized the department. The Fire Department hired several firefighters and ordered a new fire truck as part of the public safety levy approved by voters in 2011. The truck will be delivered in the next several months. The City is also participating in a study for consolidation of the fire department with other surrounding fire departments.

The City recently remodeled some areas of City Hall to reconfigure space. Information Services moved to the lower floor to open up office space on the main floor. The Fire Station was painted and had new siding installed. Some of the damage from a leaking roof was also repaired. Tumwater Library received a new roof and most of the interior of City Hall is being painted. The City is installing a new global computer system.

The City acquired the Trails Arena property several years ago to construct the City's Public Works Operations Building and a community park. The property housed the old Trails Arena, which attracted vandals and was in poor condition. The City recently demolished the arena and most of the other buildings except for several stable buildings that will be used for storage.

Tumwater continues to be a leader in solving environmental issues. Most commercial facilities in the City manage stormwater through an underground treatment system. As part of the City's permit requirement, the City is increasing its inspection and enforcement program for stormwater facilities in the City.

To help control sediment sources in the Deschutes River that is contributing to bank erosion, the City is increasing efforts to create natural logjams along the banks of the Deschutes River to provide salmon habitat and help control erosion. Funding for those efforts was recently jeopardized by issues occurring with the Board of Commissioners at the Thurston Conservation District. At risk, was the potential loss of over \$1 million in grants for salmon habitat restoration county-wide. The City of Tumwater led an effort to transfer the District's responsibilities to Thurston Regional Planning Council (TRPC) to preserve the grants. The City was able to negotiate agreements between five jurisdictions and the Squaxin Island Tribe in a month to successfully transfer the responsibilities to TRPC.

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Mayor Kmet thanked the Board members for their continuing contributions to the City and the community. The City continues to experience a tremendous amount of participation from the community. During the last election, voter turnout was 70%. Attendance to the City's annual 4th of July festivities was over 15,000 people. The City's volunteer programs continue to thrive with many volunteers.

Commissioner Chapman asked about the projection of population over the next 20 years. Mayor Kmet said the City's current population is approximately 24,000 people. The City forecasts 36,000 people by 2035.

**ITEMS FOR
DISCUSSION:**

**URBAN FORESTRY
MANAGEMENT
PLAN (UFMP)
DISCUSSION:**

**URBAN FOREST
ASSESSMENT
METHODS REPORT:**

John Bornsworth, Environmental Planner, Peninsula Urban Forestry, and Micki McNaughton, Urban Forest Planner, Arborea, LLC, briefed the Board on the Urban Forest Assessment Methods report.

Mr. Bornsworth said the report summarizes the three inventories conducted in Tumwater. The report will be an appendix to the Urban Forestry Management Plan. The report is technical in nature and includes details of the inventories and includes all information from the last 14 months of inventory efforts.

Mr. Bornsworth reviewed some of the details included in the report. A table describes the three different assessments and the plan to conduct a fourth assessment. The fourth assessment will be based on future research currently underway by two organizations in Seattle with King Conservation District to quantify the benefits received from urban trees. Stormwater benefits data received from urban trees have not been quantified at this time. Sampling will be deferred until more information becomes available.

Of the three inventories completed, the green space inventory used the FLAT methodology, the street tree inventory used the i-Tree ECO methodology, and the canopy assessment (aerial) used the i-Tree ECO methodology. The three methodologies are described within the report.

The street tree inventory included all trees located between a sidewalk and a street in the City and within the Urban Growth Area (UGA). Some trees planted between private property and sidewalks were not inventoried. Other trees not in alignment with the framework were also excluded.

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Street trees were inventoried to document trees impacting or conflicting with infrastructure. The inventory consisted of a GIS layer depicting the location of all City sidewalks. Using that layer and 2017 aerial imagery, sidewalks were identified with trees.

Information for each tree is included in the report. However, not all assessments were conducted on the ground. How the information was acquired might be added to the report. Street names and street types were included in the inventory from the GIS layers. A table of trees identifies the proportion of trees and species of trees commonly planted. The report identifies how many trees were planted in neighborhoods. Some areas of the City have fewer trees, such as the area near the airport. Both the neighborhood list and the zone layer were derived from the Tumwater Comprehensive Plan.

Commissioner Chapman asked whether a map is included depicting City neighborhoods. Mr. Bornsworth said the information was not included in the report but would be included in the Urban Forestry Management Plan.

Manager Medrud explained that the neighborhood map was derived from the Comprehensive Plan, which is included on the City's website. However, it would likely be important to include the map within the report. Many of the areas are not distinguished clearly as a specific neighborhood but more as a way to organize and identify areas of the City.

Mr. Bornsworth suggested including a large format of the map as an appendix to the Urban Forestry Management Plan.

Mr. Bornsworth said the assessment of each tree identified the following factors:

- Common Name/Scientific Name
- Tree Type:
 - Evergreen broadleaf
 - Evergreen conifer
 - Deciduous broadleaf
 - Deciduous conifer
- Tree Form (growth habit)
- Tree Height
- Crown Height
- Crown Width
- Tree Condition (based on International Society of Arboriculture)
- Fungi Type – any indicators of fungal infection
- Planter Type:
- Tree Distance to Sidewalk
- Utility Line Height
- Previously Topped

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- Improper Mulching
- Remove Tree Supports
- Tree Grate Maintenance

Mr. Bornsworth encouraged the Board to provide feedback on any of the inventory metrics to help improve clarity and definitions.

Commissioner Chapman encouraged the inclusion of more graphics/images in the report to improve clarity and understanding of the information.

Mr. Bornsworth said the report includes the inventory protocol and a description of how the inventory was conducted. The report also includes other tables related to the street tree inventory, such as trees not falling within the definition of a tree located between a sidewalk and a street that are located within business parks, tree count by neighborhood, tree count by street type, tree count by tree species (58), and tree count by tree form.

Commissioner Chapman recommended including data sorted by percentage from the least to most common species of trees.

Mr. Bornsworth reported that one of the goals was inventorying available planting space. However, the effort was not successful because of sidewalk designs as much of the available space located in higher density areas was difficult to quantify as to how many trees could be planted. It was difficult to ascertain available planting space on such a large scale inventory. The inventory identified 16 tree stumps. Data will be added identifying the species of trees that are causing sidewalk displacement rather than just the number of trees to help inform the update of the Tumwater street tree policy and redevelopment of the street tree list for the City. Information was collected on maintenance tasks. The information will likely be used to assess whether some of the tasks should be included in homeowner association covenants and regulations to ensure neighborhoods manage trees properly.

Mr. Bornsworth asked for feedback on data useful for decision-making by the Board, as all the information is extractable.

Commissioner Chapman asked whether the inventory assessed the age of the tree. Mr. Bornsworth advised that age was not assessed other than the condition of the tree. The City has information on the date of installation of trees in developments. However, the data would be difficult to attain. Trees were assessed to determine if it was a sapling, juvenile, in active growth, a mature tree, or an over mature tree.

Chair Grantham asked about possibility of identifying trees in the worst and best condition and by species to assist in identifying trees at most risk

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to avoid replanting them.

Mr. Bornsworth agreed that for future inventories, identifying the high proportion of species that no longer exist because of death caused by disease or not surviving weather events would be important information for the City.

The Board discussed past ice and snow events that destroyed many trees throughout the City. The Board agreed it would be important not to repeat planting patterns as other tree species might be a better choice.

Mr. Bornsworth said the green space inventory used a FLAT methodology as the assessment tool. The parcels of land inventoried were unimproved parcels owned by the City, developed City parks, and City infrastructure. The FLAT tool methodology was developed by King County. The methodology does not factor vegetation but assesses trees. The methodology was altered to assess vegetation and trees to identify accessibility to green space and open space throughout the City. One of two FLAT guidebooks was developed by the U.S. Forest Service in association with King County. The second guidebook was developed by another company. Some of the methodology on FLAT is cited within the report. FLAT allows prioritization. Each parcel was assigned a primitive threat level and a value level. The value level is identified as forest composition (forest function and forest value) and the threat pertains to invasive species (largest threat in urban open spaces).

Commissioner Chapman recommended some reformatting suggestions to improve readability of the flowchart.

Mr. Bornsworth said the information reflects an interpretation of how forested areas were assessed from a low, medium, or high value. If the parcel is non-functional highly landscaped but could be improved to a high functional landscape, the rating is at the higher value. If the parcel is non-functioning and unable to support a highly functional landscape, the rating was either medium or low.

Commissioner Chapman commented that “functional landscape” was not included within the graphic, which helped him understand the ratings of low, medium, and high. Mr. Bornsworth said the graphic could be adapted to provide the information in a different format for clarity to the reader.

Chair Grantham pointed out that the information reflects the City does not have many Madrona trees. Mr. Bornsworth said the lack of Madrona trees is not indicative that they were never present but are now threatened and are often removed during development activities. Madrona trees comprise approximately one-third of a native forest or the third most abundant species in a native forest. Through time, the species have disappeared;

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however, they could be replanted.

Mr. Bornsworth said the priority 1-9 matrix (suggested management activities) reflects all areas assigned a management unit number. Each unit includes a map of the unit identifying native areas, hardscape areas, and recreational areas as each area is analyzed differently. Acres across the City were assigned a high value-high threat, a high value-low threat, or a high threat-low value. Randomly throughout the City, no acres were considered to have low value-low threat. Sites having a low ecological value but a high threat because of invasive species cover would be areas that would not be prioritized for restoration. The areas of high ecological value with highly effective landscapes that were rated as high threats are areas where restoration activities should be focused. Some of the areas rated with low ecological value might be areas for an Arbor Day planting event.

Commissioner Chapman asked whether the definitions would be included in the plan or included as part of the graphics. Mr. Bornsworth said the report would be the mechanism that drives the Urban Forestry Management Plan goals and policies. Commissioner Chapman said the graphics are valuable and should include information to enable the reader to interpret the data. He recommended considering a way to organize the information within the plan, as the interpretation should not be separated from the graphics in different sections of the plan. The report reflects a mix of data that would be appropriate for an appendix or reference, as well as information that would be extremely valuable to include in the Urban Forestry Management Plan.

Mr. Bornsworth agreed with the suggestion to include some of the information in the plan. The report includes the graphics and all units include a map with each unit depicting the priority metrics and all management units within each unit.

Manager Medrud commented on the substantial number of maps associated with the data and the potential size of the report. The goal was to determine the best way to access the information. He recommended using the website as a way to access the information.

Mr. Bornsworth offered to provide additional interpretative information for the Priority 1-9 management activities. Chair Grantham suggested simplifying the definitions of the management activities by including a legend of the definitions.

Mr. Bornsworth provided additional clarification of the information summarizing the data (page 25). The Board offered several suggestions to help clarify the information.

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Mr. Bornsworth added that another option is including another layer of transit or roads to identify avenues of accessibility to the areas.

Mr. Bornsworth reviewed the section on the tree canopy assessment. The report includes brief descriptions on the methods for determining tree canopy. The data was stratified by different heights based on LIDAR data. Stratifications were then identified as deciduous canopy or evergreen canopy, or neither. Further stratification included a review of the digital automated process by reviewing neighborhood scale maps. The first results reflected an 85% accuracy level, which was based on random points. However, 85% was low with the current nationwide average between 90% and 92%. Bainbridge Island canopy results reflected an accuracy rate of 91% with Seattle reflecting 89% accuracy last year. Consequently, the team re-examined the data to identify simple and obvious errors. The airport was identified as an area containing green grass that were reflected as trees in the digital mapping, which was subsequently removed, as well as some wetlands and other random areas. Each time data were re-examined, the team reaffirmed the results were accurate. After the re-validation process, the data reflected a rating of 91% accuracy.

The image classification for identifying the urban forest canopy used two different images. The first was a 2017 Thurston County flyover during the summer and the second was 2018 imagery from aerial imagery of the Tumwater UGA, which collected LIDAR but with no deciduous leaf-off providing one full year of data to identify deciduous and evergreen canopy cover. The results revealed that 2% of deciduous canopy cover across the City is over 20 feet in height. The street tree inventory revealed only one-tenth of street trees are over 20 feet in height. The majority of forest land in Tumwater is evergreen trees and most of the riparian area has evergreen cover.

Commissioner Chapman asked about the reason for the lack of a chart for deciduous canopy. Mr. Bornsworth said the chart was misidentified in the report (Tables 24 and 22) and would be corrected. He explained some of the information contained within the tables. The Board offered some suggestions to improve clarity of the information. Several Commissioners offered to forward additional suggestions to Mr. Bornsworth.

Manager Medrud advised that he would forward the maps via email with a link to access the file with the information.

Manager Medrud invited feedback from the Board on the second Urban Forestry Management Plan open house. He referred to a copy of the press release scheduled for release on March 15, 2019, as well as a memorandum on the intent of the open house and the format. Formation of the plan to be presented to the Board will focus on the scope and status of the project,

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community and staff surveys, some detail on the inventory and analysis work, and a beginning discussion on goals and policies. He asked Commissioners to provide feedback on the specific questions to include in the open house, the kind and level of information to be presented, and specific information to present.

Commissioner Chapman recommended stating the goal of the City as engaging in the development of the Urban Forestry Management Plan and identifying the benefits to the average citizen for having a plan.

PUBLIC COMMENT: **Mark Jessel, 5924 Newport Court SW, Tumwater,** suggested including wildlife, such as birds, within the plan as it is a major concern for young children. Often, birds are excluded from plans.

Manager Medrud added that the Board would receive additional information on the assessment report to provide feedback on any changes prior to the open house.

**UFMP GOALS,
OBJECTIVES, AND
ACTIONS:**

Manager Medrud referred to a copy of the 1996 Urban Forestry Management Plan for the Board's reference and also to recognize what the City has accomplished.

Manager Medrud reviewed a draft example of potential goals, objectives, and actions based on information in the 1996 plan, items recommended as part of the Board's ongoing discussion during the course of the project, input from the consultant team, and ideas from other jurisdictional plans.

The plan's four primary goals include:

- Urban forestry as a whole and the value to the community
- How the City will manage the urban forest
- Outreach to the community to collaborate and move forward with urban forestry
- Ensuring plans and regulations are continually updated.

Each of the goals includes a list of some suggested objectives. Manager Medrud said the April meeting will include a discussion by the Board on what it believes is important to include in the plan based on input from all sources. After development of the goals and objectives, the Board will develop actions, assign actions, identify timing, and measurements for success. The Board supported a worksession format for the next meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS: Planner Bhagavan referred Commissioners to an inventory of giveaway items for the Arbor Day event. He asked the Board to email feedback prior to the end of the week to ensure adequate time to order supplies.

Chair Grantham recommended ordering the entire series of the tree posters

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featuring trees of the Pacific Northwest, deciduous trees, wildlife in the Pacific Northwest, and others. He suggested ordering the minimum quantity. Additionally, more tree coloring books should be ordered.

Commissioner Jackson said the giveaway trees would be smaller scale trees this year that are appropriate for urban landscapes. Commissioner Jackson recommended ordering gallon-sized cloth bags for the trees. Planner Bhagavan offered to provide recycled plastic bags from the Tumwater Library to contain the bagged trees.

Chair Grantham asked staff to email an updated Board phone and email list to each Commissioner.

ADJOURNMENT: **With there being no further business, Chair Grantham adjourned meeting at 9:20 p.m.**

Prepared by Puget Sound Meeting Services, psmsoly@earthlink.net