

**TUMWATER TREE BOARD
MINUTES OF MEETING
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CONVENE: 7:01 p.m.

PRESENT: Chair Trent Grantham and Commissioners Brent Chapman, Michael Jackson, Dennis Olson, Tanya Nozawa, and Jim Sedore.

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

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

NEXT TREE BOARD MEETING DATE: The next meeting of the Tree Board is on May 13, 2019 at 7 p.m.

ARBOR DAY EVENT & URBAN FORESTRY MANAGEMENT PLAN OPEN HOUSE: Planner Bhagavan announced the upcoming Arbor Day Event and the Urban Forestry Management Plan Open House on April 20, 2019 at the Tumwater Timberland Library from 10 a.m. to noon.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – MARCH 4, 2019 MEETING:

MOTION: Chair Grantham moved, seconded by Commissioner Olson, to approve the minutes of March 4, 2019 as published. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT: There were no public comments.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

URBAN FORESTRY MANAGEMENT PLAN (UFMP) DISCUSSION:

UPDATED URBAN FOREST ASSESSMENT METHODS REPORT: Manager Medrud referred Commissioners to a copy of the updated Urban Forest Assessment Methods Report for review. Additional Excel tables will also be forthcoming from consultant John Bornsworth with Peninsula Urban Forestry.

DRAFT TUMWATER URBAN FORESTRY PLAN GOALS, POLICIES, AND ACTIONS: Manager Medrud presented the 2019 Urban Forestry Management Plan Outline Goals (previously reviewed by the Board), the original 1996 Tumwater Urban Forestry Plan Goals, and the draft goals of the 2019 Urban Forestry Management Plan. The proposed four draft goals of the Urban Forestry Management Plan were based on the six outline goals within the Plan. He asked the Board to review with the intent to

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begin finalizing the goals to enable moving forward to develop the objectives and actions.

Manager Medrud responded to some questions on some of the six goals and explained how outline goal #6, “Provide Urban Forest Resources Equitably Across the Community” applies equally across the community to ensure the urban forest is part of each neighborhood regardless of the form or intensity. The Plan’s goals are broad and subjective and include objectives with actions assigning lead entity or entities, timing, and performance measures to achieve the goal. Chapters 3 and 4 will identify goals, objectives, actions items, assignment of lead(s), timing, and the performance measures.

Commissioner Sedore cited the City of Olympia’s Master Tree Plan policies stating that street trees should be a high priority for any public improvements within Olympia’s high density and entry exit corridors. It appears that in areas where more individuals travel, the City will place more emphasis on trees than in smaller neighborhoods where traffic is minimal. He questioned whether the City of Tumwater wants to be more aggressive along the urban corridors and entry and exit points and whether that emphasis might be in conflict with goal #6 that speaks to urban forest resources equitably across the community. Manager Medrud said the intent of the Plan is for urban forest coverage across the entire City. Each part of the City may have a different emphasis and a different emphasis over time. In some areas where the City anticipates more development, the City’s landscaping and tree protection ordinances will ensure that over time, a specific tree level would be achieved.

Commissioner Chapman suggested the use of “appropriate emphasis” might be more suitable than using “equitably” as each area in the City has a different emphasis.

Commissioner Sedore commented that the City has authority over a small percentage of the City’s total urban forest likely totaling approximately 20% leaving 80% of the urban forest with no control by the City. It appears the intent of the Plan is to influence the community with respect to protection and preservation of trees. Manager Medrud responded that the City has authority to prevent the removal of trees. Commissioner Sedore noted that the plan includes working with the retail industry to ensure right trees are available to property owners to providing a webpage outlining the right species of trees to plant in specific areas. All those elements are important to include in the Plan even though the City might not have the authority to enforce. There is a strong economic and safety reason for the City to assist property owners in planting the right tree in the right location.

Commissioner Chapman cited the state and other states that use the

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title of “Urban and Community Forestry” for their respective plans. He suggested aligning the City’s plan with other communities and the state in terms of how each community presents, manages, and promotes urban and community forests.

Commissioners offered some suggested revisions to Outline Goal #1 – Protect, Preserve, Restore, and Enhance the Community and Urban Forest.

Manager Medrud offered an alternative of “Protect, Preserve, Restore, and Enhance the Community’s Urban Forest.”

Commissioners and Manager Medrud shared their respective interpretations of “community forest” versus “urban forest.”

Manager Medrud asked for feedback on the first outline goal of “Protect, Preserve, Restore, and Enhance the Community’s Urban Forest.” Commissioner Sedore asked whether the Plan applies to the urban growth area as well. Manager Medrud explained that the urban growth area is intended to become part of the City over time. However, until that occurs, the urban growth area is in the county and county regulations apply. The City and Thurston County have a Joint Plan with joint regulations; however, the regulations are different from City regulations. The Plan would not apply to the urban growth area until such time the area annexes to the City or the City and Thurston County agree to apply the Plan to those areas.

Chair Grantham recommended including community collaboration and education opportunities within Outline Goal #3.

Commissioner Sedore said #3 lacks any mention of “forest.” However, he is unsure whether it is necessary to include “forest.” Manager Medrud noted that the first chapter of the Plan defines “urban forest” as “public and private lands within the City.”

Commissioner Chapman remarked that urban forests could denote street trees, parks, trees for forest purposes (timber, agroforestry, recreation, or watershed protection). It appears that “community” refers to traditional forestry that might be within the City’s boundary. Jorjana Pedersen’s comments at the last meeting spoke to some concerns that the Plan did not include a property that might include 10 acres of trees that are managed as a mini-forest, which could be much different from street trees, park trees, of other community areas.

Manager Medrud referred to Ms. Pedersen’s April 1, 2019 email with some recommended language for inclusion in the Plan.

Commissioner Olson suggested including a reference to the City’s

budget as it would drive implementation of the Plan.

The Board supported the following seven Urban Forestry Management Plan Outline Goals:

1. Protect, preserve, restore, and enhance the urban forest.
2. Manage urban forestry resources for maximum benefit.
3. Promote urban forest stewardship and enable community education and action.
4. Optimize opportunities for partnerships in urban forest preservation and enhancement.
5. Promote the use of incentives to leverage urban forestry goals.
6. Give urban forest resources an appropriate emphasis across the community.
7. Ensure that the Urban Forestry Management Plan is updated regularly and works in harmony with other City strategic priorities.

Manager Medrud reviewed an initial draft of objectives and actions to assist the Board's discussion. Tables within the Plan include the four draft goals and a series of objectives, actions, leads, timing, performance measures, and notes. The four Plan Draft Goals include:

1. Create a high-quality urban forest in the City.
2. Establish responsive City urban forest maintenance and management practices.
3. Promote community collaboration and education opportunities for urban forestry.
4. Ensure that this Plan is updated on a regular basis and works with other City strategic priorities.

Goal 1: Objective 1.1. Protect, preserve, and enhance City's urban forest, which includes trees, understory, habitat, and soils. The objective includes eight actions:

- A. Review, revise, and enforce tree protection regulations to conserve and protect existing trees and replace with new ones if necessary.
- B. Review, revise, and enforce landscaping regulations to provide for new trees and understory planting.
- C. Develop incentive to promote tree retention and planting.
- D. Use adaptive management to review the effectiveness of specific Actions during the Plan timeline. *Commissioner Chapman suggested including a narrative or a definition of "adaptive management."* *Manager Medrud explained that the intent of the language is to acknowledge that any action might be open to change if it should become ineffective over time.*
- E. Consider municipal funding options for urban forestry enhancements.
- F. Develop and implement an invasive species control strategy Citywide to safeguard the urban forest.

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- G. Promote the use of native tree and understory species on City and private property to enhance wildlife habitat in the City.

Commissioner Sedore questioned the appropriate place to include recordkeeping/monitoring activities, such as Public Works recording the amount of storm damage work completed. For example, if a majority of the cleanup work is on big leaf maple trees, it might be better to minimize the amount of big leaf maple trees in the City to reduce City resources after a major storm. Manager Medrud suggested the action would be appropriate under Objective 1.3 - Measure the ecological, environmental, and economic benefits of the urban forest. Commissioner Sedore suggested including the action under Objective 1.1 in terms of feedback from the City on the impact of the urban forest and how the City might adapt its management of the urban forest based on ongoing feedback from staff in terms of the species of trees that survived or caused problems. Manager Medrud noted the Plan is not discreet with specific actions falling within specific objectives, as there is much overlap, which speaks to the appropriateness of including a note section to reference other objectives. Objective 1.1 also speaks to protecting, preserving, and enhancing appropriate species of trees.

Commissioner Jackson commented on the issues surrounding residential subdivisions and planting the appropriate species of trees. He cited an example of a new subdivision in Lacey that did not plant the species of the trees depicted in the landscaping plan. No follow-up occurred by the city to rectify the situation. Manager Medrud said the Plan would serve as a guide for the Council to determine where efforts should be focused.

Commissioner Chapman offered that the Council would likely welcome the Board's help in prioritizing and determining where funding should be applied. The Plan speaks to the complexity of the issue as a willow might be the worst choice for a street tree but a native willow species could be the ideal choice for riparian habitat.

Commissioner Sedore commented on the urban environment and the often limited longevity of trees because of soil conditions, redevelopment, or accidents that often occur in an urban setting.

Manager Medrud described the structure of the Plan and explained how the objectives are assigned to the four goals within the Plan.

Several Commissioners conveyed interest in taking some time to review the information and offer suggestions or comments prior to the next meeting. The Board supported expanding the size of the table format at this time to improve readability with an understanding that the column on notes might not be included in the final version of the Plan.

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The Board and Manager Medrud reviewed differences between the old plan and the proposed new Plan. Manager Medrud asked Commissioners to provide comments to him by April 22, 2019.

Commissioner Chapman asked staff to convey his appreciation to Mayor Kmet for providing information on the amount of new revenue generated by the Metropolitan Park District.

OTHER BUSINESS:

The Board discussed supplies for Arbor Day. Planner Bhagavan affirmed that the posters have been ordered.

Commissioner Jackson advised that he has ordered four species of trees for the giveaway. This year, it has been difficult to locate a source since one of the wholesale nurseries closed. The trees species for the giveaway will include Oregon White Oak, Oregon Ash, Mock Orange, and Dogwood trees.

Manager Medrud said he would oversee setting up the open house for the Urban Forestry Management Plan.

Planner Bhagavan advised that the Mayor is scheduled to issue a proclamation on Arbor Day at the Council meeting on April 16, 2019. He invited the Board to attend to accept the proclamation. This year, the City also received a growth award by Tree City USA. Commissioner Jackson offered to attend to accept the proclamation.

ADJOURNMENT:

With there being no further business, Chair Grantham adjourned the meeting at 8:11 p.m.