

**CITY OF COTTAGE GROVE
URBAN FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN
ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Minutes of the Meeting
July 18, 2023

CALL TO ORDER

Eric Mongan called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Councilor Savage, Commissioner Rigel, Commissioner Christopher, Commissioner Hughart, Susan Johnson (online), Debra Bartlett (online), Mark McCaffery (online)

Absent: Councilor Ervin

Staff Present: City Planner, Eric Mongan, Assistant Planner Allison Crow, Recording Secretary, Tina MacDonald

ITEMS ADDED

None

MINUTES

None

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

City Planner Eric Mongan started the meeting.

Eric shared that Councilor Ervin was unable to attend and asked the committee to take a look at last meetings minutes and to bring up anything that may need to be added or amended. This committee is a bit different in that the minutes are basically a history of the process.

Debra mentioned some amendments to the minutes. Specifically about the language on code and that some are very outdated. Her suggestion was that reviewing the code could be a part of the management plan. It was miscued that the committee could change them, the city council can. Changes will be made to the previous minutes.

See attached Background Report- Urban Forest Management Plan

Draft Report -

Eric did some additional writing since he sent it out to the committee. He wants to run it in a consultant driven way. He will put together the materials, present it to the committee, they will offer feedback. Are there other ideas? Is it too light? Is it good? Once those comments are returned in a week or so he will then draw up what will be hopefully the final management plan. Once that is done the committee will receive the draft of what is the middle section of the report. What are our goals for the plan? Is it increasing our canopy, code changes, and things like that? This will go through the same comment process. If time allows the committee could do an open house or get input from the community in the way of a digital open house survey. Eric will incorporate that feedback into the report and present the draft. The goal section will be finalized at this point and so on. The same process of presentation of draft, review, comments, finalizing and hopefully completion. He asked that the committee not get too hung up on any one specific thing, language and so on. Think of ideas, comment and send to Eric. Work out conflicts to get through the process.

Debra stated that she and a couple others have been studying management plans, have spoken with the chief forester and want to know if Eric is interested in that. He said not on a background report and asked for more specifics. She spoke about Vision Keepers and other projects that could bring in money. He asked how that forms our plan going forward and shared that on page 9 of the draft background report that it relates to other planning documents.

Eric discussed the style of the document itself and mentioned that the mission and vision are bulleted. These were taken from the meeting last fall. Do we want to blend them? He does not think we need to dial it down right now and maybe there could be a more free flowing process. What are the aspirational thoughts and feelings about our urban forest and how we can incorporate them in so that the vision and mission really do speak to what we want?

Debra spoke about the vision and mission, the chief forester and receiving funds without having matching grants. If the vision and mission are set that is the most important thing.

Susan said that she would like to see the vision and mission set right up front as well.

Eric asked that the committee think about the fact that this is a local plan and it needs to be representative of the community. He spoke about leaving it as a loose guide at this point so we can stay open minded and does not think it will impact goal setting. How do we capture everyone's thoughts while staying open to new ones?

Susan thinks the vision and goals statement should be first and said that does not mean that it is not a community plan.

Debra talked about flexibility, the previous mission and goals process and how far they had come.

Councilor Savage spoke to the fact that that is what the committee is trying to do yet they don't have the documentation to put it to paper.

Eric reiterated that the vision and goals statement is not done and moved on to the introduction section.

Introduction-

Who we are, where we are, how we became Tree City USA and the establishment of the Urban Forestry Committee. If the committee would like to have anything added or changed just let Eric know.

Why an Urban Forest Management Plan?

The intention is to keep it direct and flowing.

Eric spoke about current code for planting of trees during development. Does the committee want to look at it from that point or something like percentage of coverage in a specific period of time? What is the goal? Does the committee want to mandate types of trees? The planning horizon is a five year plan.

Councilor Savage asked about what qualifies as an arboretum. Eric said it has to do with variety. There was discussion of different varieties, climate change and the impact on what is native. Will part of the goal be doing a regional study as to what is changing? Can there be a way to blend things in a way that gets people out in to the open spaces and to take care of them? Eric mentioned the Agents of Discovery application. The moon and peace tree were talked about. Taking the Ash Tree off the list was mentioned.

Relationship to other Planning Documents:

Eric talked about the upcoming Hwy 99 project and the comprehensive plan. The plan touches on things like economy, public services, recreation and so on. If this report points towards the comprehensive plan it is capturing everything. Things like canopy overwhelming and resistance to wildfire will be important to include.

Eric talked about a section he has been working on that is more related to our environment. Annual rainfall, high and low temperatures, planting zones and soil types are all parts of this. He will get it out to the committee by the end of the week. It rounds out more specifically where we are, what we are dealing with as far as what are the best tree types, what is the impact of cool nights and hot days and so on.

Debra talked about Portland's approved tree list and Eric spoke about the prescriptive planting done in Eugene. We also want to try and assure the trees are not decimated by a singular invasive event by having too many of one specific species.

Appendix A: Municipal Code Audit –

This section is taken straight out of the code and is taking it one step further by looking at specific opportunity areas. There is room in the tree list to go further. Examples are having pictures of the actual trees, making it more functional. and increasing the penalty for removing a street tree.

Commissioner Christopher talked about his experience in having a tree removed.

Eric talked about the code as far as trees under power lines.

Eric would like to see canopy for parking lots, wider planting strips and a codified required inventory schedule. Something like every 5 years a street tree inventory is required.

This appendix will allow the committee to pull those actionable items out to plug into the goals statement.

Susan suggested adding genus and species to the tree list. Eric wants the common name along with that. In 2007 the committee made the decision to list it the way it is currently. Susan talked about Eugene's list and how wonderful it is.

Susan asked about having a subcommittee to amend the tree list. Eric did not see that being a part of this committee's process.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, August 15, 2023.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, Eric Mongan adjourned the UFMP Advisory Committee meeting at 6:55 p.m.

Eric Mongan, City Planner

Approved Date