

CITY OF COTTAGE GROVE
URBAN FORESTRY COMMITTEE
Minutes of the Regular Meeting
February 20, 2023

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Newman called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Recording Secretary Tina MacDonald called the roll. The following were:

Present: Debra Bartlett

Online: Susan Johnson, Mark McCaffery, Reilly Newman

Absent: Jimmy Schaper, Ona Chambers, Paul Higgins

Staff Present: Public Works & Development Director- Faye Stewart, City Planner
– Eric Mongan, Recording Secretary-Tina MacDonald

1. **ITEMS TO BE ADDED**

None

2. **MINUTES**

December 19, 2022 Minutes – Approved 5-0.

3. **OLD BUSINESS**

None

4. **NEW BUSINESS**

a. Tree Report (Faye S.)

Faye presented 3 trees at 1215 East Washington Avenue for removal that are rotten and overgrown. One has fallen already. Chair Newman recommends approval. Susan spoke of drought being a potential cause. Chair Newman moves to remove. Susan seconds. All in favor.

b. Street Tree Planting Scheduling (Eric M.)

Two trees were planted by Eric and the Girl Scouts at G & Chestnut where the Redwoods came down. Eric mentioned that April is Arbor Month. Could plant in March and have it be less ceremonial. Committee decided on April 1st from 10 am to 2 pm for a ceremonial, Arbor Month planting. 50 trees is the goal. In near future

committee and staff will choose a location and plan to plant possibly 10-15 trees in that time frame.

5. **INFORMATION FROM STAFF**

a. The Freshwater Trust (Faye S.)

Chair Newman and The Freshwater Trust participated in presenting a proposal to the City Council to do invasive work and plant shade trees in East Regional Park. The City is preparing and approving a lease to work on 3.3 acres. Intent is to meet the shade criteria and receive shade credits from Metro Wastewater Commission. They provide water reclamation services for the cities of Eugene and Springfield. They have taken on reestablishing and improving shade along the Willamette Coast Fork and a portion of the Row River up to no further than the reservoir. There are other locations in the city that may also meet their criteria for shade credits. Will work with them later in the year to identify. Would work towards meeting the committees' goal for canopy cover.

b. Dog Park Trees (Faye S.)

In the purchasing of the trees for the street tree planting the city purchased an additional 44 trees of various species to plant at the dog park to provide shade. They will be protected from dogs until they are well established. Hoping to have them planted on this Thursday (the 23rd).

c. Tree at 13th and Van Buren. (Faye S.)

The forked cedar tree at 13th and Van Buren will be taken down at the same time as the trees on East Washington.

d. Golf Course Trees (Faye S.)

In the purchasing of the street trees 3 were for the golf course to replace some of the trees lost in the storm a few years ago. Will be planted as obstacle trees between holes 13 & 3. The men's golf club pointed out locations of broken limbs, widow makers, etc. These hazards will be taken care of at the same time as the removal of the other trees.

e. Management Plan Update (Eric M.)

It has been some time since staff has updated the committee on the Management Plan. The subcommittee has not met for some time. Staff is picking that back up and hopes to have a draft background report for review in the next 2 weeks. This will include a new draft of the Vision and Mission statements. From the next subcommittee meeting we can then go into the Goals and Objectives. Staff is a little behind the initial

schedule that was proposed. Hope to have it done by December to use as credit towards the growth award next year.

f. Tree City USA (Eric M.)

The City applied for the 29th year. Submitted to the state for that and for the 5th year Growth Award. Cottage Grove is recognized by the State as a State or Federal organization for work done on the urban forest. Cottage Grove was named Oregon's Tree City of the year for 2022. As a result of the work being done on projects such as the reclamation of the timber from the redwoods, among others, the city received 11 points. We should have our 6th Growth award. We would then be considered Sterling!

g. Redwood (Faye S.)

The reclaimed wood from the redwoods is going to the picnic pavilion being built at Bohemia Park and a bench prototype to be used for benches at the disc golf course.

h. Chipped Trees at City Shop (Faye S.)

Chips are going to plant some trees along the Coast Fork and Wastewater Management Plant. They are also available for free to whoever would like them.

6. **AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

None

7. **COMMITTEE COMMENTS**

Debra noted the great diversity of trees being planted at the dog park.

8. **ADJOURNMENT:** Chair Newman adjourned the meeting at 4:35.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

Tina MacDonald, Recording Secretary

Reilly Newman, Chair