

CITY OF COTTAGE GROVE
URBAN FORESTRY COMMITTEE
Minutes of the Regular Meeting
May 15, 2023

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Newman called the meeting to order at 4:07 p.m.

ROLL CALL

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

Present:	Reilly Newman, Paul Higgins
Online:	Susan Johnson, Debra Bartlett, and Jimmy Schaper
Absent:	Mark McCaffery, Ona Chambers
Staff Present:	Public Works & Development Director-Faye Stewart, City Planner-Eric Mongan, Assistant City Planner-Allison Crow, Recording Secretary-Tina MacDonald

1. **ITEMS TO BE ADDED**

None

2. **MINUTES**

February 20, 2022 Minutes – Approved with edits 5-0.

3. **OLD BUSINESS**

None

4. **NEW BUSINESS**

- a. Chair Newman – Goal setting and Annual Report to City Council. (May 22, 2023 at 7:00 PM).

Chair Newman spoke about the intention of the goal setting and the presentation of the Annual Report to the City Council being about the activities of the Urban Forestry Committee over the previous year. Eric and Reilly draft this up and check in with the Committee as far as input. Eric spoke about the circumstances surrounding changes in personnel and how the Urban Forest Management Plan project has been sidelined for some time. The City received the 29th Tree City USA and its 5th Growth Award. Examples of how the City supports the urban forest are its partnership with The Freshwater Trust regarding the riparian planting effort in Row River Park and the numerous tree plantings in the City. He would like to guesstimate the number of trees planted. The dog park has 50 new plantings alone. Looking for suggestions now as it is by charter that the

Committee reports to Council every May. What do we want to do after May? Debra asked what the dates are from and to. Eric thinks May – May is a good range.

Debra asked about the Urban Forestry Master Plan. Would like to see the Committee commit to having it done for 2023-2024. Eric stated that he is working on the calendar, scheduling and hoping to have something to present by next year. Can this be something to be presented to Council as something we are working towards? Along with the Emerald Ash Borer. Jimmy spoke about the impending infestation.

Eric presented to Council the current status of some code text amendments, one being to amend the current street tree list. That is calendared for late September.

Chair Newman asked that the Committee come to and/or participate in the upcoming City Council meeting.

Susan spoke about the Emerald Ash Borer. There was an opportunity to take part in discussion over 2 years ago and it was tabled. The Committee and Staff did not know really how to proceed at that point. Eric mentioned that there is a piece about how to deal with invasives in the state report. Susan also asked about when the Management Plan will be worked on. The Committee committed to reestablishing a schedule for the Urban Forestry Management Plan Subcommittee to meet.

The Committee discussed options around dealing with the EAB. The more people that are aware and report any type of invasive the easier it will be to deal with and be proactive.

5. INFORMATION REPORT FROM STAFF

Eric updated the Committee on the street trees that were planted. Monroe planting will start being watered weekly this week. 6th Street & Quincy and Triangle Park are to be planted soon. Chambers Covered Bridge will also have more plantings. Staff is finishing up the staff report and decision for The Freshwater Trust riparian development permit and are looking to have that out by the end of the week. This 20 year permit allows for the care and maintenance of that area with The Freshwater Trust. Chair Newman talked about the reason that they were able to apply for the program and EWEB putting in a second water source on the Coast Fork Willamette upstream of Cottage Grove. Shade credits are a part of this.

6. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

None

7. **COMMITTEE COMMENTS**

8. **ADJOURNMENT:** Chair Newman adjourned the meeting at 4:43 pm.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

Tina MacDonald, Recording Secretary

Reilly Newman, Chair