

CITY OF COTTAGE GROVE
URBAN FORESTRY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Regular Meeting
October 16, 2023

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Newman called the meeting to order at 4:09 p.m.

ROLL CALL

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

Present:	Chair Reilly Newman, Paul Higgins
Online:	Debra Bartlett
Absent:	Jimmy Schaper, Mark McCaffery
Staff Present:	Recording Secretary-Tina MacDonald

1. **ITEMS TO BE ADDED**

Debra requested that a remembrance to Susan Johnson be added to the agenda.

2. **MINUTES**

Minutes to be approved at next meeting.

3. **OLD BUSINESS**

None

4. **NEW BUSINESS**

- a. Faye Stewart – Debrief of discussion with Scott A. from the Oregon Department of Forestry.

Faye shared information from his discussion with Scott. The state was successful in securing a \$12 million grant. In the spring funds could be requested for work on projects in communities. The Urban Forest Management Plan would need to be complete to assist in grant applications. He discussed asking him about things he had been thinking of in terms of implementing the plan such as purchasing equipment and hiring staff with the intention of improving our tree canopy. Could we hire support for our city arborist to care for trees that may not be being cared for by private citizens and possibly plant more appropriate trees where needed or when ones need to be replaced. These may be things that funding could be used for. Faye is working with Chris Senters on some of these issues in the upcoming months so we will be ready when the grant process begins.

Chair Newman expressed her excitement about the possibilities this could open up.

Debra is also excited and mentioned the underprivileged aspect of the community and how there could be funding available there specifically. Faye talked about the 75% of Cottage Grove falling into that category and that does open up many more options. Reilly has a white paper that she uses that breaks down Cottage Grove specifically that may assist in the grant writing process.

Debra shared information about Susan Johnson’s background and knowledge about our canopy and the street trees. She also shared when Susan’s celebration of life will be. Faye spoke about options for memorializing her. Debra thinks it would be a good idea to have a bench and a tree for her. Reilly shared a personal reading for Susan.

- b. Meeting time change discussion. – The committee will revisit when more members are present.

5. **INFORMATION REPORT FROM STAFF**

None

6. **AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

None

7. **COMMITTEE COMMENTS**

Reilly shared that the Cascara tree in front of the basketball courts is missing. It was mowed down. She has a new tree to plant there and it will be surrounded by fencing for protection. She thanked Debra for connecting Faye and Scott from the Department of Forestry. This will make Cottage Grove quite competitive for funding.

Paul shared a personal story about Susan.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 4:30.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

Tina MacDonald, Recording Secretary

Reilly Newman, Chair