

GRANTS PASS URBAN TREE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes – September 13, 2021, 6:30 PM
Virtual: Microsoft Teams

Committee Members:

Doug Tripp, Chair
Dan McBerty, Vice Chair
Michael Holzinger
James Love
Logan Werner
Tami McBerty
Chris Rudd - Absent
Vacant

City/Staff/Council Liaisons:

Joel King (City Councilor)
Tony Mecum (Parks)

Guests:

AGENDA:

- 1. Roll Call:**
 - a. Chair Tripp started the meeting at 6:35pm.
- 2. Introductions:**
 - a. None
- 3. Items from Public:**
 - a. None
- 4. Approval of Minutes:**
 - a. Approval of Minutes from August 9, 2021.

MOTION/VOTE

Member Holzinger moved and Member Love seconded the motion to approve the minutes as submitted. The vote resulted as follows: “AYES”: Chair Tripp, Vice Chair McBerty, Members Love, Holzinger, Werner, and McBerty. “NAYS”: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Member Rudd.

5. Action Items:

- a. Application Review for Urban Tree Advisory Committee
 1. Committee reviewed seven applications for five open positions.
 2. Committee discussed their preferences and their reasons so that City Council could have an understanding behind the Committee’s recommendation.
 - i. James Love: current committee member
 - ii. Michael Holzinger: current committee member
 - iii. Nicole Kieffer: The committee liked her application statements and desire to serve. They appreciated her comments on climate change, deforestation, and her wish to help future generations.
 - iv. Barbra Villona: The committee found value in her experience on other committees (e.g., the board of a woman’s shelter) and her volunteerism with the Siskiyou Field Institute in Selma.
 - v. David Renton: The committee appreciated that David grew up in Grants Pass and returned after retiring. The committee felt David’s historic perspective of our community would be valuable to the committee. Furthermore, the committee liked his comments on preserving natural resources and felt his interests align with the committee’s ongoing work looking at tree preservation policies.

MOTION/VOTE

Vice Chair McBerty moved and Member Werner seconded the motion to recommend the appointment of James Love, Michael Holzinger, Nicole Kieffer, Barbra Villona, and David Renton to the Urban Tree Advisory Committee. The vote resulted as follows: “AYES”: Chair Tripp, Vice Chair McBerty, Members Love, Holzinger, Werner, and McBerty. “NAYS”: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Member Rudd.

- b. Planting Project Budget
 1. Member Love discussed his estimate for tree planting and establishment costs. This includes the tree, labor costs, soil conditioning, watering for three years, outreach, and City staff time. The amount came out to approximately \$1,000 per tree.
 2. Member Love recommended that the Committee set a proposed budget and then plant as many trees as possible within that budget.
 3. Councilor King recommended that the Committee not state who should water trees; rather, City staff should determine who will do the work (e.g., contractor or in-house).
 4. Councilor King discussed the potential of planting seedlings in the right-of-way instead of the required 1.75". He also discussed the benefits of mycorrhizae added to the soil during planting. Chair Tripp and Member Love expressed support for the incorporation of mycorrhizae. Urban forester expressed potential issue with smaller plantings: they may be more likely to be damaged. Committee discussed how to potentially incorporate smaller trees into a planting program so long as they are appropriately spaced.
 5. Chair Tripp asked Councilor King what the next steps might look like in requesting Council approval for the planting project. Councilor King discussed the potential of using existing funds. He also discussed Member Rudd's document on adopting a tree. Councilor King suggested that he and Urban Forester Mecum look at existing budgets, current City capabilities and workforce, and then report back to the Committee.
 6. Chair Tripp tabled the discussion until the next meeting.
 - c. Tree Preservation Policy
 1. Chair Tripp did not have an update and tabled the discussion for the next meeting.
 - d. Community Outreach/Education
 1. Councilor King stated that this fits in with the Adopt a Tree and potential planting projects. Mentioned current education materials available for distribution.
 2. Chair Tripp stated that outreach and education can be lumped in with the planting project. Member Love concurred.
- 6. Matters from Committee Members and Staff:**
- a. Member Holzinger asked if the xeric landscaping proposals were adopted or tabled by Council. Councilor King said that there was overall support from Council, with minor suggestions. Council stated their desire to move it forward to the Urban Area Planning Commission (UAPC) for review. After UAPC approval, it will go back to Council for their approval. Vice Chair McBerty asked if the Urban Tree Advisory Committee will see the language of the amendments before it is approved. Urban Forester Mecum stated that he has asked Director Clark to share the language with the Committee beforehand. Councilor King thanked Chair Tripp for his contributions at the Council Workshop.

- b. Urban Forester brought up the fall Arbor Day. Committee stated their desire to postpone until next year's April event due to ongoing COVID restrictions and unknowns.
- c. Urban Forester shared that the Tree Canopy Program will be promoted at the Saturday Market on Saturday the 18th. Chair Tripp said that he will attend.
- d. Chair Tripp stated that it would be nice if the Committee could review the draft GP Stormwater Management Manual. Urban Forester said he would send links to the manual with highlights.
- e. Councilor King honored the members of the committee and liaisons on everyone's collaboration.

7. Future Agenda Building for Next Meeting

- a. Planting Budget & Community Outreach
- b. Tree Preservation Policies
- c. Stormwater Management Manual Review

MOTION/VOTE

Member Holzinger moved and Vice Chair McBerty seconded the motion to approve the future agenda. The vote resulted as follows: "AYES": Chair Tripp, Vice Chair McBerty, Members Love, Holzinger, Werner, and McBerty. "NAYS": None. Abstain: None. Absent: Member Rudd.

8. Adjournment

- a. Member Love moved and Member Holzinger seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at approximately 7:50pm.

Next Meeting: October 11, 2021 at 6:30 PM

Minutes prepared by Tony Mecum, Urban Forester, Community Development & Public Works