

**Urban Forestry Board (UFB)**  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
Monday, November 13, 2023  
*Approved December 11, 2023*

**Board Members Present:**

Patrick Burke, Chair  
Marcus Peck, Vice Chair  
Rebecca Green  
Therese Kollerer

**Staff Present:**

Paul Bertagna, Public Works Director  
Dan Galecki, City Forester  
Jackson Dumanch, Public Works Project Coordinator  
Gary Ross, Councilor  
Kerry Prosser, City Recorder

**1. Call to Order & Roll Call**

Chair Burke called the Monday, November 13, 2023, regular meeting to order at 3:00 PM. Staff confirmed a quorum was present.

**2. Approval of Minutes**

Chair Burke directed the Board to the October 9, 2023, draft meeting minutes. Board Member Kollerer noted several typos, Project Coordinator Dumanch made the corrections. Board Member Green made a motion to approve the minutes as adjusted. Vice Chair Peck seconded. Motion passed unanimously, 4-0.

**3. Visitor Communications**

City Recorder Prosser noted that there was no visitor communication.

**4. Board Business**

- A.** Consideration of recommendation to remove declining Ponderosa Pine at 109 E St Helens Ave. – City Forester

Chair Burke read the agenda item into the record. City Forester Galecki reviewed their staff report highlighting that the tree is beyond saving. Director Bertagna stated that the tree has since completely died. Vice Chair Peck made a motion to remove the tree. Board Member Kollerer seconded. Motion passed unanimously, 4-0.

- B.** Consideration of recommendation to remove dead Ponderosa Pines in Creekside Campground. – City Forester

Chair Burke read the agenda item into the record. City Forester Galecki reviewed their two staff reports, the first addressed a total of six ponderosa pines, two stressed and four dead. Galecki

suspects an insect or other problem in the eastern portion of the park. Galecki recommended all four dead trees be removed. Galecki described the trees experiencing stress and suggests monitoring. Board Member Green asked for clarification regarding the images provided in the report. Galecki clarified the tree locations. Galecki added that the second staff report was due to additional trees being identified by Director Bertagna and Project Coordinator Dumanch after Galecki's initial site visit. Galecki then reviewed their second staff report addressing two dead ponderosa pines and two dead junipers. Galecki provided a total of the trees in consideration: 6 dead ponderosa pines, 2 dead junipers, and 2 stressed ponderosa pines. Galecki added that the entire park should be monitored for decline. Chair Burke stated they believed something is going through the park noting a handful of trees having been lost in recent years and stated that there might not be anything that could be done. Galecki noted that the trees in the dry area have been experiencing decline for 8 or 9 years and that it could be bark beetles, if the upper third is declining that is ips beetle while bark beetles attack the entire tree. Bertagna noted that some of the trees are irrigated. Board Member Green asked if they were being over-irrigated. Bertagna stated they have been receiving less over time. Galecki stated that suggests insects. Galecki stated that the juniper by the campsites may have died due to compaction or pollution from campers, Bertagna added RV canopies hitting it could have contributed. Chair Burke asked if a motion was needed for individual staff report. Bertagna suggested by agenda item. Chair Burke made a motion to remove the 6 ponderosa pines, 2 dead junipers, and to observe the 2 stressed ponderosa pines. Board Member Green seconded. Motion passed unanimously, 4-0. Board Member Kollerer asked Bertagna about replacement trees. Bertagna stated that replacement is determined case-by-case and not in areas that over over-crowded but a replacement could be located in a more appropriate area.

## **5. Other Business**

### **A. Guest Speakers – Mike Oxendine & Brittany Oxford**

Chair Burke called for the guest speakers to present. City Forester Galecki stated that there was one more agenda item under Board Business. Project Coordinator Dumanch noted that the item Galecki was referring to was under Other Business. Brittany Oxford stated that Mike Oxendine would not be in attendance. Oxford introduced herself stating that she is a Community Assistance Forester with the Oregon Department of Forestry's (ODF) Urban and Community Forestry Program. Oxford stated that they would send Dumanch the information that Oxendine shared with her. Oxford noted that ODF had been awarded \$26.6 million in funding from the United States Forest Service's National Inflation Reduction Act Grant Program for two award programs in Oregon. \$10 million is only for federally recognized tribes and tribal organizations. Requests for proposals will be issued in March 2024 and the first round is expected to be awarded in Fall 2024. Oxford also informed the Board about state-level funding opportunities through HB3409 and a partnership between ODF and the Department of Land Conservation and Development to administer \$6.5 million for community green infrastructure, focusing on tree equity in underserved communities. Oxford also informed the Board about Tree Plotter used for mapping urban forestry in Oregon as well as a canopy assessment tool that ODF is working on. Chair Burke stated that Oxford was hard to hear at one point in her presentation and asked for any literature that she could share with the Board, Oxford stated that they would send information to Dumanch for sharing with the Board. Board Member Kollerer thanked Oxford and asked if she had information to share about Arbor Day and Tree City. Oxford stated that she is the state administrator for the Arbor Day Foundation's programs. Oxford

mentioned that there was a new portal for the Tree City applications, due Dec 15<sup>th</sup>. Oxford asked if there any questions regarding the program. Kollerer stated they were curious about resources that the City may not have been aware of. Oxford mentioned that the Arbor Day Foundation also received Inflation Reduction Act funds but was not aware of how those funds would be used. Oxford thanked the Board for their time. Vice Chair Peck asked if Oxford had any information about a study performed in Camp Sherman in the past. Oxford was not aware of the project. Peck was interested in learning more, Oxford offered to send contact information regarding the project.

**B.** Update on monitored Ponderosa Pine at 1151 S Creekside Dr – City Forester  
City Forester Galecki described their observations regarding a tree he has been monitoring that has died. Galecki stated that Project Coordinator Dumanch had confirmed that the tree was a private tree. Galecki had concerns about the tree’s location in relation to the high-water mark. Director Bertagna stated that it would be a matter for the Community Development Department.

**C.** Staff report regarding concerned resident and Ponderosa Pine at 385 W Washington - City Forester  
Galecki informed the Board about their observations regarding a tree that experiences parked vehicles surrounding it. Galecki stated that there is construction in the vicinity but that once construction has concluded the problem will solve itself and suggested seasonal parking restrictions around the tree. Chair Burke asked how those regulations would go into effect. Galecki mentioned a temporary sign. Burke and Director Bertagna noted that construction is nearing completion. Board Member Green asked if the tree was a public tree. Galecki noted the large right-of-way in that area. Board Member Green asked if people are parking under the tree. Galecki stated they did not see anyone but that it could happen. Bertagna stated cars were observed parked at the dripline and doubted a car would fit under the low branches. Project Coordinator Dumanch stated that they were able to locate the property line and the tree is located about half on private property and half on public right-of-way. Board Member Green asked if they should let the problem resolve itself. Galecki suggested that course of action and monitoring especially during public events. Bertagna stated that if parking is observed then signage can be utilized.

## **6. Board Member Comments**

- A.** Vice Chair Peck asked if the City had any Tamarack in the nursery. Director Bertagna stated that the City had no conifers in stock, adding that they are hard to transplant successfully.
- B.** Board member Green asked if the Board could take some time to discuss the previous meeting where a healthy public tree was approved for removal. Green wished for more context regarding the Board’s role in maintaining the urban forest and asked for a discussion surrounding healthy tree removal. Green wondered if they should be more absolute in keeping healthy trees. Green asked how the Board felt about their decision. Chair Burke stated that it was one of the more challenging decisions the Board had been presented with. Chair Burke stated the Board is there for city right-of-way trees not private trees and mentioned developments consulting with the Board in the past. Bertagna stated that that instance was before the public tree code was reworked on the advice of legal. City Forester Galecki stated that when he makes recommendations he

challenges developers to make better attempts to save trees using the previously referenced item from the October meeting as an example. Galecki added that thinning out lesser trees and observers will not notice the absence. Vice Chair Peck mentioned how the Board was consulted about trees on the Elementary School property and how thinning trees there improved the look. Bertagna suggested the Board pay attention to City Council and Planning Commission regarding their work on private tree code, adding that it is more restrictive than current code language involving more City oversight and permitting for tree removal on private property and fines for removals without approval. Chair Burke recalled when Director Woodford brought the code language to the Board for their attention and the mixed opinions of Board members at that time. Burke asked if there would be a permit required. Bertagna stated that it is in the draft language, but permit details are not outlined. Councilor Ross summarized the process going forward for the code language regarding City Council. Bertagna stated that the comments provided by the Board previously were taken into consideration regarding arborist reports and when they would be required. Vice Chair Peck recalled how some Board members expressed displeasure at having to get permission to remove a tree on private property. Board Member Kollerer asked if any Board members were able to submit an email to Council about the draft code language. Ross stated that there is the hope that the public would comment on it for community input and suggested writing a letter for the public record which all Councilors read to express more than the allotted time during public comment might allow. Kollerer thanked Prosser and others for the subject being in the City Newsletter. Bertagna ask Prosser when a letter would need to be submitted by. Prosser stated anytime prior to 3:00pm on the 29<sup>th</sup>. Bertagna stated that all present may agree that they don't wish to see a healthy tree removed. Burke stated that it would have been easier to vote had the property owner not have been so far along in the process of home design. Green agreed. Peck asked if the topic went before Council. Ross stated that they report to the other Councilors on topics discussed in other meetings.

- C. Vice Chair Peck stated that it was hard to approve so many dead trees for removal and wished for some way to combat beetle infestations.

## **7. Adjourn**

Chair Burke adjourned the meeting at 3:47 PM.