



# City of Tigard

## Urban Forestry Master Plan, Citizen Advisory Committee - Minutes

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**MEETING DATE:** September 2, 2009, 6:30-8:00 p.m.  
**MEETING LOCATION:** Tigard Public Library, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room,  
13500 SW Hall Blvd., Tigard, OR 97223

**Members Present** – Dennis Sizemore, Morgan Holen, David Walsh, Matt Clemo, Mort Ettlstein,

**Members Absent** – Tony Tycer, Janet Gillis, Phil Hickey

**Staff Present** – Todd Prager, Marissa Daniels

**Visitors** –Karen Estrada, Ken Gertz, Harry Reid, Bob Alverts, John Frewing

### 1. Introductions and Opening Remarks

The Urban Forestry Master Plan (UFMP), Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) meeting began at 6:31 p.m. with an opening statement by Todd Prager explaining that it was the final meeting of the CAC.

David Walsh then requested that the Tree Board stay to discuss the recent resignation of Janet Gillis after the meeting.

### 2. Review and Approve Minutes from the July 1, 2009 Urban Forestry Master Plan Citizen Advisory Committee meeting

At 6:31 p.m. the CAC approved the July 1, 2009 meeting minutes (Attachment 1, UFMP CAC September 2, 2009 meeting packet).

### 3. Update on Additional Tree Canopy Study

Prager then provided a brief update on the additional tree canopy study (Attachment 2, UFMP CAC September 2, 2009 meeting packet) that the CAC requested. He said the City used a volunteer intern to delineate a random sample of Tigard parking lots and intersect the parking lots with the 2007 canopy layer provided by Metro. The results of the study are that Tigard's parking lots currently have 6% tree canopy, which is relatively low as expected. Prager said he incorporated the findings into the UFMP which will allow for future changes to parking lot tree canopy to be tracked.

#### 4. Draft Plan Discussion

At 6:36, Prager then shifted the discussion to the draft Urban Forestry Master Plan (Attachment 3, UFMP CAC September 2, 2009 meeting packet). He asked the CAC if they had any additional substantial changes to the format and/or recommendations in the draft Plan.

David Walsh asked why the Plan was revised as follows:

Revised the following sentence in paragraph 2 of Chapter 4 as follows (additions in bold, deletions struck through):

*The HBAMP said the City should allow private property owners to manage their land as they see fit, which implies the City should have ~~limited~~ **no** involvement in private property tree hazard issues.*

Prager responded that based on public comment by Bob Alverts, the sentence was revised to better reflect HBAMP views expressed during stakeholder interviews.

David Walsh then expressed concern about the statements throughout the document recommending the “hiring of greenspace coordinator”. He said that in these economic times, it would be more reasonable to “create a greenspace coordinator position”. The other CAC members generally agreed that modifying the language from “hire” to “create a position” would allow for more flexibility and be more attractive to Council.

Prager then suggested that based on consultation with the City Attorney and City Council, that the CAC consider eliminating recommendation 1.1.a (Move tree code from the Tigard Development Code to Tigard Municipal Code in order to allow for discretionary review). Prager said the City Attorney and Council are not comfortable with the language because it would limit their flexibility in the future when deciding the most appropriate place for tree code provisions.

Dennis Sizemore said that he would support removing it.

David Walsh said that he would not support removing it, but instead would like to see it amended. Mr. Walsh’s reasoning was that it is important to stress the necessity of placing tree provisions in the most appropriate location in the Code.

Prager said that perhaps staff could revise recommendation 1.1.a to the effect that, “When revising the tree code, determine the most appropriate location for provisions in the development and municipal codes.”

John Frewing said he agreed that in the future, the most appropriate location of code provisions would need to be determined.

The CAC was generally supportive of the revision.

David Walsh confirmed that the next steps in the process would be presenting the UFMP to Planning Commission in early October in a workshop setting, to Council in late October in a workshop, and again to Council in early November for adoption. Mr. Walsh suggested that staff mail out the UFMP to Planning Commission early, and provide a description of the public involvement effort that went into developing the UFMP.

#### 5. Public Comment on Draft Plan

Prager then asked the CAC to consider all of the public comments (Attachment 4, UFMP CAC September 2, 2009 meeting packet) as well as those forwarded via email in recent days. Prager said that if the CAC would like to put forward any substantial revisions to the UFMP in response to public comment, they were welcome to do so after testimony is received from the public.

At 6:56 p.m., John Frewing commented that the UFMP should contain public right of way canopy goals.

Marissa Daniels commented that Council is considering increasing the street maintenance fee to include funds for street tree maintenance. She said the City currently does not fund street tree and right of way maintenance.

Prager added that the UFMP only sets goals for citywide tree canopy based on existing and projected development, setback requirements, sensitive lands areas, etc. The canopy goals were not specific to zoning, location, or public right of way. He said that right of way was excluded from the methodology used to project future canopy due to time constraints. He stressed that this should not be interpreted as the City not being interested in street tree planting or right of way canopy, and pointed to a number of recommendations in the UFMP and Comprehensive Plan policies that are specific to planting and maintenance of street trees.

At 7:02 p.m., Ken Gertz commented that he is not an HBAMP representative but he is a home builder. He said the UFMP provides a good foundation for the future. He also said that he agreed that no urban forestry program is necessary because there has only been a 1% decrease in tree canopy from 1996 to 2007. He added that he is fearful of protecting tree groves because it impacts elderly landowners financially if they cannot develop their land. He said a more appropriate course of action would be for the City to purchase tree groves if they want to protect them. He concluded by saying he thinks it is good that the UFMP is taking a close look at mitigation.

At 7:06 p.m., Bob Alverts, professional forester, said that in the Appendix there was reference to spacing of trees 28' on center. Based on this spacing, Mr. Alverts said the City would have 57% canopy cover. He said the City needs to consider species requirements and management objectives before developing specific requirements. He said that there is too much emphasis on native trees in the UFMP, and that non-natives are important as well. He added that there are no invasive trees in the Pacific Northwest, and that language referencing invasive trees should be removed from the UFMP. He concluded that while the efforts are well intentioned, the City needs to avoid getting itself into a trap with the UFMP.

At 7:11 p.m., Karen Estrada commented that she was glad to see recommendations in the UFMP to prevent pre-development land clearing, but she is not sure what constitutes a grove. She said she appreciated the work of the CAC in developing the UFMP.

Both Mr. Alverts and Ms. Estrada agreed that definitions are very important. Mr. Alverts said that clear cuts are a necessary part of urban development, and often trees that remain after a clear cut are a liability. He added that he sees arborists as lab technicians to carry out the work of other professionals such as foresters. He said other professionals in addition to arborists need to be involved in managing the urban forest.

Ken Gertz seconded all of Mr. Alverts comments and said developers are often better off to clear cut properties and look at long term growth after planting trees.

Morgan Holen agreed that there needs to be a balance between tree preservation and public safety. Ms. Holen said she uses her experience as a forester in urban settings often.

Bob Alverts said there was a statement against pruning trees in the UFMP, but that damaged trees provide good wildlife habitat. He offered to take the CAC on a field trip around Tigard to view examples of the urban forest.

At 7:22 p.m., Ken Gertz commented that the less language there is the development code, the better. He said the HBAMP feels the code should be answerable in yes or no phrases.

At 7:23 p.m., Bob Alverts mentioned that the University of Washington would be available to assist the City with urban forestry projects in the future.

Mort Ettlstein said the report does not give specific answers to the comments raised, but instead provides a general framework for answering questions in the future.

## 6. Consideration of Public Comment

Marissa Daniels said the CAC could respond to the specific comments raised by the public one by one.

The first comment discussed was the idea of setting a canopy goal for the right of way. Morgan Holen and David Walsh agreed that a more detailed study would be needed before setting a specific canopy goal for right of way. Morgan Holen said the City should do a street tree inventory first before setting goals. Mort Ettlstein said he felt there were enough recommendations in the UFMP that would ensure street trees are appropriately planted and maintained. Morgan Holen said that in Lake Oswego it took an AmeriCorps member a year to complete a street tree study. Prager responded that he did not dispute the importance of a street tree study and thinks the City should complete one in the future, but he said completing one now would delay the UFMP by a year and that would not meet Council's expectations on completing the UFMP.

In response to the comments about grove protections, David Walsh said the Planning Commission will be looking for flexibility on this item. He said the City should incentivize developers to protect groves. Karen Estrada commented that the City needs to take a different approach than it is taking currently. Ken Gertz said that incentives for grove protection don't work because it is not financially feasible for developers.

Marissa Daniels then asked the CAC if they would like to extend the meeting past 8:00 p.m. to consider the remaining comments. Dennis Sizemore said that there was not enough time to fully consider the comments, and he would prefer that staff summarize and respond to the comments in a memo to Planning Commission. The rest of the CAC agreed.

#### 7. Formal Recommendation on Draft Plan

Marissa Daniels asked if the CAC would like to make a formal recommendation to forward to Planning Commission to approve the UFMP subject to the following changes:

-Revise recommendation 5.2.b and accompanying text in the UFMP to the effect that instead of "Hire a greenspace coordinator..." the language should be amended to "Create a greenspace coordinator position..."

-Revise recommendation 1.1.a and accompanying text in the UFMP to the effect that instead of "Move tree code from Tigard Development Code to Tigard Municipal Code in order to allow for discretionary review" the language should be amended to "Determine the most appropriate placement for future tree code provisions within the Tigard Development and Municipal Code Chapters".

Dennis Sizemore made a motion to approve the UFMP as amended and David Walsh seconded the motion. The CAC then voted unanimously to carry the motion.

#### 8. Closing Remarks and Adjournment

Marissa Daniels and Todd Prager closed the meeting by thanking the CAC members for their participation and handing out certificates of appreciation signed by Mayor Craig Dirksen. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.