

CITY OF COTTAGE GROVE
URBAN FORESTRY COMMITTEE
Minutes of the Regular Meeting
May 15, 2024

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Newman called the meeting to order at 4:34 p.m.

ROLL CALL

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

Present:	Paul Higgins, Richard Vasquez, Debra Bartlett
Online:	Chair Reilly Newman, Jimmy Schaper, and Justin Tidrick
Absent:	Mark McCaffery
Staff Present:	City Planner Eric Mongan, Assistant City Planner Leni Crow, Recording Secretary-Tina MacDonald

1. **ITEMS TO BE ADDED**

None

2. **MINUTES**

Minutes – March 20, 2024

Jimmy moved to approve, Paul seconded. March 20, 2024 minutes – Approved 6-0.

3. **OLD BUSINESS**

None

4. **NEW BUSINESS**

(a) Annual State of the Urban Forest Report to City Council. – City Planner Mongan discussed the presentation to City Council, which will happen on May 28. The committee talked about what to include, such as 30 years as a Tree City USA, 7th time Growth Award, and events over the last year. The impact of the ice storm, the Arbor Day planting event and the Urban Forestry Management Plan will all be included.

The committee had questions about the reimbursement coming from FEMA and discussed the impact of the ice storm on the tree canopy. It was unfortunate that a tree inventory was not able to be done while the City was cleaning up damage.

The committee discussed creating park specific plans and where to focus. Staff will look at the Parks Master Plan and compare it to the Urban Forest Management Plan.

City Planner Mongan shared that the City has purchased a commercial grade chipper and that he would still like to see a permanent tree crew. City Arborist Senters could really use the help, yet funding is the issue.

The committee discussed other items to include in the presentation to City Council. City Planner Mongan stated that the removal of Ash trees from the allowed city trees has happened with the code amendments. Chair Newman asked that the work done at the Nature Park be mentioned. City Planner Mongan will make the presentation to City Council.

City Planner Mongan has a plan for the replacement of the trees that were taken down along R Street.

Tree replacement in the parks was talked about and where the focus should lie.

The Emergency Preparedness Fair will be happening on August 3rd. Staff would like for the Urban Forestry Committee to have a booth again. Ideas for the booth and activities such as pruning, tips around emergencies, and maybe interactions about the trees specific to Coiner Park and replacement of them were all discussed. Assistant Planner Crow shared that there will be rounds from some of the downed trees that could be used as an activity.

The committee talked about the website and online presence of the Urban Forest Committee being lacking and how to improve it. City Planner Mongan will be following up on that.

5. **INFORMATION REPORT FROM STAFF**

Staff updated the committee on how well the Dogwoods that were planted for the Arbor Day planting event are doing. Thank you to Justin, Reilly and Richard for your help!

6. **AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

None

7. **COMMITTEE COMMENTS**

Committee members thanked the City for the branch clean up. It is a huge service that was provided. The City may be able to be reimbursed up to 75% for the crew costs.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

Tina MacDonald, Recording Secretary

Reilly Newman, Chair