

URBAN FORESTRY SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES

Date:	04-21-2025
Time:	4:33 – 5:20 pm
Place:	Virtual Zoom Meeting
Attending:	UFS: Chair Christine Johnson, Jim Buck, Steve Stevens Staff: Jim Wheeler PC Liaison: Greg Schroeder, John Hartsock Council Liaison: Councilor Jerry Hinton Guests: None
Absent	UFS: Vice-Chair Thea Hayes, Keith Warren

Agenda Item #2 – Public Comments	
Discussion:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
Decisions:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N/A
Action:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N/A

Agenda Item #3 – Approval of Meeting Minutes	
Discussion:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jim Buck motioned to approve the March 17, 2025, meeting minutes as presented. Steve Stevens seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
Decisions:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> March 17, 2025, approved 3-0
Action:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N/A

Agenda Item #4 – Southwest Community Park and Southeast Community Park Meetings	
Discussion:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Southwest Community Park Meeting (4/9/2025) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good turn-out (30+ people at any time). Topics that were discussed included parking, access to facilities, security regarding houseless community members and safety, as well as planting and restoration of vegetation. Beginning stages of planning as there is no funding currently for park development. Some funding for restoration is available. Some plantings may be difficult to establish. Summer watering and invasive control will be issues to watch in the meantime. Southeast Community Park Meeting (4/17/2025) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approximately 25-30 community members in attendance. Topics discussed included parking availability, location of the dog park, security, and houseless community members. There is a planning application for the parcel directly adjacent to the park- currently planned to be a townhome development. UFS discussed the buffer options between the development and the park.
Decisions:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None

Action:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N/A
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Agenda Item #5 – General Update (Chair)	
Discussion:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of Upcoming April and May Events <ul style="list-style-type: none"> April 26, 2025 – Black Earth Day Stroll: Verdell Verdine Ruthford Park to Vance Park. Chair Johnson to volunteer. April 27, 2025 – Arbor Month Tree Walk: Guided tour of significant trees in Downtown Gresham. Chair Johnson to volunteer. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Arbor Month Proclamation to be read May 17, 2025 – Gresham Green and Clean: Aspen Highlands Park 2024-25 Work Plan Review <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tree Code – working with staff Climate Action Plan – restarting with new staff Neighborhood Tree Plan – still working on how to develop the plan (maybe in the Fall, after the Tree Code work) and coordinate effort to implement. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Friends of Trees Grant to work on the tree planting in the Rockwood Neighborhood area. Committee members discussed ideas on how to involve community members in either volunteering or providing input for their neighborhoods. Potentially use the topic of the Emerald Ash Borer pest as a starting point of education- inventory ash trees in neighborhoods and identify opportunities for change. Parks Master Plan – attending the Parks meeting (e.g., SW & SE Community Parks) 2024-25 Calendar of Events Review <ul style="list-style-type: none"> June 7th – Emerald Ash Borer workshop at Main City Park June 14th – Joint Cemetery Tour with the Gresham Historical Society August 16th – Joint Cemetery Tour with the Gresham Historical Society Membership Recruitment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To be discussed at the next meeting Gradin Sports Park Grand Opening Planning Discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Parks department asked if the UFS would like to host a part of the Gradin Sports Park Grand Opening, related to the trees on site (not necessarily the street trees – expected to be planted by then), from 3:30 – 4:30 on 8/16/2025. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guided Tours – maybe Jim Buck and Keith Warren. Tent with Park plan and “arboretum” plan, benefits? Self-guided tours with QR Codes (probably not enough time for City IT to work on this, as it was not put into their work plan). Jim Buck will talk with Tina and Keith and see what might be done.
Decisions:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
Action:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N/A

Adjournment	
Next Meeting:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> May 19, 2025- Tree Code Work Session
Action:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting adjourned at 5:20pm

*These minutes were approved by the Urban Forestry Subcommittee on the May 19, 2025, meeting.