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CFC Meeting Minutes February 15, 2023

Approved by CFC on March 15, 2023

- A. **Called to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Chair Mark Nakajima at 5:30 p.m.

Members Present: Bruce Countryman, Shaun English, Michael Howell, David Hunter, Justin Marble, Mark Nakajima

Members Absent:

Liaisons Present: Councilor Rippe, Dan Riordan, Senior Planner

- B. **Public Comment:** None

- C. **Action Items:**

1. Review and Approve Meeting Minutes: February 15, 2023: David made a motion, seconded by Michael, to approve the minutes as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Elect Officers for Calendar Year 2023: Bruce made a motion seconded by Jeremy to elect Mark Chair and Michael Vice Chair. The motion passed unanimously.

- D. **Discussion Items**

1. Approval to Remove one Oregon white oak listed on the Register of Significant Trees at 1827 17th Avenue: Dan briefed the Commission on issuance of an emergency permit approving removal of an Oregon white oak listed on the Register of Significant Trees located at 1827 17th Avenue. A certified arborist prepared a Visual Tree Assessment to determine the tree's safety and health. The assessment shows the upper canopy has tip dieback and indicates the tree has disease internally. The assessment also indicates the tree is failing, gravity is pulling the tree over and the roots are likely rotten. The assessment finds the consequences of tree failure is severe. The report concludes the tree poses an extreme hazard and requires immediate removal. Dan noted the City's Development Code allows issuance of an emergency tree removal permit if an imminent danger exists. Given the findings contained in the tree assessment report and authority provided by the Development Code the City issued an emergency removal permit for the oak tree to allow immediate removal.

2. 2023 Arbor Month Event Planning: The Commission continued discussion about the 2023 Arbor Month event including planting a tree to honor the late-Ron Thompson long-time City Council liaison to the Commission. A magnolia tree was suggested for planting since Ron was from Louisiana. Councilor Rippe mentioned he discussed the idea with Donna Thompson. Donna Thompson suggested a tree that is hardy for the Northwest such as an evergreen tree. David suggested a lodge pole pine. Dan will check with City Parks Superintendent Tom Martin about planting an evergreen tree and possible location. Michael suggested Talisman Park as a location to consider. David mentioned he would still like to purchase a plaque honoring Ron to place at the tree that's planted. Dan will check with Tom about type of plaque or sign to place at the tree.
 3. Emerald Ash Borer Update: Dan briefed the Commission on the February 14th Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Task Force Meeting lead by the Oregon Department of Agriculture. Dan noted, that it was mentioned the Oregon Department of Forestry has someone now assigned full-time to the state's Emerald Ash Borer response. Dan also informed the Commission there's a new web portal, OregonEAB.com, with information pertaining to the EAB. The web portal includes news, videos, resources for property owners, reports of borer sightings and links to state agencies. Dan informed the Commission that the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality and Oregon Department of Forestry are "pre-testing" the mobile incinerator at the Clean Water Services property just outside the city limits on May 1st and 2nd. Main burning is scheduled to occur on May 22nd to May 25th. The Commission discussed the testing and burning schedule focusing on the long lead time. It was mentioned that the May timeframe could be due to the lack of ash material to burn at this time.
 4. City Council Boards and Commissions Discussion Commission members heard an update from Councilor Rippe and Dan on City Council's comprehensive review of boards and commissions. Councilor Rippe noted the purpose of the review is to increase the City's capacity to address current issues and make more effective and purposeful use of volunteer and staff time. City Council will be forming a subcommittee to get input from boards and commission prior to making recommendations to City Council. It was discussed that the subcommittee will meet three or four times before July 2023.
- F. Council Liaison Report: Councilor Rippe reported on his conversation with Donna Thompson about the tree planting, outreach to State Representative McLain about the status of using mobile incinerators for disposing ash tree materials infected by the Emerald Ash Borer and the Council's boards and commissions review process. Councilor Rippe also briefed the Commission on presentations provided to City Council on February 13th including an update from Metro on the TV Highway, bus rapid transit assessment project underway and update from Washington County on affordable housing programs.

- G. **Commissioner Communications:** David mentioned he attended an EPA webinar on the Asian Longhorn Beetle. David noted the Asian Longhorn Beetle could be bad since they affect maple trees. David also mentioned the ongoing problem and concerns with invasive Bradford pear trees.
- H. **Staff Communications:** Dan informed the Commission that City's Engineering Division is moving forward with the 26th Avenue improvement project. The Engineering Division indicated two Oregon white oak trees at 2627 26th Avenue need to be removed due to the project. Dan also mentioned an arborist prepared an analysis assessing project impacts on the trees for the Engineering Division. The Commission agreed to discuss this issue during the Commission's next meeting on March 15th.
- I. **Announce Next Meeting and Adjourn:** David made a motion, seconded by Michael to adjourn the meeting at 6:15 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for March 15, 2023.

Respectfully Submitted, Dan Riordan, Senior Planner
Staff Liaison to the CFC