



MINUTES
Wednesday, January 15, 2025
5:30 P.M.
Community Auditorium Conference Room
1915 Main Street

Minutes are unofficial until approved by Community Forestry Commission

A. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chair Justin Marble called the meeting to order at 5:31 pm. Members present: Sachi Arakawa, Bruce Countryman, David Hunter, Justin Marble and Aiden Rydman.
Members absent: Michael Howell, Mark Nakajima.

B. Public Comment No public comments

C. Action Items

1. Elect Chair and Vice Chair for Calendar Year 2025

Bruce nominated the same slate of officers as last year: Justin Marble Chair and Mark Nakajima Vice Chair. Justin accepted the nomination to serve as Commission Chair. David seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Read and Approve Meeting Minutes: December 18, 2024

Dan distributed the December 18, 2025, meeting minutes for review. David made a motion, seconded by Bruce, to approve the December meeting minutes as presented. The motion passed unanimously. Sachi asked for an update on the downtown street tree planting project. Dan informed the Commission that the Public Works Director, Greg Robertson, is still working on a request for proposals to release. David noted that two maple trees, not one, should be removed in front of the dance studio. Justin requested that street trees be added to future agendas as an ongoing discussion item.

D. Discussion Items

1. Arbor Month 2025 Event Planning

Commission members discussed options for the 2025 Arbor Month event. The Commission discussed the event held last year at Joseph Gale park that was successful. Justin offered to contact Tom Martin with the Parks Department to identify potential planting sites for the 2025 planting. Justin suggested that once a site is identified an appropriate tree species can be selected for planting. David suggested planting more than one tree near an area where there isn't adequate room for street trees. Dan noted that Tom is open to planting again at Joseph Gale park.

2. Future Agenda Items

Dan noted that about 50 street trees will be planted this year at Davis Estates and Parkview Terrace. Dan also noted that 11 trees planted in March 2024 need to be replaced in the Farmstead Crossing development. The Commission discussed reviewing the street tree planting specifications. Sachi asked if the City has an inspector to ensure planting specifications are followed. Justin mentioned that sometimes root mass being taken could be too small and that could affect tree survival. David noted that the trees shouldn't be fertilized when first planted.

The Commission discussed ways for increasing tree canopy in areas where street trees cannot be planted due to insufficient space. Aiden suggested landscaping other than trees to increase vegetation in densely developed areas. This topic will be a future agenda item for further discussion.

E. Council Liaison Report

F. Commissioner Reports

David noted he signed up for a webinar about urban forestry and street trees being held by UMass and sponsored by the New England ISA chapter.

Bruce noted that the first building permits have been issued for the houses at Countryman Estates and there should be an opportunity for planting shrubs at the water quality facilities for the development.

G. Staff Liaison Report

Dan informed the Commission that the Friends of Trees will be planting replacement street trees where the ash trees infected by the Emerald Ash Borer were removed in the 13th Avenue area east of Hawthorne Street and north of Highway 47. Dan noted that the Oregon Department of Forestry funded the tree purchases.

H. Announce Next Meeting and Adjourn

David made a motion, seconded by Sachi, to adjourn the meeting at 6:36 pm. The next meeting will be held on February 19th.