



MINUTES

Wednesday, June 18, 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 Marble called the meeting to order at 5:32 pm

Members present: Sachi Arakawa, Bruce Countryman, David Hunter, Mark Nakajima

Members absent: Michael Howell

B. Public Comment: None

C. Action Items:

1. **Read and approve April meeting minutes:** David made a motion, seconded by Mark to approve the April meeting with a correction to correct the spelling of Thatcher under Discussion Item 2. The motion passed unanimously.

D. Discussion Items:

1. **Tour of Trees Brochure:** Dan provided the Commission with the draft revised Tour of Trees brochure prepared by Sachi. Sachi noted that the tree photos are place holders since photos of the actual trees are needed. Sachi also noted that almost half of the trees included in the prior brochure are gone or in poor health. Sachi suggested locations with trees that could be included in the brochure with Commission consensus. Justin also suggested locations for consideration. Another change made to the draft is highlighting the Oregon white oak and Douglas fir are dominant in the area and the Oregon white oak is the official City tree. Wording was added about how Forest Grove got the name for the City. Justin recommended adding a paragraph about John Porter who brought Sequioa seeds to area in the late 19th century. Justin noted many of the existing Sequioa trees are attributable to Mr. Porter. Justin suggested including the Sequioa on Hawthorne Street in the brochure.
2. **Downtown Tree Removal Project:** Dan updated the Commission about the downtown street tree removal and replanting project. Dan noted that the Public Works Department selected the contractor and tree removal work is underway. Justin noted that at least one power receptacles is near the curb and could create a conflict with cars when car doors are opened. Dan mentioned that before the project stated the contractor did a walk through

with staff from the City involved with the project including the Light and Power Department. Dan said he would follow up with the Light and Power Department about the concern. Bruce asked if anyone has identified trees to replace those that will be removed. Dan noted that small trees from the suggested street list will be a priority for planting, however, what is planted will be determined on what is available from local nurseries.

- 3. Tree Removal Permit Requests:** Dan updated the Commission on recent requests for protected tree removals. Dan noted that so far 29 street tree removal permits have been issued including a permit for removal of an Oregon white oak at 2324 15th Avenue. Dan also informed the Commission that a tree removal request was received for removal of pin oaks at 2025 16th Avenue. An arborist report was prepared for the requested removal at 2324 15th Avenue. Dan asked if the Commission would like to hold over the request for a public hearing or based on the information provided in the arborist's report if the Commission would be comfortable with staff issuing an emergency removal permit. Since the tree was rated as a high risk with a recommendation from the arborist that the tree be removed as soon as possible, the Commission concurred with issuing an emergency tree removal permit. Justin recused himself from the discussion because Marble Tree Service may remove the oak tree at 2324 15th Avenue.

E. Council Liaison Report:

- F. Commissioner Reports:** Sachi suggested inviting staff to a future Commission meeting to discuss the Oregon Urban Forestry Program and grant funding opportunities. Sachi noted that funding might be available to update the 2014 Urban Forest Management Plan adopted by City Council. Sachi also mentioned funding available from the Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development through the Green Infrastructure Grant Program for tree planting. Dan advised the Commission that a grant application requires City Council approval before a request for funding a project is made.

G. Staff Liaison Report:

- 1. Emerald Ash Borer Update:** Dan provided the latest edition of the Oregon Tree Health Threats newsletter published by the Oregon Department of Forestry.

- H. Announce Next Meeting and Adjourn:** David made a motion, seconded by Mark to adjourn at 7:05 pm. The next meeting is scheduled on September 17th.

Respectfully submitted by: Dan Riordan, Staff Liaison