



City of Madison

City of Madison
Madison, WI 53703
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Meeting Minutes - Draft URBAN FORESTRY TASK FORCE

Thursday, December 19, 2019

12:00 PM

215 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.
Rm 153 (Madison Municipal Building)

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

A meeting of the Urban Forestry Task Force was held at 12:00 PM on Thursday, December 19, 2019 at the Madison Municipal Building, Room 153. The meeting was called to order at 12:03 PM. A quorum was present and the meeting was properly noticed.

Members Present: Marla Eddy; Ald. Keith Furman; Jeremy Kane; Dan McAuliffe; Michael Rewey; Jackie Suska; and James Wolfe.

Members Excused: Ald. Sheri Carter and Julie Laundrie.

Parks Staff Present: Eric Knepp and Liz Levy.

City Staff Present: Charlie Romines, Streets Division.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made by Rewey, seconded by Suska, to Approve the Minutes of the September 20, 2019 Urban Forestry Task Force meeting. Motion passed by voice vote/other.

Motion made by Rewey, seconded by Eddy, to Approve the Minutes of the December 4, 2019 Urban Forestry Task Force Subcommittee meeting. Motion passed by voice vote/other.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no registrants or Public Comment.

DISCLOSURES AND RECUSALS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

[58603](#)

Review of Urban Forestry Task Force Subcommittee Recommendations

Ald. Sheri Carter arrived at 12:07 PM.

Members Present: Ald. Sheri Carter; Marla Eddy; Ald. Keith Furman; Jeremy Kane; Dan McAuliffe; Michael Rewey; Jackie Suska; and James Wolfe.

Members Excused: Julie Laundrie.

Motion made by Rewey, seconded by Furman, to Approve the recommendations and add them as an appendix to the final report. Motion

passed by voice vote/other.

[57130](#)

Review Final Report and Recommendations Feedback from City Committees, Commissions, and Boards

Motion made by Carter, seconded by Wolf, to Accept the following changes:

Page 9, revise bullet to read: “Forestry Section: A section of the Parks Division that is being transferred to the Streets Division as part of the 2020 Operating Budget (this will take effect January 1, 2020). Forestry is responsible...”

Replace Page 11 of the report with the new Page 11 and 11A.

Page 24, Recommendation #7 – Revise as follows: “The Park Commission should prepare a policy of and develop methods for canopy growth within parks with the goal of by planting 2,000 more trees above the replacement rate each year for the next five years, taking into account existing park policies (park master planning and land management, etc.), park values (sight lines, viewsheds, no-mow prairie areas, etc.) and other park uses (active recreation as well as passive recreation opportunities) to create a diverse and balanced park system as identified in the Park and Open Space Plan, and how it could interact with other park uses (e.g., no-mow areas). ~~An assessment for park properties should be completed in order to identify preliminary tree locations, set consistent design goals, and project both priority areas and rates for tree planting. In addition, a tree preservation plan or criteria should be developed for Parks. ”~~

Motion passed by voice vote/other.

Motion made by Carter, seconded by Rewey, to Reject the following changes:

Page 23, Canopy Coverage, Goals – Add an additional bullet to this section as follows: Canopy strategies should place a priority on the protection of existing large or very old trees throughout the City. Special heritage protection should be considered for large burr oaks wherever they occur, in recognition of their place in pre-settlement oak savannas.

Page 24, Recommendation #6 – Revise as follows: “Dedicate additional resources to Forestry for more frequent pruning and maintenance of new and existing street trees. The current approximately 21 -year pruning cycle of street trees should be evaluated in order identify methods and resources needed to shorten the cycle. Resources should also be dedicated to replanting more promptly.”

Page 25, Recommendation #15 – Revise as follows: “The Habitat Stewardship Subcommittee is a subcommittee of the Board of Park Commissioners; with the transfer of the Forestry Section to the Streets Division effective 2020, several modifications to the ordinance will be required as the Habitat Stewardship Subcommittee will still have purview over land management, including trees, on park lands though they may no longer have the same purview over trees in the ROW. The Common Council should consider developing an urban forest board with regular meetings ~~or revise the responsibilities of the existing Habitat Stewardship Subcommittee to include this work,~~ in order to advise on the recommendations made by the Urban Forestry Task Force and to address future urban forestry needs, with the understanding that the Board of Park

Commissioners, and the Habitat Stewardship Subcommittee, has purview over land management, including trees, for public park lands. ")

Motion passed by voice vote/other.

Motion made by Rewey, seconded by Carter, to Amend and Accept the following changes as a new recommendation:

Page 20, Subdivision Recommendations #1 – Add the following as recommendation 1a: “City Planning should investigate a tree preservation policy for the subdivision process.”

Motion passed by voice vote/other.

[55206](#)

SUBSTITUTE - Accepting the final report and recommendations from the Urban Forestry Task Force.

A motion was made to RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL TO ADOPT - REPORT OF OFFICER. The motion passed by voice vote/other.

[58602](#)

Discussion of Organizational Changes

Streets Superintendent Charlie Romines presented an overview of the transition of Forestry from Parks to Streets.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Carter, seconded by Furman, to Adjourn at 1:54 PM and Dissolve the Urban Forestry Task Force. Motion passed by voice vote/other.