



Reno Urban Forestry Commission

DRAFT MINUTES

January 29, 2020 ~ 5:00 p.m.

McKinley Arts & Culture Center
925 Riverside Drive
Reno, NV 89503

MEMBERS

Cynthia Albright (Chair)
Anna Higgins (Vice Chair)
Bruce Barr
Trish Greif
Julia Hammett
Daniel Kovach
Tyler Langdon
Jeffrey Lowden
Sonya Lucatero
Jason Ludden
Vacant (1)

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 5:09 p.m. by Commissioner Kovach. A quorum was established.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cynthia Albright (via telephone), Anna Higgins (arrived at 5:12 pm), Bruce Barr, Trish Greif, Julia Hammett, Daniel Kovach, Tyler Langdon, Sonya Lucatero

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jeffrey Lowden and Jason Ludden

POSITIONS VACANT: One

COUNCIL LIAISON: Council Member Naomi Duerr (absent)

STAFF ALSO PRESENT: Matt Basile, Urban Forester, Parks and Recreation
Leslie Smith, Administrative Secretary, Parks and Recreation

2. Public Comment – This item is for either public comment on any action item or for general public comment and is limited to no more than three (3) minutes for each commentator.

None.

3. Approval of Agenda for the January 29, 2020 Reno Urban Forestry Commission (“RUFC”) meeting (for Possible Action)

It was moved by Commissioner Hammett, seconded by Commissioner Barr, to approve the agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

4. Approval of Minutes from the September 18, 2019 Reno Urban Forestry Commission meeting (For Possible Action)

It was moved by Commissioner Hammett, seconded by Commissioner Langdon, to approve the minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

5. Update regarding amendments to the Tree Preservation Ordinance (For Information Only) – Claudia Hanson, Planning Manager, City of Reno

Ms. Hanson presented three sections of the ordinance that are being reviewed.

Chapter 8 – Trees and Shrubs relate to public trees. There are revisions made to the Purpose and Definitions sections of the chapter. She has had input from various groups such as landscape architects, the Builder Association of Nevada, NAIOP (National Association of Industrial and Office Properties), AGC (Associated General Contractors). They are providing helpful feedback. She will be meeting with BANN (Builders Association of Northern Nevada) again to discuss their input. This revised Section 8 is close to being finalized. It establishes that public trees are part of the infrastructure and determines the value of public trees in code. The value will be calculated through the Council for Tree and Landscape Appraisers Guide most recent edition. Those monies will go into the Reno ReLeaf fund towards priority planting areas. There was discussion on determining and possibly capping the value of public trees and how Reno's calculations compare to the national standards. The proposed hundred dollars per diameter inch was discussed by the group and determined to be too low. Mapping of trees is being used to identify and locate areas that may be densely or sparsely populated with trees and may be possible sites for future plantings. It also helps to calculate the environmental benefits of existing trees. Mapping does not specifically help to determine the asset to value of the trees. When brought before City Council, Chapter 8 may be presented first. It was pointed out that there is a definition for public space in this section of the ordinance. It may be beneficial to include a definition specifically of public trees.

Section 18.12.501 – Tree Protection Applicability – This section establishes protected trees on private property. It is revised to state that a tree that was required by the City of Reno to be planted or retained as mitigation for the removal of a tree; or a tree planted or retained as a condition or requirement of any city issued planned unit development, special use permit, variance, or building permit, including approvals issued prior to adoption of this article, excluding single family zoned homes or lots. Moving forward, trees would be identified on a landscape plan. Essentially, the required trees will be the protected trees. The equivalent of 1:1 ratio would be used to replace a removed tree or a tree value can be calculated and the funds would go into the Reno ReLeaf fund. There was discussion on the new planting location of the replacement trees. Also included in this section is language defining basic tree maintenance standards. The approved tree list will be going into the Public Works design manual. It is easier to amend in this location than in the ordinance.

Section 18.12.1203 – Landscape Plan Requirements has proposed revisions pertaining to the submission and approval of a revised final landscape plan prior to any landscape maintenance that will alter a previously approved landscape plan. This language was not previously noted in this section and permits were not required. The section will also examine the tree inventory of the existing protective trees. There was discussion on permit requirements and street tree standards.

The Commission was encouraged to thoroughly review the ordinance language and the suggested revisions prior to the next RUFM meeting and forward any comments to Claudia Hanson.

6. Business Items:

a. Election of new Chair and Vice Chair for RUFM 2020 (*For Possible Action*)

After lengthy discussion on the nominations for the open positions and who might be interested in

filling the Chair and Vice Chair positions for the next year, the Commission nominated two members and they accepted.

It was moved by Commissioner Barr, seconded by Commissioner Hammett, to nominate Commissioner Albright to continue as Chair of the RUFC. The motion carried unanimously.

It was moved by Commissioner Albright, seconded by Commissioner Higgins, to nominate Commissioner Kovach as Vice Chair of the RUFC. The motion carried unanimously.

7. Discussion on Retrac Landscaping Project – Matt Basile, Urban Forester (*For Information Only*)

Commissioner Albright gave a brief update on the project. Urban Forester Matt Basile explained what the Retrac Landscaping Project is all about. The design will be next to the retrac lid in downtown Reno. The Downtown Reno Partnership Business Improvement District wants to improve the space and make it more attractive to the downtown area. They have committed resources to working with the City. The thought is to have a large canopy of trees in the landscape strip that will enhance activities on the retrac lid.

8. Council Liaison Report – Council Member Naomi Duerr – *No action may be taken on announcements. Limited to items that do not appear elsewhere on the agenda.*

None.

9. Staff Liaison Report/ Updates – Updates will be given about general Department operations including, but not limited to, Arbor Day Program, tree crew operations, permit reviews.

Matt Basile gave an update on an idea for a fundraiser. Last year, coffee mugs were made from the city's waste wood and used as a fundraiser opportunity for Releaf Reno. He is interested in doing it again if the Commission is interested. He also spoke to a local coffeemaker who said he would make a ReLeaf Reno coffee blend to go with the mugs. Samples should be made sometime in April. The cost and marketing aspect was discussed. Since this matter is not agendized, no decision was made. It should come back as a formal agendized item for further discussion. Matt Basile was asked to gather additional information on it prior to it being brought back to the RUFC for further discussion and a vote.

Matt Basile requested that he be added to the agenda next month to give an update on the workings of the Urban Forestry Division.

10. Commissioner/Liaison Reports & Announcements – *No action may be taken on announcements. Limited to items that do not appear elsewhere on the agenda.*

Commissioner Albright shared a photo and information on Friends of the Urban Forest.

11. Identify Agenda Items for Future Meetings: Tree Memorial Program; Update on Gordon Street Project; Tree Plaque Program; Fundraising; Tree Keeper Program for Volunteers.

Arbor Day tree give away event; Earth Day and Arbor Day events; Coffee mug fundraiser; Report on

ReLeaf Reno funds; Future meeting dates to be identified and voted on; Report on Urban Forester program; next RUFC meeting to be held February 26, 2020.

12. Public Comment –

None.

13. Adjournment (*For Possible Action*)

It was moved by Commissioner Hammett, seconded by Commissioner Barr, to adjourn the RUFC meeting at 7:14 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.