



Reno Urban Forestry Commission

DRAFT MINUTES

April 17, 2019 ~ 5:00 p.m.

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

MEMBERS

Cynthia Albright (Chair)
Anna Higgins (Vice Chair)
Ian Edge
Trish Greif
Julia Hammett
Daniel Kovach
Tyler Langdon
Jeffrey Lowden
Jason Ludden
Vacant (2)

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 5:11 p.m. A quorum was established.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cynthia Albright, Anna Higgins, Trish Greif, Julia Hammett, Daniel Kovach, Tyler Langdon, Jeffrey Lowden, Jason Ludden

MEMBERS ABSENT: Ian Edge

POSITIONS VACANT: Two

COUNCIL LIAISON: Council Member Naomi Duerr (absent, called-in for half of meeting)

STAFF ALSO PRESENT: Jeff Mann, Parks Maintenance Manager
Matt Basile, Urban Forester
Erin Moyers, Office Assistant Parks Maintenance & Urban Forestry

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.

Commissioner Kovach wrote a letter to include suspended paving systems in the City of Reno Downtown Streetscape Design Manual.

3. Approval of Agenda for April 17, 2019 Reno Urban Forestry Commission (“RUFC”) meeting (for Possible Action)

It was moved by Commissioner Langdon, seconded by Commissioner Higgins to approve the agenda, with the proposed change of moving Item 11 after Item 5. The motion carried unanimously.

4. Approval of Minutes of the February 25, 2019 Reno Urban Forestry Commission (“RUFC”) meeting (For Possible Action)

Approval of minutes was moved by Commissioner Lowden, seconded by Commissioner Hammett. The motion carried unanimously.

5. Introduction of Commission Trish Greif. (*For Information Only*)

Trish Greif told us the Southeast Connector Bike Path was dedicated to her daughter by RTC, who was killed in an accident. Her daughter was an avid biker in the area.

Commissioner Greif also told us one day she was at Home Depot, and saw many chrysanthemums being disposed of because they were past their prime. Commissioner Greif also wants a Memorial Tree Program within Reno.

11. 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.*

Council Member Duerr said she has 2 more Commissioners on board to make the RUFC full, with a total of 11 Commissioners.

There are continuing issues with the trees located at Neil and Virginia in the shopping center. Rebecca Venis and Matt Basile are aware and working on this.

Council Member Duerr wants to keep the RUFC at 11 Commissioners. It was voted and agreed upon by the Commission at the February 25, 2019 meeting to reduce the number to 9, but Council Member Duerr is uncomfortable with this.

Council Member Duerr encourages everyone to sign up for the Earth Day Booth. She has donated \$5,000, the City is providing \$6,500 and TMWA has donated \$5,000. The RUFC is to join the Sustainability Booth with Lynne Barker.

For the tree plantings taking place on 4/27/19, it was encouraged to wear our ReLeaf Reno t-shirts.

Matt Basile had ReLeaf Reno mugs made for \$25 each. Council Member Duerr says the City cannot cut him a check for the mugs because he does not have a City Business License. She said for Matt Basile to contact the mug artist. The Business License costs \$60.

6. Presentation and discussion on setting up a non-profit group and a website to support ReLeaf Reno (*For Information Only*) – Commissioner Langdon

Commissioner Langdon showed us his draft website for a ReLeaf Reno website. It has not been published yet, and is still being worked on. Commissioner Langdon will research fundraising, and possibly get this set up, so we can raise money.

Matt Basile also spoke about the ReLeaf Reno mugs that were made in a wood-fired kiln from Reno wood. All 8 mugs are different. Mr. Basile has also contacted Magpie Coffee Roasters to see if they would be interested in making a ReLeaf Reno Blend to go with the mugs.

Commissioner Ludden asked what the budget would be to pay someone to manage this website. Mr. Basile asked if it was possible for us to partner with Truckee Meadows Park Foundation or Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful. Commissioner Langdon stated that as we start this out, it is manageable

for him to handle, but as it grows, he may need help. Commissioner Ludden also suggested a UNR intern for this project. Mr. Basile has also created a ReLeaf Reno Instagram Page.

11. 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.

Council Member Duerr stated she wanted to re-open Item 11.

Council Member Duerr is not happy with the renewal of the NV Energy franchise with the City. NV Energy has been putting off coming to an Urban Forestry Commission meeting. She is also concerned with tree mitigation and solar energy. She also mentioned it was unreasonable that NV Energy submitted 188 permits to Mr. Basile and wanted them done the next day.

7. University of Nevada, Reno Students' Tree Preservation During Construction presentation – (For Information Only) - Scott Henry and Matt Santos

UNR Students are not present, so this item was skipped.

8. University of Nevada, Reno Students' Tree Planting Video – (For Information Only) – Matt Basile, Urban Forester

Mr. Basile told us the UNR Students had class at that time, so they were unable to come show us their video. However, Mr. Basile had a YouTube link to show us the work they had done.

9. Old Business (For Possible Action):

a. Review, discussion and possible re-approval of Bylaws, originally approved on February 25, 2019. (For Possible Action)

It was discussed and agreed upon that Item 9A, Bylaws, would remain.

b. Review, discussion and possible re-approval of Ordinance, originally approved on February 25, 2019. (For Possible Action)

Commissioner Lowden motioned to reconsider the approval of this item from the February 25, 2019 meeting. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Hammett. The motion carried unanimously. A discussion was held on Section 2.08.940 of the Urban Forestry Commission Ordinance, to change the number of Commissioners from 9, which was previously voted upon, back to 11, which was in the original ordinance. It was moved by Commissioner Hammett, and seconded by Commissioner Lowden. The motion carried unanimously.

10. New Business Items (For Possible Action):

a. Review, discussion and possible approval of City identified Tree Species List for future plantings. (For Possible Action) – Matt Basile, Urban Forester

Mr. Basile went over the newly revised list, what each symbol and chart represented, as well as the prohibited tree list. Commissioner Hammett suggested using particular colors to assist someone who is color blind so they could discern the information if they had to reference the chart. Commissioner

Albright suggested filling in each box with a solid color, instead of a tree symbol. Mr. Basile said this list is appropriate for nurseries, developers, etc. He is considering making a more user-friendly list for residents, including pictures.

Commissioner Kovach read us a memo he had prepared, in regards to his not being in favor of having an approved tree list. He suggested we only hand out our prohibited tree list. This doesn't allow experts in their field to do their job.

Mr. Mann and Mr. Basile will edit and print out this list to be discussed at another meeting.

12. Staff Liaison Report/ Updates – Updates will be given about general Department operations including, but not limited to, tree crew operations, permit reviews, tree planting with Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful (“KTMB”) at Silver Lake Park.

Mr. Basile told us that all of the spots at the Silver Lake Park Tree Planting are full. He has added an additional planting at Whitaker Park, with American Arborists. There will be an additional 20 spots available for volunteers. It will be at the same time as the Silver Lake Planting (Saturday, April 27 at 8am). There will be 10 trees to plant at Whitaker Park.

There will be a ceremonial planting in Idlewild Park on Friday, April 26 at 11am, for Arbor Day. Mrs. Moyers will email information out to the Commission on all the upcoming events.

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

Commissioner Ludden reminded everyone of the grant regarding identifying plants using Indigenous Language. He should hear back in late fall or early spring. He will be able to show the Commissioners examples as well.

Sand-based soil was removed from the Downtown Streetscape Design Manual. The developer mentioned it would cost too much, so it was removed. The City of Reno contact is Aric Jensen or Reno Direct.

At Earth Day, Lynne Barker will have a Sustainability Booth. The RUFC will volunteer with her. Commissioner Higgins was unable to get seedlings that were mentioned at the last meeting.

It was suggested that an Event Planning Subcommittee be created to keep up with all of the events in which the RUFC wants to participate. This will be discussed at a future meeting.

14. Identify Agenda Items for Future Meetings – NV Energy Presentation (May Meeting), Public Outreach and education – identify, prioritize and schedule events (PARKing Day, press releases, and tree plantings.)

Commissioner Albright suggested taking all items off this list, except for NV Energy Presentation.

15. 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.

Commissioner Kovach re-read his letter regarding the suspended paving systems.

16. Adjournment (*For Possible Action*)

The meeting was adjourned at 7:03pm.

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