

Urban Forest Management Plan Summary of Comments and Actions

Single Family Design Board, December 16, 2013

The Single Family Design Board (SFDB) approved recommending the Plan to Council for adoption. The SFDB also recommended that plan implementation be coordinated with other ordinance updates, such as the hedge ordinance, and that street tree species selection consider neighborhood character and compatibility, canopy and the surrounding architecture. SFDB members identified the following areas of interest for implementation:

- Landscaping along 101, in parkways and medians that reflects the area/neighborhood
- Efforts to increase homeowner knowledge of parkway and street tree standards
- Provide reference to parkway maintenance standards in Zoning Ordinance
- Consider the character of the developed area around trees in historic designation criteria
- Coordinate with the County and School District
- Use of mulch in parkway maintenance standards to reduce water needs
- Neighborhood outreach through the recruitment of Block Captains
- Public workshops

Historic Landmarks Commission, December 18, 2013 and March 26, 2014

The Historic Landmarks Commission (HLC) reviewed the Plan on December 18, 2013 and provided the following comments related to the proposed Plan:

- Provide an objective dedicated to addressing historic/specimen tree actions
- Make the plan more concise
- Add definition for tree drip line

HLC members identified the following areas for implementation:

- Revisions to Historic/Specimen definition
- Enforcement related to illegal pruning/removal, construction techniques
- Solar system design that balances tree canopy objectives.
 - Provide clear direction for boards and commissions
 - Address clear skies/line of sight issues
- Porous pavement in parkways
- Tree maintenance needs, including adequate water
- Coordination with the Pedestrian Master Plan and hedge ordinance updates
 - Address whether tree clusters are a hedge
- Education of the public is a high priority
- Education of board members and staff

After reviewing the revised final Plan, the Commission approved recommending the Plan to Council for adoption on March 26, 2014.

Architectural Board of Review, January 6, 2014

The Architectural Board of Review (ABR) recommended that the plan be forwarded to Council for adoption.

ABR members identified the following areas of interest for implementation:

- Tools for design/development review, including:
 - Replacement ratios for trees that are approved for removal
 - Tree protection plans
 - Bird protection measures, with a focus on bird nesting season
- Recommended tree species for parking lots
- Appropriate public locations for edible fruit trees
- Maintain the balance of tree diversity with both native and non-native species
- Balance street objectives with tree objectives
- Tools to address tree needs during drought
- Preferred tree species list

Street Tree Advisory Committee, January 9, 2014

The Street Tree Advisory Committee (STAC) recommended the Parks and Recreation Commission forward the Plan to Council for adoption.

Committee priorities include:

- Public education and outreach
- Revisions to Street Tree Master Plan
- Working with local growers and agencies to propagate desirable species not commercially available
- Revisions to Historic/Specimen tree designation criteria and definition
- Increased funding for urban forest management
- Developing parkway vegetation planting and care guidelines

Planning Commission, January 16, 2014

The Planning Commission recommended that City Council adopt the Plan and requested the Plan include discussion of the benefits of trees, revisions to the glossary, revision to Objective 5, Action 1, and additional references to open space park trees.

Other comments and priorities included:

- Tools and resources to assess trees versus solar and other considerations
- Partnerships with neighborhood associations
- Develop a resource for the public, similar to the Storm Water Management Program land development guide
- Make program a policy level process, rather than ancillary level process

Parks and Recreation Commission, January 22, 2014

The Parks and Recreation Commission recommended that the Plan be forwarded to Council for adoption, and had the following comments and priorities for implementation.

- Integrate climate change adaptations/options during severe droughts
- Assess the feasibility of creating a climate action team to address the protection of tree /natural resources
- Outreach and education
 - Make nursery propagation plantings available to the public
 - Work with youth
 - Continue to discuss tree benefits
- Value and attention to park trees
- Develop an adequate budget for urban forestry and Plan implementation