Overview

- Tree Ordinance – Tree Canopy – Outreach & Education

- Three work sessions: Oct. 16, 23, 30
  - Different topics discussed in each session

- Nov. 13 work session (tentative)

- January 2020 work session (tentative)

- Vote in February 2020 (tentative)
October Work Session Topics

• Work Session 1:
  • Clearer & Faster Process and Information
  • Tree Impact Assessment
  • Tree Protection Plan
  • Appeals

• Work Session 2:
  • Hazardous Trees and Removal of Trees
  • Tree Rating Chart and Replanting Requirements
  • Tree Canopy Goals

• Work Session 3:
  • Pre-planting Programs & Incentives
  • Urban Forest Manager Role, Education & Outreach
  • Fees & Funding
  • Miscellaneous
Discussion Items: Work Session #2

- Hazardous Trees
- Tree Removal Permits
- Replanting Requirements:
  - Tree Rating Chart, Replacement Formula, Replacement Species
- Tree Canopy Goals
Hazardous Trees

- **When is a tree hazardous (waiver)?** (12.04.010 and 12.12.060)
  - Tree Comm rec: Allow trees in active decline
  - Staff rec: Allow active decline up to 1-3 years
  - Staff rec: Clarify that entire tree is hazard, that cannot be corrected
  - Explicitly require decision to consider risk to life and property?
  - Allow application statement by an outside arborist?

- **Current definition:** defective, diseased or dead, and risk of failure with potential injury or damage

- **Current criteria:** the tree is dead or hazardous

- **Current waivers:** no replanting requirements, no public notice, no appeals
Removal of Trees with Permit

• Accept Tree Commission rec to revise the current 9 criteria? 12.12.120
• Use criteria primarily for appeals? (Staff rec)
• Add any criteria?
  • Risk that tree is or could be hazardous, or a risk to life and structures (Staff: already built into decision)
  • Benefits to removal for renewable energy generation
  • Risk from future climate-related weather
Current Tree Removal Permit Criteria

- Need of removal for proposed development, and effects of a tree protection plan
- Number and type of replacement trees and reforestation plan
- Hardship the applicant may suffer
- Desirability of preserving tree due to its age, size, outstanding quality
- Extent of environmental degradation from tree removal
- Impact of reduced tree cover on property, adjacent properties, and neighborhood
- General health and condition of the tree
- Desirability of the tree species as part of the urban forest.
- Placement of tree relative to utilities, structures and uses
Tree Rating

• **Modify** the **tree rating chart**?
  • Tree Comm and staff rec: add factors (site, target) and lower scores for life expectancy
  • More detail for clarity? (City attorney rec) In ordinance or regulation?
  • Waiver or reduced replanting requirements for trees impacting or about to impact a building?
  • Add more safety issues and more range of active decline?

Current chart: 6 factors, 5 point scale, tree health and size
Replanting Requirements

• Modify the replacement formula or language?
  Tree Comm rec: increase replanting requirements for medium and high rated trees

Current formula: based on tree rating of health and size, 6 points or less no replacement, less replacement for trees in active decline, assume replacement in 25 years

Current list: by height category, encourages like for like replacement, includes native and non-natives
Replanting Requirements

- Modify the **recommendations for replacement species**?
- Tree Comm rec: staff review current list with input
- CoE rec: revise list for ecological health, biodiversity, climate adaptation
- Resident recs: revise list to encourage native species, create petition system to change list

Allow tree replanting of:
- shorter trees near power lines and other locations?
- trees not purchased from a nursery?
- trees that are not the same type as those removed?
- shorter trees near homes for solar potential?
Tree Canopy Goals

• Establish overarching strategic goals?
  • Set a base policy goal of “no net loss” of canopy citywide
  • Focus on canopy or add other goals
  • Aim for increased biological diversity of species, age, size
  • Target areas or neighborhoods with less canopy? Types of species?

• Encourage what types of tree species?
  • Native v. non-native?
  • Non-invasive? (currently, undesirable) (12.12.080)
  • Climate change adapted, high in carbon absorption?

How to measure and implement goals?
Tree Comm recs: numeric goals and on-ground inventory
Tree Canopy Goals

• **Current implied canopy goals**: protect, preserve and promote the urban forest; focus on canopy, replace within 25 years

• **Tree canopy assessment recs**: 60% is robust for this area; preserving existing canopy is critical; residents hold the key; continue mapping and inventory

• **Tree Comm rec’s**:  
  • Numeric goals  
  • Community ownership of goals  
  • Strategic goals with concrete action steps

• **COE rec’s**: vision statement emphasizing ecosystem services, climate mitigation & resiliency, and biodiversity; target increases in underserved neighborhoods
WORK SESSION #1
Discussion Items
Oct. 16, 2019

• Clearer & Faster Process and Information
• Tree Impact Assessment
• Tree Protection Plan
• Appeals
Clearer & Faster Process

- Some adjustments already being made by city staff
- Consider two applicant tracks—for one tree, and for multiple trees?
- Adjust 15-day waiting period?
  - Reduce to 7 days in all cases?
  - Or adjust only if all neighbors agree in writing?
- Add time frame for City response to applicants?
Tree Impact Assessment (12.12.030)

• What triggers an assessment?
  • Digging depth of 6 inches instead of current 3 inches?
  • Activity on 10% or more of critical root zone (no % now)?
  • For an activity within critical root zone, not within 50 feet of, tree
  • Define “significant” portion – as 10% or more of roots that may be destroyed

• Critical root zone: smaller root zone? More clear definition?

• Bypass Tree Impact Assessment and simply require Tree Protection Plan in cases where it’s clear a Tree Protection Plan will be required?

• Previously discussed: consider branch trimming of 10% not 5%
Tree Protection Plan (12.12.040-080)

- Preparation of Tree Protection Plan:
  - Allow residents to prepare their own TPP in some cases
  - Allow UFM to require independent evaluation for complex plans? (12.04.110)

- Balance cost and delay with required tree protection measures?

- How to address impact on trees of utility and other emergency work?

- Authorize the City Attorney (with UFM and Tree Commission) to rewrite criteria for tree permit decisions to clarify/simplify (12.12.120)?

- Add safety, or climate change, to criteria for permit decisions?
Appeals (12.12.110)

• When should appeals be allowed, and why?
• Appeals of neighbors for a Tree Protection Plan that’s been granted (eliminate?)
• Appeals related to a tree-removal permit for trees in declining health (eliminate? reduce to affected property owners only?)
• Appeals related to granting or denial of a tree removal waiver