



Park and Recreation Commission

City of Arts & Innovation

TO: HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS **DATE: FEBRUARY 10, 2021**

FROM: PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT URBAN FORESTRY / LANDSCAPE DIVISION

SUBJECT: STREET TREE PROGRAM – ESTABLISHMENT OF AN AD-HOC COMMITTEE TO PROVIDE RECOMMENDED UPDATES TO THE URBAN FORESTRY POLICY MANUAL

ISSUE:

Approve the establishment of an Ad-Hoc Committee to provide recommended updates to staff regarding the Urban Forestry Policy Manual.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Park and Recreation Commission:

1. Establish an Ad-Hoc Committee that will review and provide recommendations to update the Urban Forestry Policy Manual; and
2. Bring any recommended changes back to the full Park and Recreation Commission for consideration prior to submission to the Land Use/Sustainability/Resilience Committee for further review and approval.

BACKGROUND:

On January 11, 2021, a report was presented to the Land Use/Sustainability/Resilience Committee providing a general overview of the Urban Forestry Policy Manual (Manual) and advising that staff will be working with an Ad-Hoc committee of the Park and Recreation Commission to receive further recommendations for Manual updates in order to reflect current changes that have evolved over the past five years. In addition to the Ad-Hoc Committee, staff will be engaging community groups such as Neighbors of the Wood Streets (NOWS) and Victoria Avenue Forever (VAF) to develop recommendations they would like to see incorporated. The update will also be informed by the City's Office of Sustainability, which will examine the potential to improve the carbon sequestration potential of our urban forest.

The Land Use/Sustainability/Resilience Committee received and filed the update with the following recommendations:

- Research ways of providing advanced notice to area residents when trees are being removed.
- Research ways of planting new trees before trees are removed to help maintain continuity

of the urban forest in neighborhoods.

- Work with additional community groups throughout the City (Riverside Neighborhood Partnership, Green Belt area).
- Provide public outreach on the benefits and assets of the urban forest.
- Establish the difference between public and private trees.

In order to update the Manual, it is recommended that Urban Forestry staff work with an Ad-Hoc Committee of the Park and Recreation Commission and return to the Park and Recreation Commission for approval prior to submitting recommended Manual updates to the Land Use/Sustainability/Resilience Committee.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with this report.

Prepared by: Kris Martinez, Public Works Director

Approved by: Adolfo Cruz, Parks, Recreation and Community Services Director

Approved by: Rafael Guzman, Assistant City Manager

Attachments:

1. January 11, 2021, Land Use/Sustainability/Resilience Committee Report
2. Urban Forestry Policy Manual (2015)