



Park and Recreation Commission

City of Arts & Innovation

TO: HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS **DATE: JUNE 21, 2021**

FROM: PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT URBAN FORESTRY / LANDSCAPE DIVISION

SUBJECT: STREET TREE PROGRAM – REPLACEMENT OF A RESIGNED COMMISSIONER ON THE URBAN FORESTRY POLICY MANUAL AD-HOC COMMITTEE

ISSUE:

Approve the replacement of a resigned Commissioner on the Urban Forestry Policy Manual Ad-Hoc Committee.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Commission approve replacement of a resigned Commissioner on the Urban Forestry Policy Manual Ad-Hoc Committee.

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:

1. Research ways of providing advanced notice to area residents when trees are being removed.
2. Research ways of planting new trees before trees are removed to help maintain continuity of the urban forest in neighborhoods.
3. Work with additional community groups throughout the City (Riverside Neighborhood Partnership, Green Belt area).
4. Provide public outreach on the benefits and assets of the urban forest.
5. 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.

On February 10, 2021, The Parks and Recreation Committee approved three volunteer Commissioners, Feola, Mitchell, and Iverson, to participate on the Ad-Hoc Committee.

DISCUSSION:

On March 15, 2021, staff was informed that one of the Ad-Hoc Commissioners had resigned because they were moving out of the area. To properly review and update the Manual, it is recommended to have a minimum of three Park and Recreation Commissioners on the Ad-Hoc Committee, as they will be the lead for the updates to the Manual. In addition to the Park and Recreation Ad-Hoc Committee members, community members from Victoria Avenue Forever and other community groups will be invited to participate and provide input for improving and updating the Manual to the Ad-Hoc Committee. Urban Forestry personnel will also be reaching out to various agencies such as the Riverside Corona Resource Conservation District, Riverside Land Conservancy, and University of California, Riverside to help provide further guidance, technical support, and advice.

Public Works Staff requests that the Commission appoints a replacement Commissioner to the Urban Forestry Manual Ad-Hoc 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. Report for January 11, 2021 Land Use/Sustainability/Resilience Committee
2. Urban Forestry Policy Manual