

MINUTES

CITY OF FORT COLLINS • BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS



TRANSPORTATION BOARD

TYPE OF MEETING – REGULAR

June 12, 2024, 6:00 p.m.

Online Via Zoom or In-Person at 281 North College Avenue

FOR REFERENCE:

Chair:	Ed Peyronnin
Vice Chair:	Alexa Nickoloff
Council Liaison:	Susan Gutowsky
Staff Liaison:	Melina Dempsey

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Peyronnin called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

2. ROLL CALL

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ed Peyronnin, Chair
Jerry Gavaldon
James Burtis
David Baker
Lourdes Alvarez
Amanda Finch

CITY STAFF PRESENT:

Melina Dempsey, FC Moves
Kendra Boot, Forestry
Cyril Vidergar, City Attorney's Office

PUBLIC PRESENT:

Steve Hedrick

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Alexa Nickoloff, Vice Chair
Indy Hart
Emily Felton

3. AGENDA REVIEW

Chair Peyronnin stated there were no changes to the published agenda.

4. CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

Steve Hedrick from Vuba introduced himself and information about the company he works for. Vuba envisions an Automated Transit Network (ATN) which are elevated personal transport. He's interested in presenting to the TBoard in the future.

TRANSPORTATION BOARD

TYPE OF MEETING – REGULAR

Gavaldon asked if there is a process related to hearing full presentations from members of the public. Chair Peyronnin replied Board members could always request a more formal presentation.

Cyril Vidergar introduced himself as an Assistant City Attorney who will be the primary advisor for the Board. He outlined the process by which the Board could place new topics on an agenda.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – MAY 2024

Lourdes Alvarez made a motion, seconded by Amanda Finch, to approve the May 2024 minutes as amended. Yeas: Peyronnin, Burtis, Baker, Alvarez, and Finch. Nays: none. Abstain: Gavaldon.

THE MOTION CARRIED.

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

7. NEW BUSINESS

a. Forestry Plan Presentation and Input – Kendra Boot, City Forester

Kendra Boot, City Forester, stated the Urban Forest Strategic Plan has been in the works for about a year with the assistance of Davey Resource Group. Boot noted the urban forest is defined as the trees that grow within the built environment, including public and private trees, and the Plan creates a 20-year vision for the trees in the Fort Collins growth management area. Boot noted the Plan is slated to go before Council in October.

Boot outlined the current tree resources noting there is a 14% canopy cover within the city limits and a 13% canopy cover in the growth management area. Boot stated there are about 60,000 public trees within the city limits, about 60% of which are less than eight inches in diameter currently; therefore, when those trees age, different maintenance resources will be required.

Boot outlined the public engagement process for the Plan which included public meetings, community events, and an online community survey. General input included that trees are an integral part of Fort Collins, tree maintenance resources are desired for private property, and there are concerns around development and trees in the future.

Chair Peyronnin asked if there is a model related to trees dying off. Boot replied there are a number of variables that can impact the health and longevity of trees, including climate, site characteristics, and early and late freezes. She noted new development adds about 1,500-2,000 new street trees per year and some policy work

TRANSPORTATION BOARD

TYPE OF MEETING – REGULAR

will help with inheriting more healthy trees through the development process.

Chair Peyronnin asked how much influence the City has over the types of trees planted by developments. Boot replied Forestry has a very heavy hand in the development review process and the focus is on preserving and protecting existing trees while also looking at diversifying the types of trees that are planted.

Gavaldon asked if staff has contacted existing HOAs to get information regarding private trees and noted his HOA did an inventory of all trees and uses it for tree replacement. Boot replied staff has not contacted HOAs as part of this effort.

Gavaldon asked if the Rigden Farm HOA that halted watering its greenbelt ever reimbursed the City for the costs it incurred in stepping in to save the greenbelt trees. Boot replied the HOA did replace some of the trees.

Boot noted the tree inventory trends young and commented on the importance of planning for sustainable growth to keep pace with an urban forest that is growing in age and number. Additionally, Boot commented on the importance of equitable distribution of the tree canopy throughout the community. She noted climate change will lead to more insects and disease; therefore, creating a resilient and diverse urban forest is important.

Boot outlined the eight recommendations and their associated initiatives which are broken into foundational, or easier, shorter-term items, and transformational, or more impactful, initiatives. The recommendations included creating a tree planting plan for both public and private property, completing the shift to proactive management, and strengthening City policies to protect trees.

Boot noted the City has a public tree inventory available.

Chair Peyronnin asked if there are citizens who provide input regarding the tree inventory or if staff handles it. Boot replied there is a set of volunteers called Urban Forest Ambassadors which helps to update the inventory and prune small trees.

Boot noted public input showed a desire for more resources around private tree stewardship.

Amanda Finch discussed research on urban forests and transportation and noted having trees on both sides of a roadway can create an illusion to drivers that the road is narrower than it actually is and can therefore lead to drivers going slower. Additionally, she commented on Washington placing reflective tape around trees that can only be seen at night and noted trees can provide shade for transit stops and reduce traffic noise.

Boot noted the canopy survey did look at transit stops and bike lanes and it was found that canopy at transit stops has been lost over the past ten years.

Alvarez commented on different neighborhoods having different levels of opportunity

TRANSPORTATION BOARD

TYPE OF MEETING – REGULAR

for public trees depending on how sidewalks are located. Boot replied the Code supports planting trees behind the walk in new developments that may have narrow street cross sections.

Alvarez asked who manages park and natural areas trees. Boot replied Forestry maintains street trees, park trees, cemetery trees, golf courses, and other trees that are on City property; however, the Natural Areas department maintains the trees on natural areas and those are not included in the built environment tree inventory, though they are part of the canopy study.

Burtis asked if there is a plan to work with private landowners to incentivize or encourage replacement as trees die off. Boot replied that is part of the first two recommendations of the Plan, but there is currently a Community Canopy Program that sells about 1,000 \$25 trees each year for planting on private property. She noted staff is looking at opportunities to expand the program.

Burtis asked how many tree species have been successful in Fort Collins. Boot replied it depends on the part of town and soil, but there are a number of tree species that can grow in Fort Collins, though they are limited in the public right-of-way to large shade trees. She noted there are over 200 different species of trees in City Park. She stated the approved tree list is available on the City's website.

Boot commented on the importance of partners such as nurseries and landscape contractors in helping private property owners select the right trees for the right places.

Gavaldon asked where other public entities such as CSU, Larimer County, and Poudre School District fall and suggested some gaps need to be narrowed, including those related to metro districts and HOAs. Boot replied that falls under recommendation number eight related to expanding the network in the community and regionally. She stated good relationships already exist with CSU and PSD and noted the County no longer has a forester position, though there are contacts in the County planning department. She stated there is more opportunity for expanding relationships.

Gavaldon discussed the HOA list resources available. He complimented Boot and the work of the Forestry Department.

Boot outlined the options for input from the Board and noted it would be needed by October 1st.

Gavaldon made a motion, seconded by Finch, that the Transportation Board recommended to Council approval of the Urban Forest Strategic Plan as presented with the suggestions and recommendations of individual Board members.

Alvarez suggested it may be more valuable for the Board to write a letter as a more

TRANSPORTATION BOARD

TYPE OF MEETING – REGULAR

impactful and thoughtful way of supporting the work.

Gavaldon accepted the suggestion as a friendly amendment to follow up at a date certain with a letter. The seconder also accepted the amendment as friendly.

The vote on the motion was as follows: Yeas: Burtis, Gavaldon, Alvarez, Peyronnin, Baker, and Finch. Nays: None.

THE MOTION CARRIED.

b. Transit Discussion to Establish a Vision for Future Transportation Board Meetings – All

Dempsey provided the summary of the role of the Transportation Board from the Boards and Commissions website.

Gavaldon stated there is a great deal of overlap between this Board and the Active Modes Advisory Board (AMAB) and stated the AMAB will need to determine its role in concert with the Transportation Board as a peer entity.

Finch suggested Transportation Board members read the minutes of each AMAB meeting and determine whether there are items that need to be discussed.

Gavaldon concurred and suggested the AMAB should do the same with Transportation Board until such time as the roles of the Boards can be better clarified. He also commented on the importance of the role of staff.

Baker suggested having a liaison between the two Boards.

Alvarez concurred with the previous comments and stated having two Boards can create a stronger voice for helping to preserve aspects that make Fort Collins special.

Baker questioned the differences between the two Boards. Gavaldon replied the Master Street Plan falls under the purview of the Transportation Board and it will be important for the AMAB to provide input on that as well.

Alvarez commented on the social component of the AMAB in terms of changing hearts and minds through education and promotion.

Chair Peyronnin commented on the 'Shift Your Ride' goals of the Active Modes Plan.

Burtis commented on the Transportation Board being more focused on infrastructure.

Chair Peyronnin asked about the Transfort bus system. Dempsey replied the Active Modes Plan defines active modes as bicycling and walking; therefore, transit does not fall under the purview of the AMAB.

Chair Peyronnin stated transit and Transfort were large discussion points for the Transportation Board over the past year. He commented on the importance of