

MINUTES

CITY OF FORT COLLINS • BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS



Land Conservation & Stewardship Board

Regular Meeting | 1745 Hoffman Mill Road

May 8, 2024

Members:

Ross Cunniff, Chair

Scott Mason, Vice Chair

Denise Culver, Member

Andrea Elson, Member

Jennifer Gooden, Member

Holger Kley, Member

Elena Lopez, Member

River Mizell, Member

Mark Sears, Member

1. CALL TO ORDER: Meeting was called to order at 5:32 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL:

LCSB: Scott Mason, Jennifer Gooden, Andrea Elson, Elena Lopez, Denise Culver, Holger Kley, Mark Sears, Ross Cunniff

Excused: River Mizell

NAD Staff: Katie Donahue, Aaron Reed, Julia Feder, Emily Shingler, Mary Boyts, Matt Parker

City Staff: Kendra Boot, City Forester

Guests: Sandra Albro, Davey Resource Group

3. AGENDA REVIEW: There were no changes to the agenda.

4. COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION: None

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: There were no changes to the April 2024 meeting minutes.

Member Gooden made a motion to approve the March 2024 LCSB meeting minutes.

Member Sears seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved 8-0.

6. ACTION ITEMS

Election of Board officers

Chair Cunniff stated he would be willing to continue serving as Chair if board members desired it. He asked if any other members were interested in serving as Chair.

Member Kley made a motion to reappoint Ross Cunniff as Chair of the LCSB for 2024.

Member Elson seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved 8-0.

Vice Chair Mason stated he would be willing to continue serving as Vice Chair. Chair Cunniff asked if there was interest from other board members.

Member Culver made a motion for Scott Mason to continue serving as Vice Chair of the LCSB for 2024. Member Sears seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved 8-0

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7. DISCUSSION ITEMS

Urban Forest Strategic Plan

Kendra Boot, City Forester began her presentation by explaining that the urban forest consists of trees that grow in the built environment: public trees along streets and in parks, private trees in yards and neighborhood, etc. The strategic planning effort is looking at all the trees with the Fort Collins Growth Management Area (GMA).

Kendra led the LCSB through a high-level overview of the strategic plan starting with data of existing canopy cover and the current tree inventory. Kendra reported that Forestry maintains approximately 60,000 trees within the city limits. She shared a summary of the Strategic Plan community engagement to date, noting the importance of trees to the community and the community's desire for more education around tree planting and maintenance. Kendra recounted the plan's vision and future challenges, including an equitable distribution of canopy, changing climate and development/redevelopment, as well as the eight strategies designed to achieve the vision. She closed her presentation with a review of the project timeline and invited feedback from the LCSB.

DISCUSSION

Member Culver asked about the percentage of mature ash trees that might die due to infestation of Emerald Ash Borer. Kendra Boot reported there are 7,200 ash trees in the public inventory and that Forestry is preserving about 2,100 of those trees with chemical treatment. She also noted the emerald ash borer management response plan is available on the [Forestry website](#).

Member Lopez asked for more information on development/redevelopment. Kendra stated that the City has good policies around tree protection and that Forestry staff is working on updates to the Land Use Code to enhance tree protection throughout the City. Staff are also exploring other ways to incentivize applicants to keep more trees on a property.

Member Kley stated that within the development review process there is an educational opportunity to help guide homeowners who want to keep trees as well as for developers that are unaware of best horticulture practices. Kendra explained staff are expecting to be more involved in the building permit process, i.e., creating a checkpoint that would trigger the sharing of a tree protection plan with developers.

Member Gooden asked about tree survival and maintenance in the urban environment and mentioned that Cuyahoga County, OH is experimenting with inoculating street tree plantings with local mycorrhizal fungi. Kendra Booth stated Forestry adheres to best horticultural practices and uses local soil for planting. She reported that soil compaction and overwatering are two issues implicated in newly planted tree mortality on private property.

Member Gooden asked for clarification of the Natural Areas tree quality assessment. Matt Parker explained trees in natural areas are managed differently resulting in a variety of tree conditions including mortality. An assessment of natural areas trees completed by NAD staff showed limited age differentiation, low tree recruitment and low prevalence of fruit bearing trees. This information has guided restoration efforts over the past 15 years. Natural Areas does not

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remove dead trees unless they pose hazard. Kendra reported the data on natural areas trees is limited and urban assessment criteria might not accurately capture natural area conditions. Kendra stated Forestry differently manages urban trees along the Poudre River corridor including public safety and wildlife habitat criteria.

Chair Cunniff stated it could be helpful for the community to know which species are less likely to contribute to wildfire.

Jennifer Gooden asked if Kendra Boot was familiar with urban canopy carbon credits. Kendra stated Forestry staff recently began exploring carbon credits to support additional tree planting in the community.

Several board members joined Chair Cunniff in applauding the work of the Forestry Division and voicing their support of the Strategic Plan.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:33 p.m.

DocuSigned by:
Ross Cunniff
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6/13/2024

Ross Cunniff, Chair

Date