



CITY OF NORMAN, OK STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: 12-05-2024

REQUESTER: Colin J. Zink, City Forester

PRESENTER: James Briggs, Park Development Manager

ITEM TITLE: CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTION, REJECTION, AMENDMENT, AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF THE APPOINTMENT OF NORMAN RESIDENTS TO THE URBAN FORESTRY MASTER PLAN (UFMP) STEERING COMMITTEE.

BACKGROUND:

An Urban Forest Master Plan (UFMP) is a document to guide a municipality in making wise choices regarding its urban forest's ongoing care and growth. The Fiscal Year 2024-25 budget for Norman included funding for a project proposed by the Forestry Division of the Parks and Recreation Department to hire a professional consultant to help develop a UFMP for our city. In the summer of 2024, the City of Norman advertised those services and chose Davey Resource Group (Davey) to create our UFMP.

DISCUSSION:

As part of their UFMP process, Davey assembles a 'Steering Committee' made up of Norman residents to help inform them about the concerns and priorities regarding our urban forest. The Steering Committee will meet four times over the next six months and address predetermined topics in a conversation moderated by Davey. City staff has tried to approach possible committee members who represent various interests, ages, socioeconomic levels, and backgrounds who have demonstrated a willingness to serve. Staff described the duties and responsibilities to the potential committee members, and they all agreed to meet them to the best of their abilities. The final list includes one member from the Norman Tree Board, the Park Board, the Environmental Controls and Advisory Board (ECAB), and two at-large members who have previously served on other boards and commissions. The majority of the work needed to produce a successful UFMP will be done by the professional staff from Davey; however, the steering committee will be an essential part of that work.

Parks Board: Kristi Isacksen
Director of Parks and Recreation: Richard McKowan
Tree Board: Will Spain
Park Development Division: Michelle Corr
ECAB: Deb Cretsinger

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Board of Park Commissioners approve the following Norman residents to be on the UFMP Steering Committee: Kristi Isacksen, Will Spain, Deb Cretsinger, Richard McKown, and Michelle Corr.