

Madalyn Letellier

From: Chris Dwan [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, January 3, 2025 3:01 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: Fwd: Urban Forestry Committee Recommendations on the Tree Preservation Ordinance

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Honorable Councilors, Mayor, and Co-chairs of the Urban Forestry Committee,

On February 15 of last year, the Urban Forestry Committee (UFC) unanimously approved a set of proposed updates to the Tree Preservation Ordinance (TPO). In the past, the co-chairs would have forwarded this sort of memo directly to the council's attention. This is what we did with our memos on [green roofs](#), [90 Washington Street](#), and [Conway Park](#). In this case, however, the committee was instructed **not** to forward our recommendations. The stated reason was to allow time for the administration to review them and make adjustments. While I had concerns about the potential both for delay and for the committee's unanimous voice to be diluted, we agreed to wait.

Two months later, having confirmed that there had been no substantive action by the administration, I shared the committee's recommendations in a [public communication](#) that was published in the agenda of the Council's meeting on April 11, 2024. My hope at the time was first and foremost that the city would, in some small way, benefit from the committee's hours of unpaid work. We had discussed these recommendations at no less than four of our monthly meetings, making them a substantial fraction of the committee's output for the year. I was hoping to prevent negative feelings from taking root among committee members, who might worry that their service was a waste of time.

Now, nearly a year later, the updates are still not before you. I am writing to express my dismay at the ongoing delay and to urge you to act decisively on the recommendations as the committee wrote them - with or without input from the administration. At this point I am speaking only as an interested member of the public, since I stepped off the UFC last Fall after five years of service.

Thank you for your attention.

-Chris Dwan