



# PORTLAND PARKS & RECREATION

Healthy Parks, Healthy Portland

## ORDINANCE COVER SHEET

Title of Report: Appoint Catherine Mushel to the Urban Forestry Commission for a term to expire June 30, 2015. (Report)

Today's Date: April 21, 2011

Expected Date to Council: April 27, 2011

Preparer's Name: Anne Kroma

Manager's Name: David McAllister

Tier One Manager's signature:

If this is an Agreement, a Contract, or a Contract amendment, has it been "Approved as to Form" by the City Attorney?

Will this be on **Regular** or **Consent** agenda? Consent

- 
1. **Background** – The Urban Forestry Commission is an eleven member volunteer body that serves an advisory role on matters involving Portland's urban forest. The Commission has had a vacancy due to a resignation, but has been operating with ten members during the final push for adoption of the Citywide Tree Code Project. The appointment will reconstitute the Urban Forestry Commission to full commission size. The applicant has been active in many tree related organizations and fully vetted by the Nominations Committee of the Urban Forestry Commission.
  2. **Financial Impact** - None
  3. **Controversial and/or legal issues** – There is no anticipated controversy surrounding these appointments.
  4. **Link to current City policies** – Title 20.40
  5. **Citizen participation** – The members are chosen from applications submitted by interested citizens.
  6. **Other government participation** - None

## Interest Form for City Board & Commission Appointments

*The purpose of this form is to obtain information for use in making appointments to City boards, commissions, and committees, and to assist the Mayor in making inquiries concerning the qualifications of applicants for appointment. Please note that information provided in this document is public information, with the exception of the confidential section. (Information in the confidential section will only be disclosed as required by law.) If you have a recently prepared biography or resumé, please attach it to this form. Thank you for your interest.*

Please return application, resumé and any additional information to:  
Office of Neighborhood Involvement, 1221 SW 4<sup>th</sup> Ave, Room 110, Portland, Or 97204

To help ensure equal access to City programs, services and activities, the City of Portland will reasonably modify policies/procedures and provide auxiliary aids/services to persons with disabilities. Call 503-823-2030 or 503-823-4000 with such requests.

Name: Catherine E Mushel  
*First Middle Initial Last*

Mailing Address: 6319 SE 34<sup>th</sup> Avenue

Occupation: Part-time Garden Designer

Daytime Phone: 503-771-9686

Email: cmushel@comcast.net

**RECEIVED**

**JAN 24 2011**

OFFICE-NEIGHORHOOD

**Biography/Resumé Attached?**     Yes I have sent a letter to Anne Kroma under a separate emailing.  
 No

**CHECK UP TO THREE (3) GROUPS YOU ARE INTERESTED IN (descriptions are online):**

- |                                                              |                                                                  |                                                               |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adjustment Committee                | <input type="checkbox"/> Housing Authority of Portland           | <input type="checkbox"/> Portland Utility Review Board        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Alternative Technology Adv Com      | <input type="checkbox"/> Human Rights Commission                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Private-for-Hire Board of Review     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Building Code Board of Appeal       | <input type="checkbox"/> Independent Police - Citizen Review Com | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Involvement Advisory Council  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Business License Appeals Board      | <input type="checkbox"/> Investment Advisory Committee           | <input type="checkbox"/> Purchasing Board of Appeals          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Citizen Campaign Committee          | <input type="checkbox"/> Mechanical Code Board of Appeal         | <input type="checkbox"/> Regional Arts & Culture Council      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Civil Service Board                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Metro Exposition Recreation Commission  | <input type="checkbox"/> River Community Advisory Committee   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community Budget Advisory Board     | <input type="checkbox"/> Mt. Hood Cable Regulatory Comm          | <input type="checkbox"/> Small Business Advisory Council      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Design Commission                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Noise Review Board                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Structural Engineering Adv Board     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Development Review Advisory Com     | <input type="checkbox"/> Plumbing Code Board of Appeal           | <input type="checkbox"/> Time, Place, Manner Oversight Com    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Elders in Action                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Portland Community Media                | <input type="checkbox"/> Towing Board of Review               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Electrical Code Board of Appeals    | <input type="checkbox"/> Portland Development Commission         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Urban Forestry Commission |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fire Code Board of Appeal           | <input type="checkbox"/> Portland Housing Advisory Board         | <input type="checkbox"/> Workforce Investment Board           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Floating Structures Board of Appeal | <input type="checkbox"/> Portland/Multnomah Food Policy Council  | <input type="checkbox"/> Children's Investm. Fund Alloc Com   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Golf Advisory Committee             | <input type="checkbox"/> Portland Parks Board                    | <input type="checkbox"/>                                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic Landmarks Commission       | <input type="checkbox"/> Portland Planning & Sustainability Com  |                                                               |

**List education, including degree(s) earned:**

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>2007</b> Thomas Church Garden Study<br/>Drawing the Landscape<br/>Color Mastery Workshop<br/>Soil-Food-Web Study</p> <p><b>2007</b> A year in Toastmasters</p> <p><b>1994</b> Portland Tilth Conference</p> <p><b>1978</b> Claremont Graduate School</p> <p><b>1977</b> Claremont Graduate School</p> | <p><b>Richard MacPherson Landscape Architect</b><br/><b>Linda Engstrom, Portland Community College</b><br/><b>Richard Scott</b><br/><b>Elaine Ingham</b></p> <p><b>Organic Agriculture and Gardening</b><br/><b>Advanced to Ph.D Candidacy : Renaissance Literature</b><br/><b>MA English Literature</b></p> |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

1975 Seattle University  
1972 Polson High School

BA English Literature  
Graduated

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**1<sup>st</sup> Choice:**

Name of Board/Commission/Committee: Urban Forestry Commission

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A. Reasons for wanting to serve on this group:

A love of trees, forests, and urban design.

A desire to contribute a neighborhood perspective on planning for, removing, maintaining, and planting trees in the city. A desire to contribute to the deliberations regarding individual lot design problems in relation to the nexus of questions raised by considering trees in urban design. A desire to bring a more nuanced and broader understanding of Urban Forestry issues back to the neighborhood conversation. Finally, I like listening to and talking to arborists and city planners.

B. List skills or knowledge that would be relevant to this Board/Commission:

1) A facility with maps and plans 2) patience with the complexity of nature and human nature 3) attunement to questions of audience 4) the tenacity to analyze and summarize information and principles 5) discernment as to what must be considered in particular and in general to keep people engaged and trees alive in increasing numbers 6) familiarity with the Urban Canopy Report and the Citywide Tree Project 7) knowledge of neighborhood histories, park histories, some geology.

C. List work or volunteer experience that would add to your expertise for this Board/Commission

| Dates (from/to) | Employer or Volunteer Activity                | Responsibilities                                                                                                                               |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2008-2011       | ENA Reed College Pl. Committee                | Convince members to focus on 256 trees 1 <sup>st</sup> ; inventory trees; help compose pruning specs; facilitate understanding of pruning      |
| 1996-2011       | Garden Designer, residential                  | Site analysis, client interviews, scaled plans Elevations, facilitate installations                                                            |
| 1997-2011       | Friends of Trees                              | Crew member, crew leader, two-time Neighborhood co-coordinator                                                                                 |
| 1997-2007       | ENA Tree Committee member<br>Chair -2003-2007 | Meetings, plan plantings, host elm inoculation Set agendas, host meetings, organize projects research and education, planting, elm inoculation |

|           |                            |                                                                  |
|-----------|----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1994-1999 | Gunesch Design/Build       | Carpentry, and general construction tasks                        |
| 1992-2004 | Portland Tilth             | Education, garden tours, 20 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary conference |
| 1988-1992 | Portland Community College | Writing and fiction instructor, part-time                        |

As a guest of the Eastmoreland Garden Club, I have given a talk about the neighborhood history and trees; as a guest of the Association of Professional Landscape Designers, I have given a lecture about city tree codes as they relate to stories, ethics, and codes.

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**2<sup>nd</sup> Choice:**

Name of Board/Commission/Committee: \_\_\_\_\_

A. Reasons for wanting to serve on this group:

B. List skills or knowledge that would be relevant to this Board/Commission:

C. List work or volunteer experience that would add to your expertise for this Board/Commission:

| Dates (from/to) | Employer or Volunteer Activity | Responsibilities |
|-----------------|--------------------------------|------------------|
|-----------------|--------------------------------|------------------|

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**3<sup>rd</sup> Choice:**

Name of Board/Commission/Committee: \_\_\_\_\_

A. Reasons for wanting to serve on this group:

B. List skills or knowledge that would be relevant to this Board/Commission:

C. List work or volunteer experience that would add to your expertise for this Board/Commission:

Dates (from/to)    Employer or Volunteer Activity    Responsibilities

**List your experience working on diverse teams or committees:**

Eastmoreland Neighborhood Association (ENA) Tree Committee Chair: hosting monthly meetings for four years, setting an agenda and finishing meetings on time with a review of the decisions, the discussion, and the actions agreed upon, including assignments; negotiating dissent and objections to members' style or actions, doing the research necessary to deal with questions from a neighborhood of executives and professionals. Contributing member of the ENA Reed College Place Committee: organizing and conducting an inventory of 256 trees with Mary Doyle and others, urging temperance with regard to City funding issues, educating neighbors; writing pruning specs with Bud Oringdulph; being a liaison with Forestry, and facilitating the pruning with Ned Sodja in particular. Portland Tilth: participating in a round-table discussion monthly regarding gardening and farming topics and their individual, community, and political implications; helping to organize the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference; helping with garden and farm tours. Hoyt Arboretum: weeding weekly for a five-month period and getting to know the Arboretum history from Dan Moeller and volunteers on site. Friends of Trees: coordinating the planting, once with Karen Williams, fellow Tree Steward and again with Mary Dettmer; coordinating food and cleanup for planting day; utility notices; planning for different functions; crew leading; answering questions about trees; planting trees as a crew member. In all committee work, I have felt the need for tact, discernment, tenacity, and a sense of humor...sometimes a pressing need.

**Describe your understanding of the services the City of Portland provides:**

Planning for growth; planning services for builders and developers. Water, sewer, and transportation infrastructure—education, maintenance and new projects. Parks and community gardens and public rights-of-way plantings—again education, maintenance, remodels, and new projects. Negotiations with METRO, Multnomah, Wahsington, Clackamas counties, the State of Oregon, the Federal Government. Planning for the safety of citizens, whether on roads, in their homes, or while enjoying the commons. Police and Fire protection and emergency medical services. Stewardship of the public trust and leadership. The City also maintains the institutional structure for neighborhood associations and hosts public hearings regarding planning generally, city codes, the commons, and the urban forest. Finally, the City manages public funds for the common good.

*Catherine Elaine Mueller*

*24 January 2011*

My signature affirms that all information contained herein is true to the best of my knowledge, and that I understand that any misstatement of fact or misrepresentation of credentials may result in this application being disqualified from further consideration.

**Signature:** Catherine Elaine Mushel **Date:** 1-20-2011

Catherine Mushel  
6319 SE 34<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Portland, Oregon  
97202  
[cmushel@comcast.net](mailto:cmushel@comcast.net)  
503-771-9686

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JAN 24 2011

19 January 2011

OFFICE-NEIGHORHOOD

Joseph Poracsky and Selection Committee  
Urban Forestry Commission  
Urban Forestry  
City/Nature  
Portland Parks and Recreation  
Office of Neighborhood Involvement  
1221 SW 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Room 110 Portland, Oregon  
97204

RE: Membership on the Urban Forestry Commission

Dear Professor Poracsky and Committee Members:

Please allow me to answer the application for membership on the Urban Forestry Commission in letter form. I am following the order of questions on the application.

**Why ask to serve on the Urban Forestry Commission?** I want at once to broaden and deepen my own commitment to the trees that connect past, present, and future generations of citizens. I would like to bring my own design experience and a neighborhood perspective to the Commission's work. I am familiar with the Urban Canopy Report and the UFC's public meetings, which I attended a few years ago for about a six-month period. During that time, I could see that the concerns of the Commission—why, where, when, and how a tree, a grove, a park or a street-side-or-center planting impacts urban design and the quality of urban life—are at the center of my intellectual and civic life. I am sure that the Commission's work and my familiarity with the Urban Canopy Report has made my neighborhood volunteer work better informed and more nuanced. I would like to hear more from the Commission and in more detail. I would like the opportunity to add my experience, my tenacity, and my reflective voice to the Commission's conversation, deliberations, and decisions regarding any one and all trees in the web of urban life.

**What skills or knowledge are relevant to this Commission?** Many are relevant; in reflecting on this question, I have been asking myself whether my skills in particular are relevant to the Commission's work. As is the case with many a former English teacher, I am curious about individual stories and understand their

importance to a sense of identity and to possible connections between people: I do my best to be a good listener. I also understand the difference between story and analysis: I do my best to be a good thinker. I have seen commissioners listen respectfully and carefully and also identify the principles underlying their analysis.

I have also seen them examine plans and codes. As is the case with many a former construction worker, I can read maps and plans, but more than that, I understand that work must be accomplished in a logical sequence, requires a great deal of attention to the potential for unexpected benefits and disadvantages as the work progresses. I respect the budget. To serve well on this commission, you would do well not only to see the picture, but also to see how it must be managed and come into being over time.

As a practicing garden designer, I am aware of how different aesthetics, site conditions, functions, and stories all must harmonize if everyone at the table is to own the plan and then care for the garden with imagination and affection. Again, commissioners must not only be able to see a plan or articulate a principle, they must also have an ear for what will make decisions come alive for and satisfy various stakeholders; they must be able to see how an individual citizen's interests support and are supported by an interest in the commons; they must be persuasive.

In addition to being attuned to others, conscientious about the principles guiding decisions, persuasive about trees in urban design, and possessed of adequate plan and code reading powers, there is another aspect to this service that must be very important to the commissioners themselves, though I expect everyone comes to this last quality differently. I share the city dweller's delight in variety and human invention, and I have retained from my rural childhood a watchfulness and wonder toward nature. How could you be a member of the UFC if you did not love the city and urban design, if you did not love nature and especially trees?

**What volunteer or work experience would add to my expertise were I to serve on the UFC?** When I chaired the Eastmoreland Neighborhood Association (ENA) Tree Committee from 2003 until late 2007, I helped set the agenda and hosted the meetings, but credit for our many successes goes to the whole group, which met monthly for four years and made great strides in maintaining and increasing the neighborhood tree canopy and educating fellow neighbors. For this they shared the 2007 Bill Naito Community Trees Award.

After I stepped down as chair of the ENA committee, I enrolled in Urban Forestry's Tree Liaison (Steward) Program. My training as a Tree Steward led me to join the Reed College Place Restoration Committee (RCPC) in the fall of 2008 when I heard about their efforts at an ENA Board Meeting: what first caught my ear was that, initially, the RCPC's understanding was focused on the turf alone, and I thought the turf could not be addressed without first assessing the condition of the 256 trees that line the seven blocks of Reed College Place. My concern for the trees and my interest in my neighbors led me to attend nearly weekly meetings for three years,



taking on many responsibilities: organizing the inventory of the 256 trees under Karl Dawson, Education Specialist Urban Forestry City/Nature; researching the care of lindens in historic allees; reporting back to the RCPC with arborists' assessments of the trees (Pam Sodja, Ned Sodja, Stephen Peacock, and Chris Ritchard); helping to write the pruning specifications for the trees (with Bud Oringdulph), and facilitating the bidding for and the execution of the pruning effort (Harrity Tree Specialists) that began 20 December 2010 and was completed on 5 January 2011. An inventory project to complete my Tree Steward training became part of the RCPC's deliberations and they were able to organize a significant maintenance project for their Reed College Place neighbors and for the neighborhood as a whole.

My aim in working on any committee is to understand the way the short view can help or sink the long view and to exercise discernment, (including discernment regarding citizens' passions) rather than to wed myself to any orthodoxy. As chair of the ENA committee, I was the lone dissenter in the group regarding inoculating the neighborhood's 300 elms. At first, I thought we should risk letting them die (understanding they would, indeed, die) because of the toxic nature of producing inoculants and because it seemed to me that each elm should be assessed and only trees in good condition should be inoculated. I was outvoted. However, as I continued to work on the committee and on the elm inoculations with Eric Smith (the inoculation chair), my view became more nuanced. I hosted inoculations, picked up inoculation garbage, provided lunch, hand-delivered hundreds and hundreds of flyers, and researched how elms are treated in select university arboretums. I learned delegating is an essential part of effective work by failing to anticipate when delegation would have been best for the committee. I measured dozens of elms and worked with Dan Dettmer, a Tree Committee member and Jennifer Karps when she was Urban Forestry's elm monitor, and concluded that we were losing elms little by little. I listened to neighbors and came to realize that losing them all at once would be catastrophic for the neighborhood's sense of identity. I came to defend their inoculation as a stopgap to help us retain mature trees for storm water mitigation, heat reduction, and carbon sequestration, while we continued to plant trees every year with Friends of Trees (FOT).

To the end of increasing planting, I trained as a crew leader with FOT and worked as a neighborhood coordinator in Eastmoreland in 2006 with Karen Williams, our other neighborhood Tree Steward, and again this fall with Mary Dettmer, a new volunteer. Since 1997, I have planted trees in north, northeast, and southeast Portland both as a crew member and as a crew leader for FOT. I also have stayed involved with the elms because I began hearing others were convinced each tree's condition should be evaluated, and inoculation should weighed against condition and the benefits of having a multi-aged grove with young trees replacing elms in very poor condition. Now, ten years since the inoculation started, Angie DiSalvo, Botanist with Urban Forestry, has chosen Eastmoreland to be one of the neighborhoods that will be inventorying its trees, a process that I hope to steer toward evaluating each tree's condition. When working on the urban forest,

discernment means not only considering the long life of trees, but also staying with the questions for a very long time by human standards.

My work on the RCPC has followed a similar path: if I am in dissent, I make my case, and then I make a principled evaluation of the Committee's proposal. Sometimes, I have continued to argue for my point of view between meetings. For example, I prevailed upon the group to accept a less drastic live wood pruning of the lindens because lindens historically are a coppice tree and are known to sucker. Sometimes, I do not prevail. Among other examples, I did not think we ought to publish the tallies without particular household names of each block's fundraising totals. But I continued to support the committee's efforts. I plan to stay involved as the neighborhood puts together a maintenance plan for all its street trees and puts Reed College Place on the neighborhood plan.

My motto is everyone who is at the table belongs at the table. Share the work. Know that research is essential, walk the site and observe the trees repeatedly, listen to people's stories, know the neighborhood history, know that trees require decades of dedication, know the principles from which you and others are working, know when your shared principles support action. Define that action as well as you can. Finally, support the work the group has decided on. I would like to be at the UFC table and contribute to and support its work.

**What services does the City provide?** My understanding of the services provided by the City is like every citizen's, but also is informed by years between 1994 and 1999 that I worked part-time as a carpenter on a construction crew for a residential design-build firm (Gunesch Design/Build, now closed due to the principal's illness). My construction experience taught me design, but it also taught me that building codes encapsulate the wisdom of experience so that every builder need not invent buildings by trial and error.

The City administration sets policies, provides leadership, and manages public funds for the common good. The City maintains and improves the water and sewer system and the transportation infrastructure. It provides essential services such as police protection and fire and medical emergency services. The City enforces laws, but also codes that protect its citizens against poor building practices, as well as codes that balance the needs of individuals against the needs of the community and the commons of clean air and water, and open land in planning and development. The City also provides a forum for neighborhood involvement, educates volunteers in the parks, community gardens, and the urban forest, all of which are managed by the City. It negotiates on behalf of its citizens in regional forums with Metro and Washington, Multnomah, and Clackamas counties. It works to make city codes commensurate with State of Oregon codes and laws. It negotiates for transportation and infrastructure funds with the State and with the Federal Government. Consider but one question, and the complexity of providing city services comes into view. Where does our water come from—this question involves all the City's roles: as infrastructure builder and maintainer, as negotiator, as resource and education

provider, as protector of the public's health, as protector of the public trust. Like so many questions in the city, it also involves the forest, the big and visible filter of the natural world.

In asking what applicants know about City services, selection committees must be gauging whether applications are frivolous. I understand that the City does a great deal of serious work and provides many interconnected resources and services.

I would like to end this application on a different kind of serious note, however. I love living in Portland, just as I love the countryside and the contrast between the city and the country. I love the fact that Portland neighborhoods change and yet retain distinct identities, making them new and delicious places to visit even as they remain familiar. I love the particular topography in different neighborhoods and the legacy of the Missoula Floods in Portland's soils. I remember how much I love the city when I do volunteer work, and when I have political opinions, I keep them to myself, thinking that the citizens with whom I am working also need to stay focused on the task at hand. Like most everything else I have learned at the ripe age of 56, I have learned to be discreet through experience.

Thank you for considering my application to be a member of the Urban Forestry Commission.

Sincerely,  
Catherine Mushel