



COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORT AUDIT AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

Date: January 27, 2016

Agenda Item #: 3

Agenda Item 7: Office of the City Clerk Proposed Changes to Board & Commission Bylaws.

Vote

4-0-0 [Committee members are Mayor Pro Tem Tovo (chair), Council Member Troxclair (vice-chair), Council Member Pool, and Council Member Renteria]

Sponsors/Department:

Office of the City Clerk

Summary of Discussion

The Office of the City Clerk presented changes to the Environmental Commission, which included adopting the duties of the Urban Forestry Commission, and recommended that the Audit and Finance Committee approve the changes that would bring the Commission bylaws up to Code. Council Member Pool made a motion to approve the changes. Motion was passed with Vice-Chair Troxclair's second and a 4-0 vote.

Staff presented changes to the Environmental Commission that would require an ordinance change and were recommended by staff. Council Member Pool made a motion to approve the changes and Mayor Pro Tem Tovo seconded the motion. Council Member Renteria asked if the Environmental Commission is reviewing regulations other than the Watershed Department, and the Environmental Commission representative, Chair Mary Gay Maxwell, clarified that they were not. Vice-Chair Troxclair asked about the proposed revision that would include private trees in the definition of urban forest, and expressed concern about government interfering on private property. The changes passed on a vote of 3-1 with Vice-Chair Troxclair opposed. Council Member Renteria asked for further clarification of why the definition would include private trees. The Commission representative said that the purpose was to gain a full count of private trees in the urban forest canopy. Vice-Chair Troxclair stated that the actual proposed language of "all matters pertaining to the urban forest" is too broad and asked that the language be revisited. Mayor Pro Tem Tovo recommended that the Commission also research past resolutions from Council on this Commission. After this discussion, there was no move to reconsider the previous vote.

Direction

The proposed revisions were forwarded to the full Council for consideration.

Recommendation:

The motion to forward the Environmental Commission bylaws to the full Council was approved on Council Member Pool's motion, Vice-Chair Troxclair's second on a 4-0 vote.