



**Citizen Advisory Committee
To Spokane Urban Forestry Tree Committee**

MEETING MINUTES

April 6, 2010

4:00 PM

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:02 PM

2. ROLL CALL

a. All members of the UF CAC were present except Geri and Andrew. Also present, Steve Nittolo (Horticultural Supervisor) and Angel Spell and Jeff Perry (staff members, Urban Forestry Program), and Guests: Nancy MacKerrow, and Carrie Anderson

3. CEREMONIES, APPOINTMENTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

Garth welcomed Angel Spell as Spokane's new Urban Forester.

4. CONSENT CALENDAR

The Minutes for the March 2010 Meeting were reviewed. Susan moved that the Minutes be accepted as written. Garth seconded the motion. Motion carried and the Minutes were accepted.

5. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Nancy discussed how one more Suzie's Forest tree was planted in Hill 'n Dale Park and that she would be traveling to Connecticut to plant another tree. Susan added that Garth had coordinated to have a member of the SCCD staff to assist Nancy in developing a publicity/informational brochure for the Suzie's Forest program.

Carrie asked for volunteers to show up at 2:30PM, April 16th on Main St to take out concrete and dig holes for the next day Earth Day tree planting event. Four downtown street trees will be planted. Thanks to Carrie for heading up this event

6. REPORTS

a. Education Outreach and Volunteer Recruitment subcommittee.

This subcomm meeting was held right before the CAC meeting. Cindy asked for volunteers to staff the UF Booth for Earth Day and Arbor Day. She announced that tentatively Ed Lester is scheduled to give an informative tour of Manito parks trees on May 4th. Funding has been secured for the UF bookmarks and the subcomm would be working on what printed information they wanted on the bookmarks. Cindy also discussed how the SCCD and Avista would be planting 100 trees in the 5-Mile area and there would be a call for volunteers in the near future."

b. Street Tree Interdepartmental Discussions

Julie reported that this ad hoc Interdepartmental Discussions committee (made up of the directors from Engineering, Planning and Parks and Recreation and other City staff members, including herself) continues to meet on a twice-monthly basis. Progress is slow, measured and continuing.

c. Tree Protection subcommittee

Susan asked that this subcomm be discontinued as it is now being worked at the City Council/City staff level and out of the UFTC CAC hands. Without a motion, it was agreed that the subcomm would be discontinued, but could be renewed if the City Council/City Staff need our input.

d. Evergreen Cities Act & Utility Fee Funding subcommittee

The pilot program will start this summer. Carrie suggested that there needed to be supplemental information in the utility bills that explained the UF program and why people should consider giving money. Angel said that she would initiate that action.

e. The Downtown Street Tree subcommittee

Andrew was absent from the meeting and provided the following information by email: "The information I would provide is that it will be this week that the Parks Dept and DSP finally sign the contract to initiate funding for street tree deferred maintenance projects in the Downtown core. The contract states that funds will go toward projects that "set the conditions necessary for long-term growth of a mature urban tree canopy". The contract doesn't state what the specifics are but those projects may include some or all of the following:

- Subsidizing costs for property owners who replace the concrete tree lids with metal (water permeable) grates.
- Increasing the grant amount for property owners who irrigate their trees with a building irrigation system.
- Determining if a street tree demonstration project is financially feasible with available funds.
- Drilling out trees that are girdled by concrete lids or are approaching that point.
- Replacing concrete tree lids and undergirding frames if they are a hazard to pedestrians."

f. Vegetation Management Plan subcommittee

This subcomm did not meet in April. Susan said that she would start a the review process by drafting a new, proposed table on contents for the VMP and use that for initial discussion of the revising the VMP content. Garth and Susan said that a meeting in late May will be scheduled.

g. Steve Nittolo, Horticulture Supervisor, City of Spokane.

Steve gave a brief summary of his past month's activities in the UF program. He discussed how Spokane had been awarded the Growth Award for Tree City USA, and how the website was up and rolling . His information recap report is attached

7. OLD BUSINESS

Discussion Item – CAC Vacancies

The UFTC CAC now have three vacancies: Community Assembly, Arboriculture/Horticulture and Member-At-Large. Susan asked that the UFTC and the UFTC CAC application information be updated in the City's Board and Commissions and Committees area of the City's website. Angel said that she would do that as the supporting staff for the UFTC CAC. The Community Assembly and the Arboriculture Community appear to each have an interested person to join the CAC. The Member-At-Large position will be advertised at the city council Meeting and in the newspaper.

8. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Julie Neff asked for UFTC CAC participation in the Ferris HS redesign citizen-input process. She noted that possibly many, if not all of the Ferris' ponderosa pines would be logged as part of the redesign. She said that she would keep CAC members apprised of the meeting dates. Thanks to Julie for keeping CAC members aware of instances where our voice in support of Spokane's UF can be heard
- b. DNR Grant Application: Angel discussed this application: \$5,000 for TV spots, \$2,800 for radio spots, \$800 *Spokesman Review* Ads, \$500 *Inlander* Ads and \$900 for information brochures.
- c. Pam discussed and passed around the Avista smart tree of the year proclamation. Andrew also submitted a proclamation for the downtown street tree of the year. These proclamations will be read by the City Council in honor of Arbor Day.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Susan moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:15 PM. Pam seconded the motion.

The Citizen Advisory Committee to the City of Spokane Urban Forestry Tree Committee meets the first Tuesday of each month, 4:00 pm, at the Manito Meeting Room, Manito Park, in Spokane, Washington.

Garth Davis, Chair

Susan M. Ross Traver, Secretary

Report from the Horticulture Supervisor For CAC Meeting April 7, 2010

Commercial Tree Service Licensing began April 1. CTSL is now required for all pruning in ROW. Several companies are now licensed.

Three revised Urban Forstry logos have been presented for review and comment.

Work at the Urban Forestry Office:

- Working on many engineering street projects
- Many landscape plans to review at this time
- Street tree permits increasing
- Urban Forestry donation check box on city utility bill is still moving forward.
- Urban Forestry Interdepartmental Discussions continue as well as discussions concerning revolving sidewalk replacement fund
- Pre-development meetings
- More meetings concerning use of LID funds in downtown area. An agreement between Downtown Spokane Partnership is in the works
- Lincoln Street project begins
- 37th Ave project begins
- Work on handbook for UFTC members

Work by the Arborist's crew:

- Finishing up of winter tree work
- Spring planting is beginning
- Report on downtown trees