



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

MEETING MINUTES

August 4, 2009

4:00 PM

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:10 PM by Carrie Anderson

2. ROLL CALL

a. All members of the CAC were present except: Angel Spell, Julie Neff, Garth Davis, Marilyn Boyd, Andrew Rowles and Paul Hindel. The meeting did not have a quorum.

b. Also present: Nancy Goodspeed (Parks and Recreation Department), Toni Madnich (Parks and Recreation Department), Steve Nittolo (Urban Forestry Program), Beth Mort (Lands Council), Mike Sanborn (Citizen, Arborist), Jeff Perry (Urban Forestry Program), Tim Kohlhauff (Citizen, Forester), Chris Hilgert, (WSU Urban Horticultural Extension Educator) and Nancy MacKerrow (Citizen, Susie's Forest)

3. CEREMONIES, APPOINTMENTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

Angel was unable to preside over the August CAC Meeting, so the Carrie Anderson will fill in as President for the meeting.

4. CONSENT CALENDAR

Approval of the June 2 and July 7 meeting minutes postponed due to lack of a quorum.

5. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Beth Mort expressed concern that construction equipment and items continued to be stored on Park property at Hamblen Park. These items were right next to park trees. Steve Nittolo said that Ken Brown from the City was aware of the problem and would take care of having the items moved. As of 19 August, no items had been removed.

Ed Miles invited the CAC to attend the 100th Anniversary of Minnehaha Park, 10AM to 4PM, Saturday, 29 Aug 2009.

6. REPORTS

b. Education Outreach and Volunteer Recruitment Subcommittee.

Cindy discussed how her committee continues to work with Steve Nittolo on the Public Service Announcements (PSAs) for the Urban Forest Program. The PSAs will cover: Permitting, Not Topping Trees, Appropriate Trees Under Utility Lines and Proper Planting of Trees. This subcommittee report will be included in the Official Record.

e. Historic Tree & Preservation Subcommittee

No new program status information. The ordinance amendment information remains in the Parks and Recreation Department.

f. Spokane Horticultural Supervisor's Report

See Steve Nittolo's attached detailed Horticultural Supervisor's Report.

g. Street Tree Subcommittee

Julie Neff was not able to attend this month's CAC Meeting. This topic should be discussed at the September CAC Meeting.

7. OLD BUSINESS

a. Urban Forester Position Update: 9 candidates are eligible for interviewing for the position. No timeline yet for the start of the interviewing process.

b. Heritage Tree Ordinance – See Above: Reports, Ssection e.

c. Tree City USA 2009 Letter: This letter is still being reviewed by the CAC.

d. CAC Priorities Initiative: Carrie valiantly tried to generate interest within the CAC to try and compile a list of new initiative items for the CAC to pursue. Many of the items on the list have been achieved and should be recognized as accomplishments. A facilitated discussion will be required to generate interest in identifying new projects.

8. NEW BUSINESS

Discussion Item – Urban Forestry Advisory Board: Carrie read a letter sent to her from the Mayor her concerning her interest in forming a new urban forest advisory board, once the new Urban Forester is hired. The board will essentially replace the existing UFTC and the CAC, as they report to the Parks and Recreation department and not directly to the Mayor. The letter is attached in the Official Record.

Discussion Item – Comstock Park Trees Construction Damage: Nancy, Tony and Steve discussed this issue. In summary: construction specification should have been more tightly written to ensure complete understanding of what was necessary to ensure mature tree safety and there should have been more direct contract supervision of tree protection standards. Parks and Recreation has stated that this will not happen again. The official position is stated in the Parks and Recreation Department news release and is attached for the record.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting closed at 5:56 PM.

Angel Spell, Chair

Susan M. Ross Traver, Secretary

**Report from the Horticulture Supervisor
For CAC Meeting August 4, 2009**

Parks Staff had further meetings with representatives of the web designing firm, BHW1 is now ready for content to be sent UF staff will be compiling content and sending it over the next couple of weeks.

Urban Forester position applications are being reviewed by Civil Service.

Steve Nittolo met with City of Spokane Attorney's office staff and Department of Taxes and Licensing staff, along with Barry Russell to discuss ordinance changes concerning a Commercial Tree Service License.

Urban Forestry staff has reached a settlement with Camp Chevrolet concerning tree damages along Division. They will replace all destroyed trees and have reparative pruning done on the remaining trees that were damaged. They will also make donations to the Reforest Spokane Fund in the amount of \$300.00 per tree that had to be replaced. With the replacements they will be making this provides two for one replacements for the three trees they destroyed. UF will replace three trees somewhere in that neighborhood.

City Cable 5 still has UF in line for filming a PSA in August.

Five more new trees were planted at Manito Park.

Some projects completed by Urban Forestry Arborist Crew:

- Pruning of four trees at Rockwood Island for safety and to promote the general health of the trees per request of Rockwood Garden Club that takes care of the island.
- Pruning of three trees in Pioneer Park for safety and tree health.
- Responding to letters sent to residence on Lincoln.
- Speed letters at various parks including Moore Turner and Finch Arboretum.
- Pruning of Trees at Riverfront Park

Work at the Urban Forestry Office:

- Work with contractors on pruning work for Montgomery/Illinois Repaving Project
- Comstock Park irrigation installation issues being addressed
- 37th Ave bond project-contractor has been using Hamblen Park as a staging area for supplies and equipment; has been instructed to remove from park property.
- Witter Pool Contractor has been instructed to remove supplies from around trees and water
- A. M. Cannon Pool trees of wrong species require replacement. One tree too close to stop sign requires removal.
- Participated in further meetings concerning street tree spacing

August 7, 2009

Contact: Nancy Goodspeed, 625-6297

TREE REMOVAL AT COMSTOCK PARK

Closer examination of trees in Comstock Park that potentially were damaged during installation of irrigation piping has resulted in a decision today to remove at least one of the trees for safety reasons.

The tree is a Siberian Elm. It is likely 60-70 years old, as are the majority of trees in Comstock Park. It was hoped that taking a closer look at the roots of the tree might have rendered a more positive decision.

Air spading this morning revealed the network of roots had been damaged during the mechanized and hand trenching for the water lines. Additionally, the tree is next to a retaining wall creating a potentially limited root system and its proximity to the sidewalk, street and overhead power lines meant it could possibly be a safety hazard. The decision to remove the tree was made by two certified tree arborists who work for the City's Parks and Recreation Department. Their decision was supported by additional certified arborists who assisted in the evaluation.

In the coming days more trees at Comstock Park will be examined to determine the extent of potential damage from the trenching in two different construction areas.

The Parks and Recreation Department has re-examined specifications and the monitoring process to prevent similar damage during construction projects in the future.

The Parks and Recreation Department has also committed to the Comstock Neighborhood to plant three new trees in the Park for every

damaged tree that may need to be taken down.