



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

MEETING MINUTES

October 6, 2009

4:00 PM

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:02 PM

2. ROLL CALL

All members of the CAC were present except: Cindy Deffe, and Pam Luders. Additionally no UF Staff members were present due to their attendance at a conference.

3. CEREMONIES, APPOINTMENTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

Andrew Rolwes discussed how the Spokane Downtown Partnership in concert with local downtown businesses had started their initial tree planting and custom tree grate installation program. Great news for greening of the downtown area! This is an area of possible further CAC interaction.

4. CONSENT CALENDAR

The Minutes for the September 2009 CAC meeting were reviewed. Susan moved that the Meeting Minutes be accepted as written. Andrew seconded the motion. The motion carried and the Minutes were accepted and entered into the Record.

5. CITIZEN COMMENTS

None

6. REPORTS

- a. Education Outreach and Volunteer Recruitment subcommittee – Cindy Defee.

No report due to the absence of the committee chair.

- b. Heritage Tree & Preservation subcommittee – Susan Traver

The amended HT ordinance is at the City Council awaiting the usual first and final reading before they vote.

- c. Street Tree Subcommittee – Julie Neff

The first meeting of city leadership quickly occurred with encouraging initial outcome. A follow-up meeting is scheduled for later in Oct, but may be delayed due to the resignation of the Parks and Recreation Director and the ensuing job changes. The informal minutes of the subject meeting are attached to these minutes.

d. Tree Protection/Replacement Subcommittee – Susan Traver

No new information, as the committee did not meet last month. The next meeting is scheduled for October 28, 2009, Community Building, 3:00PM. All interested CAC members were encouraged to attend.

e. Staff Report – Steve Nittolo, Horticultural Supervisor

Please see attached Horticultural Supervisor's Report. Steve was gone to a conference, so there was no further discussion of his report.

7. OLD BUSINESS

a. Discussion Item – Tree City USA 2009 Draft Letter.

Susan has declined to continue drafting this letter and Angel has agreed to take over completing this letter -- slightly altering the intent of the letter. She will present it at the Nov 2009 CAC Meeting

8. NEW BUSINESS

a. Action Item – CAC Priorities for 2010

Carrie compiled a list of priorities CAC members said that they were interested in pursuing on behalf of the Urban Forest Program. The priorities are attached.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Susan moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:30 PM. Garth seconded the motion. Motion carried and the meeting was adjourned.

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.

Angel Spell, Chair

Susan M. Ross Traver, Secretary

City Leadership Street Tree Subcommittee Informal Meeting Minutes

Julie Neff, chair of the Street Tree Subcommittee, noted that the Street Tree Subcommittee's memo to Ted Danek (the Spokane City Administrator) got an immediate response; he organized a meeting for 8/31 with the following people:

Ted Danek, City Administrator

Gerry Gemmell, Deputy Public Works Director (Dave Mandyke was out of town)

Theresa Sanders, Economic Development Director
Tony Madunich, (representing Barry Russell, Parks Director)
Leroy Eadie, Planning Director
Mike Taylor, City Engineer
Jonathan Mallahan, Director, Office of Neighborhood Services
Julie Neff, Urban Designer

Leroy Eadie provided an agenda and reviewed the history of street trees in the city – noting that before about the 1950's trees and boulevards were an expected part of the streetscape. Once we changed to an auto culture we stopped putting in trees - and when sidewalks were installed, it was often right next to curbs. The 2001 Comprehensive Plan recognizes the value of street trees between curb and sidewalk. But there are a lot of demands for the right of way space and street trees have posed an ongoing challenge – especially with regard to coordination between different departments.

Julie provided the group an overview on the CAC and reviewed the Street Tree Subcommittee's briefing paper.

Discussion included recognition that there's a need for a multidisciplinary staff group to address issues that cross dept. lines. One will be formed and the first issue will be trees.

Leroy Eadie will set up the first meeting with 3 Dept. Heads – Parks/ Urban Forestry , Engineering and Planning. Leroy wants to ensure that a director and their staff “expert” be involved in order to maintain leadership at a high enough level to affect change. The tree discussions will include the new urban forester, and possibly a urban Forest CAC member.

We should know more about the process after the first meeting.

Report from the Horticulture Supervisor For CAC Meeting October 6, 2009

Parks Staff had further meetings with representatives of the web designing firm, BHW1. Urban Forestry has been sending content to BHW1. They have taken some pictures for the website professionally and we will be sending some from our files. UFP has been sending content. Site should be up and running within two weeks. UFP will still be adding content at that point but the bulk of it will be there.

City Cable 5 still has UF in line for filming a PSA. Nancy Goodspeed has created three PSA's to get started. We have edited with CAC comments from last meeting. Scripts are attached.

Steve Nittolo and Jeff Perry will be attending the Pacific Northwest Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture 30th Annual Training Conference, and will not be present for the October CAC meeting, nor the October UFTC meeting.

Heritage Tree Ordinance changes are anticipated to be brought up at October 19th City Council meeting. Barry Russell is moving this forward.

Work at the Urban Forestry Office:

- Working with legal department to pursue damages from tree service that allowed rounds of pine to roll down hill onto park property behind high drive.
- A. M. Cannon Pool maples will be replaced by zelkova.
- Seven trees were removed on the 37th Ave project. Report from Registered Consulting Arborist valued trees at \$76,900. UFP staff worked with engineers on plan to replace sidewalk with meanders for large class trees. Adjacent property owners created a petition requesting the sidewalk not be moved. Engineering department had sidewalk replaced in previous location without informing UFP staff. Removed maples will now be replaced with larger caliper class II trees. UFP staff is working with risk management to pursue lost value of removed trees.
- Many landscape plans to review, and permits to approve in September.
- Working with Dell Hatch of Bernardo Wills Architects who is designing some suspended sidewalk sections to provide increased uncompacted soil for tree plantings in downtown area at there new building at Jefferson and 2nd.

Work by the Arborist's crew:

- Fall plantings have begun; C.D. Trees and Suzie's Trees
- Many work requests from Parks Department

CAC 2010 TO DO Possibilities

As a group we listed a few potential projects for the CAC next year:

Explore WA State Evergreen Cities Legislation for possibility of urban forestry donations on City utility bills

Complete City Tree Inventory. . in order to better manage this valuable resource

Explore development of a Tree Preservation Ordinance. . Beth Mort chairing a committee

Collaborate with other UF focused organizations

Strengthen connections with Master Gardeners UF Program (Ken Williams?)

Continue UF education efforts

Focus public image

Quantifiable goals Refine CAC Mission . . . Public Outreach opportunities

Create standard? public information booth material

Use City UF Banner logo on materials?? Create/refine and UF logo/brand?

Revisit SW Utility \$\$ availability for Urban forestry

Trees as an enterprise fund component?

Create method to sent Press Releases about UF events. . Community Canopy Oct 31st
VIP WS

What could we do to track down funds to get trees installed above or below ground at
City Hall? Do any of the national arbor groups grant funds to do this sort of thing? Would
cost several tens of thousands of dollars.

Publicize the Heritage Tree ordinance. . PSA? Public events (Arbor Day/Fall Leaf
Festival 2010) . . .

We should list our 2009 accomplishments!!

The Heritage Tree Ordinance for one!! Congrats Susan