



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

MEETING MINUTES

May 5, 2009

4:00 PM

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:05 PM

2. ROLL CALL

a. All members of the CAC were present except: Andrew Rolwes, Cindy Deffe, Julie Neff, and Gerri O'Dell.

b. Also present: Steve Nittolo (Horticultural Supervisor, Spokane), and Nancy MacKerrow (citizen, Susie's Forest)

3. CEREMONIES, APPOINTMENTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

Discussion of officer appointments was initiated by Angel. Susan made a Motion that the CAC President, Vice President and Secretary positions should be retained by the incumbents until Jan 2010. This would make our governing rules more in line with similar City citizen advisory committees for reelection timeframes. The Motion was seconded by Pam and the Motion carried. The CAC will now have their executive positions election in Jan 2010.

4. CONSENT CALENDAR

The Minutes for the April 2009 CAC meeting were reviewed. Marilyn moved that the Meeting Minutes be accepted as corrected. Paul seconded the motion. The motion carried and the Minutes were accepted.

5. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Nancy MacKerrow gave a brief recap of her visit to Duke University and her efforts there to plant more Suzie Trees. There was a rumor that Robert Redford could somehow be involved in this effort!

6. REPORTS

a. Ordinance Review & Code Enforcement subcommittee

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

b. Education Outreach and Volunteer Recruitment subcommittee.

See attached report.

c. Finance & Funding subcommittee

No report.

d. Vegetation Management Plan subcommittee

No report.

e. Historic Tree & Preservation subcommittee

The amended HT ordinance was forwarded by the Park Board to the City Council for approval.

f. Spokane Horticultural Supervisor's Report

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

7. OLD BUSINESS

a. Urban Forester Position Update: There appeared to be some difficulties in preparing questions for this position. Susan volunteered to compile a list of UF experts and references to forward to the City HR Department for use. This was completed and the info will be used by the City. This issue should be followed up again at our Jun 09 meeting.

b. Initiate Taskforce for review of minimum planting space requirements for street trees: The CAC decided to try and develop an outline of concerns and goals for this initiative led by Carrie. Then the CAC will engage City officials in a two hour problem solving exercise led by Carrie as the facilitator.

8. NEW BUSINESS

Heritage Tree nominations: The CAC reviewed/discussed heritage tree nomination from Lynn Mandyke. A Motion was made by Susan that the nominations be approved by the CAC and forwarded to the UFTC for action. The Motion was seconded by Garth. Motion carried and the HT nominations will be sent to the UFTC for action.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Angel moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:15 PM. Marilyn 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

Report from the Horticulture Supervisor For CAC Meeting May 5, 2009

Park Staff met with representatives of the web designing firm, BHW1 to approve outline of new Parks Department website. Urban Forestry will not only have its own website but will also have a prominent location on the Parks and Recreation homepage, alongside Golf and Riverfront Park. This will be a major change from the exposure on the previous old website. The anticipated timeline for launching of the new website will be around June.

Councilperson Richard Rush received the Tree City USA award at the Arbor Day celebration at Finch Arboretum. Three trees, many seedlings, around 450 bags of recycled material (donated by Avista), and lots of information was given away. Cindy Deffe and Steve Nittolo worked the table. Jeff Perry, with volunteer and Finch staff help planted a Susie's Forest sassafras tree. The event was well attended.

Regarding full-time Urban Forester position, no news since job specs went to Civil Service office.

Steve Nittolo received a grant from AmeriCorps for an Americorps volunteer to start a Field Trip to the Parks Program. The Spokane Parks Foundation has not responded to the matching funds grant application for this project.

Jeff Perry worked with concrete cutting contractors to ungirdle some of the worst girdled trees. This work was funded by the Downtown Spokane Partnership and moved forward by Andrew Rowles. The federal building in the downtown area is donating several grates that are being pushed up by tree roots for reuse on other trees.

Trees for the Gardens Springs Creek Project at the Finch Arboretum have arrived and planting has begun.

The Park Board approved a CAC subcommittee to meet with City of Spokane representatives of different departments to review street tree planting/infrastructure policies.

Steve Nittolo, Jeff Perry, Janis Saiki, Ed Lester and Rich Baker met to discuss and revise the recommended street tree list. The focus of the meeting was on suitability for street tree use, based on established criteria. The list will be substantially revised based on the discussion.

The Heritage Tree Ordinance was brought forward and approved at the Park Board Meeting. The next step is to send it to City Council for approval.

Steve Nittolo met with Nancy Goodspeed to discuss the possibility of creating some public service announcements to distribute to television and radio stations, to request free air space. Subsequent conversations with the Director of City Cable 5, were encouraging for producing some clips later in the summer. Further details will be discussed at the CAC meeting.

Steve Nittolo and Jeff Perry attended Lincoln Street storm water mitigation project meeting to answer questions about trees on Lincoln Street. Jeff Perry had Engineering Department create some large maps of tree inventory for the meeting.

Angel Spell forwarded two nominations for Heritage Trees to the CAC and UFTC.

Work completed by Urban Forestry Arborist Crew:

Planted 12 trees most of which were replacement trees due to vandalism within the parks.

Removed 15 trees near entrance to Moore-Turner and line cleared two trees adjacent to entrance. This was a work order request.

Jeff Perry met with construction manager at Albi to go over work that would need to be done. Clearance for north trail done as well as several removals associated with trail near S trail. Also removed one large pine because of proximity to swale on E side of project.

Removed four trees for Albi Stadium (2 dead and two that would be severely impacted by a wall removal)

Jeff Perry met with Beth Mort of the Lands Council to look at possible projects for volunteers. They will be working on some thinning at Camp Sekani.

Ongoing inventory of park and street trees

Ongoing work in tree nursery

Tree exchange with Angel Spell in Post Falls

Bond project air spade inspection

Work at the Urban Forestry Office:

Fifty-plus pruning or removal permits were issued to City of Spokane Engineering Services for street construction projects with many copies of each sent out. Still more to go

Steve Nittolo met further with City of Spokane Water Department staff to work around tree roots in response to customer requests.

Steve Nittolo provided tree species selection for Market Street Project

Steve Nittolo met with City Engineering staff and contractors to help provide solutions to several sidewalk tree conflicts and house moves

Spring pruning, planting, and removal permit applications are increased to high volume

Report from the Education Subcommittee For CAC Meeting May 5, 2009

May 5, 2009

Garth Davis, Steve Nittolo, Nancy McK., Marilyn and Pam were present. Absent - Cindy, **Utility Smart Tree / Garth, Pam and Steve** – Garth has found a location for one of the 2009 Utility Smart Trees out by the Spokane County Extension Office in front of the WSU extension office. Avista Utilities will provide a Golden Desert Ash and Garth from SCCD will provide a Golden Raindrop crabapple. Rich Baker has visions of this area as being designated as a “proper tree practice” area and this would be the first steps in moving in that direction.

Website update / Steve Nittolo – Website is taking shape and the urban forestry link has a prominent space and is also it’s own website and is mobile and can align with any City department. The site should be live mid-June. Steve has a lot of information that he wants posted to the site and will have a list of his information available at our net meeting to discuss, review and /or revise.

PSA Announcement – Steve: Steve has been talking with Nancy Goodspeed and they met with their public relations firm and he also spoke with City Cable Channel five to develop some 15 to 30 minutes public information spots to be on both TV and radio. The PR firm has a lot of contacts to move this forward and this is a good time to do this since advertising is slow right

now and stations need to fill time slots. City Cable Five / John Delay indicated they would produce our infomercial and we need to provide the scripts and people for the infomercials (actors, voices). John can't start on this until August, so we need to begin developing the scripts and it might be good to link the messages from the bookmarks with the commercials. Nancy suggested getting the kids in the community to plant the trees (girl scouts, boy scouts, etc.). Some ideas for the infomercials were planting, topping, permitting, and examples of topped trees (photos) before and after. Steve wants the entire CAC to provide feedback and ideas for topics. This will be free if we provide the script, actors, voices, etc. n PSA (public service announcements)

Grants – Steve: He got the grant from Americorp for a volunteer position, and the grant also provides for an educational grant to the individual who volunteers for the position. We will need to provide this person with educational material and we want to teach them about trees, arboriculture, etc. We could possibly focus on 1st and 2nd grade students. Steve hasn't heard back from Spokane Parks and Recreation for \$10,000 (\$6,000 for matching funds and \$4,000 for mileage reimbursement and a couple thousand for a computer and office space).

Bookmarks – All: Steve and Garth seem to think that they can provide the printing of the bookmarks.

Read for trees – Nancy: She is working with two schools and matching up the kids to her program. Nancy is donating the trees, Hamblin School is going to have an all school assembly to present this initiative on the second to last day of school. This is one way to keep the kids reading over the summer. The second school is Roosevelt and they haven't decided how they were going to kick off the program. She talked with them about every year measuring the tree and the spread of the crown of the tree and keep a growth chart of the tree throughout the years. Nancy would like to broaden this program to other schools in future years.

Mariyln's tree project on the median on 35th: Garth spoke to the trees and shrubs planted on the median and Maryilyn's neighbor has mowed the medium. Garth has more trees for this sort of project up on 35th. The intent is to plant native trees in this area.

View obstructions with street trees / vegetation: There is city code addressing vegetation growing close to the roads. Steve is working with the Streets Dept. on a complaint, however, he hasn't heard anything back yet.

Bookmarks: Cindy has the information on these so there wasn't much discussion. Steve and Garth can shoulder the costs for the printing and we think that Cindy will work with SCC for the graphics for the bookmarks.

Arbor Day: Well attended by approximately 450 people.

Waterwise workshop provided by WSU extension / Garth: They are going to put drip systems into three (3) different raised beds made from recycled concrete, lumber and plastic