



Committee Members:

Chairperson - Van Voorhis, Ken x
Burt, Melissa x
Davis, Garth x
Lindstrom, Phil _
Wright, Chris x

Alternate – Cameron, Randy _

Alternate – Traver, Susan _

Also Present: Park Board – Ross Kelley; Staff – Leroy Eadie, Rebecca Madany, Cheryl Miller, Angel Spell; and Citizen – Nancy MacKerrow.

**Urban Forestry Tree Committee of the Spokane Park Board
May 3, 2011, 4:15 p.m. – 5:45 p.m.
Manito Park Meeting Room, Manito Park
Angel Spell, Urban Forester**

Summary

- The Spokane Municipal Code pertaining to the establishment, duties and functions of the Urban Forestry Tree Committee were presented and discussed.
- The Urban Forestry Work Plan & Budget Options were presented and discussed.
- The Tree City USA Award presentation has been rescheduled to May 11, 2011, 2:30pm in the Woodland Center, Finch Arboretum.
- The NeighborWoods Launch Party is May 7, 2011, 5pm at the New Public Market located at Second and Brown.
- The education grant is being finalized.
- Partnership agreements with Avista, the Conservation District and Geiger Corrections are in review with the Legal Department.
- The next big street bond project is Post Street.

Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 by Ken Van Voorhis.

Action Items:

1. None.

Discussion Items:

1. Purpose and Duties of the Urban Forestry Tree Committee
 - a. SMC 04.28.010 Establishment
 - b. SMC 04.28.050 Duties and Functions

The Spokane Municipal Code which was passed March 26, 2007, was distributed and discussed. Angel conducted a study session with the City Council about a year ago. The focus was the function of Urban Forestry – what we do and where the authority to do it is in the code. The desire now is to clarify the relationship between Urban Forestry, the Parks Department and City Council. This could prove helpful when pursuing funding options. Going back before City Council could be via another study session, or by making a presentation during the 'Administrator's Briefing' portion of a Council meeting. Usually these types of presentations are allowed 15 – 20 minutes and are used to bring updates or general information to the Council. Leroy and staff will schedule a presentation with Public Works Committee and City Council. Ross and Angel will give the presentation.

2. Work Plan & Budget Options: FY 2012 – 2016
Target priorities and goals; funding needs and sources:
 - a. Public Tree Inventory
 - b. Permitting & Plan Review
 - c. Stewardship Program – planting, pruning, & removal
 - d. Education Program
 - e. Vegetation Management Plan update

It was agreed that this list is in appropriate priority order. Because of legal and safety ramifications related to accurate identification of tree issues the tree inventory needs to be conducted by certified personnel. It is acceptable for the inventory to be taken over a period of up to three (3) years. The other elements may move forward while the inventory is being taken. Establishing funding sources before the end of this year is imperative. Other Departments may be willing to contribute funding to Urban Forestry in exchange for receiving a benefit from Urban Forestry activity. Eventually fees will be charged for permits.

3. Staff discussion on recommendations to UFTC for FY 2012 budget – Leroy, Rebecca and Angel have been working on a budget recommendation for committee consideration. It may be ready for the next meeting. The Draft UF Budget Plan was reviewed. Clarifications were made as questions were answered.

Standing Report items:

1. Urban Forestry Staff Report - Angel Spell provided a written report.

Highlighted topics include:

- a. The Tree City USA Award presentation was rescheduled to May 11th at 2:30pm in the Woodland Center, Finch Arboretum. The WA Community Forestry Council meets during the morning of the same day.
- b. The weather was great for the Arbor Day celebration April 30th. The attending crowd was estimated at over 1,000 people. A tree planting was included and Avista bags were distributed.
- c. There are four (4) official NeighborWoods groups with one more in process. The Launch Party is Saturday, May 7th at 5pm at the New Public Market located at Second and Brown.
- d. The Education Grant is being finalized. It expires June 30, 2011.
- e. Partnership agreements with Avista, the Conservation District program, and Geiger Corrections are in review with the Legal Department.
- f. We are working with the Downtown Spokane Partnership to collect data on the integrity and stability of tree wells.
- g. The next big street bond project is Post Street with 27 trees scheduled for removal. Replanting may be challenging as the planting strip is quite narrow.

2. Citizen Advisory Committee Report

Garth Davis reported:

- a. Everyone attended the CAC meeting, so all are aware of what occurred there.
- b. He believed the street sign distance information was the highlight of the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 5:47 p.m.

Next regularly scheduled meeting is May 31, 2011, at 4:15 p.m. in the Manito Meeting Room, Manito Park.