

## **URBAN FORESTRY TREE COMMITTEE OF THE SPOKANE PARK BOARD**

**June 10, 2009**

The Urban Forestry Tree Committee of the Spokane Park Board met June 10, 2009 at 7:07 a.m. in the Manito Park Meeting Room. Members present: Kimberly Morse, Angel Spell, and Chairperson Elizabeth Schoedel. Staff present: Barry Russell, Director of Parks and Recreation, Steve Nittolo, Horticulture Supervisor and Janis Saiki.

The meeting was called to order by Elizabeth Schoedel. The minutes were approved from the May 13, 2009 meeting.

### **Major topic discussed:** Heritage Tree Ordinance

Steve Nittolo suggested that the amendment to the ordinance would need a sponsor to bring it to City Council. The CAC had concurred with this suggestion and thought that the UFTC Park Board members might ask Bob Apple to sponsor it. Barry said he would also speak to Bob Apple about sponsoring the amendment to the ordinance. The Park Board has already approved the amendment. CAC members will be able to participate in a briefing on this.

### **Other Business:**

Some small changes to the ordinance were discussed, concerning who may remove public trees. Steve Nittolo, Horticulture Supervisor explained that there was some ambiguity in the current ordinance that could be clearer. The major change would be that certified arborists would be required for "planting, pruning and removal", as opposed to "maintenance". Steve made some points as to why and what that entails. Bob Beaumier, with the City of Spokane Attorney's Office crafted the changes.

A motion was made by Angel Spell to ask Bob Apple to bring this forward to the City Counsel along with the Heritage Tree Amendment, and seconded by Kim

Morse; the motion was approved unanimously. These will be two separate ordinances; Barry Russell made it clear that they should not be packaged together.

Another order of business was the task force for tree spacing. Julie Neff will set up a meeting this week with members of the CAC in order to discuss goals and objectives. This will help with determining what departments should be included in the discussion. Carrie Anderson has offered to be a facilitator for the discussion. The Mayor is encouraging this work and wants to get it going. There is an upcoming talk and discussion session being sponsored by the Spokane Preservation Advocates concerning fitting large trees into urban spaces.

The announcement for the new Urban Forester position was discussed. Angel Spell pointed out that the supplemental questionnaire was for Horticulture Supervisor. Barry said he would look into that. The Urban Forester position will close on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of June.

Barry Russell asked if the current time and day of the month were most convenient for the UFTC to meet. Barry Russell will check w/ Jackie Faught when she gets back to see how other days fit in with his schedule. The agenda will include a standing report from the CAC.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 a.m.

The next Urban Forestry Tree Committee meeting is undetermined at this time.