

Committee Members: Chairperson _
Morse, Kimberly X
Burt, Melissa X
Lindstrom, Phil X
Davis, Garth X
Also present, Santorsola, Jim X

**Urban Forestry Tree Committee of the Spokane Park Board
October 13, 2010 – 7:00 a.m.
Manito Park Meeting Room**

SUMMARY

- Minutes from the Special Meeting on September 17th, 2010 were approved. These minutes included two actions by the committee:
 - Decision on the Appeal: The committee voted in favor of the appellant. The tree removal will proceed.
 - Budget Analysis: The committee moved to recommend additional funding to meet the Tree City USA minimum standard of \$2 per capita.
- The *Guidelines for Infilling Street Trees in Spokane's Residential Areas* is in the final draft stage. Any comments or questions need to be sent to Angel by this Friday, October 15th. Special recognition goes to Julie Neff who is an Urban Designer for the City for driving this year-long project and guiding a very diverse committee to this conclusion.
- The Urban Forestry Management Plan continues in its review and revision process. The GP-Red process has been helpful in refining the Goals, Policies, and Actions in the management plan. The next UFMP meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, Oct. 19th @ 2pm @ Spokane County Conservation District, 210 N Havana.
- The Citizen Advisory Committee has been discussing the need for a 501(c)3 Friends of the Urban Forest group. We are actively looking into this and seeking a “champion” to lead this project and build a successful organization.
- There are two new members on the Citizen Advisory Committee - Gary Lauerman representing Historic Preservation and Richard Burriss representing Community Assembly. Two Member-at-Large positions remain open.
- The next meeting of the UFTC is November 10th, 7AM, at the Manito Meeting Room.

MINUTES

Action Items:

1. Approval of Minutes from September 17 Special Meeting - Melissa moved to approve minutes. Garth seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Information Items:

1. In-Fill Planting Guidelines – Final Draft Review

Very near the end of drafting process. Deadline is Friday for getting comments. This came out of interdepartmental discussions group and has been in the works for about one year.

MB: question - page 4D in sidewalk cutout - not clear on how that differed from meandering the sidewalk - is it the width?

AS: Meandering is really pouring a new sidewalk whereas the cutout is notching out of the existing which is really a 4' foot minimum.

MB - Thinks this looks good and that the City is showing some flexibility and offering these great alternatives is terrific.

Next step is to publish and present it to the public. This is a guideline option not a policy. Does require some small bits of language in our specifications in order to tie this to our current guidance documents as available alternatives. Want to launch this electronically - on the web and otherwise. Did get comments on tree species - really just a subset of our existing approved street trees. Tried to pick some that would succeed and left out a few that thought were too commonly planted. Julie Neff really led this work over the past year. If it wasn't for her perseverance and hard work on this it would not have come together like this; she was the major driver on this. Kimberly will mention this at the Park Board meeting about Julie's work.

MB - Commented that it might be worthwhile to change the title a bit, specifically "infilling", to be more explanatory so that the general public can understand right away what this document addresses for them.

Why is this guideline only for infilling? The new development standard requires a minimum 5' planting strip. This document specifically addresses historic neighborhoods and other neighborhoods that have smaller than 5' planting strips as a way to provide this to homeowners that want larger tree replacements in these small spaces. We will permit these larger trees but they must provide some additional green space - and keeping cost down in future infrastructure replacement. This is compromise on both sides.

2. Urban Forestry Management Plan – Draft Review

There has been additional refinement to the Goals, Policies and Actions in the UFMP document due to the GP-Red process that Angel has been participating in. Any time you

would like to comment on it please contact Angel. It will be a standing item and new draft before next UFTC. Next meeting at SCCD 2pm on October 19, 2010.

3. 501(c)3 Friends of the Urban Forest

This has been discussion in the CAC for awhile. We are lacking an edgier name, and we need a champion, someone who is really going to push it and make it happen. We did secure legal support from the City - met with Pat Dalton and Mike Piccolo and they offered support. There also needs to be a fundraising event to pay for the process. Need someone to make this their focus.

We do have a few new members coming on to the CAC and maybe they will have this as one of their projects.

Standing Report Items:

1. Urban Forestry Staff Report

Reviewed key points of the staff report.

MB – Recommended giving a presentation to WALP. Dave Brown is the contact.

2. Report from Citizen's Advisory Committee Chair -

Two new members were appointed, one Community Assembly and one SPA. Still looking for secretary; not yet successful. We have a couple of fuels reduction projects happening - one at Palisades and also one below High Drive in conjunction with skeleton weed project they are working on. Palisades is a City park in the County and they are a very engaged group. The last project that happened out there - the only disappointment was that there was a lot of heavy equipment that is still very evident this many years later.

One other project may be in the works up on Nevada (south of Lincoln); a removal/replacement project to plant utility trees. This project was initiated by Avista and the trees are Red Maples, everyone is on board for the project, but we do need cooperation from the property owner.

VIP program had a bit less attendance than last time and we will be doing more directed promotion for a spring event.

OTHER COMMENTS

Phil planted three trees on the campus; also noticed some trees up near Shadle that he wants to watch because it might be a great species for hot areas Cimmarron Ash.