



Committee Members: Elizabeth Schoedel - Chairperson ___
Morse, Kimberly ___
Burt, Melissa X
Lindstrom, Phil X
Davis, Garth X

Also present: Leroy Eadie, Beth Mort, Angel Spell, Jim Santorsola, Marian Hennings, and Alexandra Stoddard

**Urban Forestry Tree Committee of the Spokane Park Board
September 17, 2010 – 1:30 p.m.
City Hall 5A
SPECIAL MEETING**

SUMMARY

- Decision on Appeal: The UFTC voted in favor of appellant. The removal will proceed.
- Budget Analysis: The UFTC moved to request additional funding to meet Tree City USA minimum standard of \$2 per capita.
- The next regular meeting of the UFTC will be October 13th, 7:00 a.m., at the Manito Meeting Room.

MINUTES

Open the meeting

Action Items:

1. Appeal Decision by Committee
 - a. Street Tree Permit Application for tree removal denied by Urban Forestry on , Applicant appealed decision per SMC 12.02.290
 - b. Purpose of this meeting is for UFTC to give final decision. Each member present will give individual statements and decision. Following is a rough transcription of the hearing.

PL = Phil Lindstrom; GD = Garth Davis; LE = Leroy Eadie; MB = Melissa Burt; ASpell = Angel Spell; AlexS = Alexandra Stoddard;

PL: Everyone assessed the tree, the lawn has not been watered, the tree is showing stress, sure that this is because of financial hardships. I am biased because my wife and I are cancer survivors. Symptoms include irritability and irrational fears. I listen more to her friend than her because her illness is talking. Believes, in this case - due to extenuating circumstances - that tree should be removed.

GD: Tree should remain as stands. Is more concerned that to remove a tree due to extenuating circumstances will set a bad precedence.

LE: Would like to comment about concerns of this decision setting precedence. Appeals don't necessarily carry as much precedence, I at least from the staff side, am not as worried about the precedent issue. Each decision made by this group will be a decision about the individual case.

MB: I also feel in same position and have concerns and don't want to set any precedence. I am really torn on this decision. The problem is that the tree is terribly, terribly stressed. There has just not been much maintenance - due to the situation and understanding that it isn't everyone's thing to provide tree maintenance. Also not knowing who the three other arborists were [that worked on the tree prior], it's hard to know the previous care of the tree. There does seem to be some past bad pruning. I support Angel, our urban forester, if this tree wasn't so stressed or poorly cared for - it doesn't look like it has had any water for a long long time. It is in a stressed situation. For the sake of the program and the sake of the street trees, i don't think that the situation is going to get any better. So my vote is to let her go ahead and remove the tree. I want to be very, very clear, however, that I support this program, and Angel.

PL: I want to also continue that this is an extenuating circumstance that will not happen again. I think it is a battle not worth fighting and don't think we can win either way.

MB: I know that this is hard because of the reaction from Mrs. Hennings - but I don't see how this tree has been cared for. I think that we should put it out of its misery.

ASpell: I want to take a minute and thank everyone for their time and work on this appeal. I respect you all professionally and also to Mrs. Hennings and Alexandra for being a part of this when it is hard I know.

MB: 2 votes for; 1 against. Closed hearing.

AlexS: I want to thank you - and I understand that you want to obtain objectivity - I want to say that Marian Hennings has maintained her yard up until this summer. She has had beautiful flower beds since I have known her. I just want to defend her.

MB: I just wanted to say that isn't how it looked like when we visited.

PL: I know what cancer costs. I am sorry that you feel so badly and very ill and I wish you recovery.

AlexS: Thank you for hearing this and that the heart of what you do is benefit each individual through your work with the urban forest.

MB: I make a motion that this group recognize that the decision has been made to let Marion Hennings remove the tree.

PL: 2nd motion.

MB: All in favor - 2 ayes; 1 nay - sounds like the motion carries.

Jim Santorlosa: I want to note for the record that I was here but I abstained.

Angel will release the permit and approve it for Sam Maple to proceed with removal.

Information Items:

1. 2011 Budget Analysis

There is a special board meeting next week - 2nd finance committee of the park board's budget workshop. Finance committee meets before board meeting and committee makes final recommendation to board.

UFTC does analysis, Angel briefs you, and then we discuss.

ASpell: This meeting is about additional questions, suggestions or formalizing recommendations. It would make sense to make a case to at least require the \$2 per capita (Tree USA status minimum) which would be \$400,000 and we are running at \$200,000. It would be the goal to still work toward that and be hopeful that it is on the horizon and by the way it is a requirement of our status. We are using biomass # to come up with that.

Is there anything we want to send forward - any motion - anything to report - I think that the Tree USA information is important.

MB: make a motion that a statement is made - can it be in the actual statement in the budget itself - that these are the requirements and we fall short
Make a motion if it can be noted in the budget somewhere?

Aspell: do you want some language from this committee...?

GD: could we make a motion that we support what you ask for...?

LE: not really a place in the actual budget, but in the presentation that we recognize that we are not meeting standards.

Aspell: craft motion here that will be read in our minutes - that this committee recognizes that Tree City requires \$2/capita and we are not making that

MB: Motion to make statement for request of additional funds to meet Tree City USA minimum of \$2 per capita.

PL: 2nd

Motion passed.

Next regular meeting is back at Manito on the Oct 13 7am. Meeting Adjourned @ 2:30pm
Please Note: Minutes are subject to change