

URBAN FORESTRY COMMITTEE NOTES

APRIL 19 2019 8:05AM

City Hall – City Hall Conference Room 5

MEMBERS PRESENT:

John Schwandt, Vice Chairman
Erika Eidson
Glenn Truscott
Bob Hallock

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Keith Jones, Chairman
Steve Bloedel
Bruce Martinek

STAFF PRESENT:

Nick Goodwin, Urban Forester

GUESTS PRESENT:

Gina Davis, PhD Forest Entomologist:
Urban forestry committee applicant

Craig Northrup: Coeur d'Alene press

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting started at 8:10am.

1) MINUTES

Glenn Truscott and John Schwandt noted some grammatical corrections needed on the March 15th Minutes. Glenn proposed approving the March minutes with corrections made. John seconded and the March minutes were unanimously approved.

2) PUBLIC COMMENTS

Craig Northrup from the Coeur d'Alene press introduced himself as the new reporter in charge of covering city business. Craig mentioned that he was attending the meeting to get familiar with the process of this committee and its function at the city. He thanked the board for having him. John Schwandt mentioned that the press may be interested in attending the seedling bagging on April 23rd as it was a great event to showcase youth involved in the community. Nick Goodwin mentioned he would send Craig Northrup information regarding the tree bagging. Nick then added that Gina Davis, an Urban Forestry Committee applicant was here and thanked her for attending the meeting.

3) COORDINATOR'S REPORT

Please see attached report.

4) ARBOR DAY CELEBRATION REVIEW

Nick Goodwin gave an update on the Arbor Day celebration planned for Saturday April 27th at the memorial skate park with a planting to take place at the new workers memorial located at City Park. Nick mentioned that the city has been approved for a \$300.00 grant through the INLA and asked the group for input on lunch as we would be purchasing lunch as opposed to cooking. John Schwandt mentioned that something served cold would be best as we won't have to worry about keeping it warm during the Arbor Day celebration. John then mentioned that he had some notes regarding improving student involvement in our art contests and Arbor Day in general that he will send out. John provided an update on the seedling bagging April 23rd and encouraged all to attend. John asked if Nick would be putting together an agenda for the event and if any council or the Mayor would be present. Nick stated that the Mayor and possibly Dan Gookin would be at the event and that Stephen Drinkard would be there to present the Tree City USA award. Nick also mentioned that he had confirmation that the winner of the Sticker art Contest would be at Arbor Day and the April 15 parks and rec commission meeting went well and the Arbor Day poster day art contest winner was present to receive her award. Nick closed by inviting all that could attend the April 24th Library Arbor Day program were invited to do so.

5) REVIEW OF URBAN FORESTRY MEMBER INTRODUCTION

Nick Goodwin Introduced Gina Davis to the committee members and thanked her for attending the meeting. Nick then informed the committee that Emma Richardson who was also an applicant for the committee had withdrawn from consideration for personal reasons. Gina then gave a short introduction and asked a few questions regarding meeting duration, scheduling, and expected attendance as she does spend time in the field. Gina was invited to take part in any discussion at any point during the meeting.

6) URBAN FORESTRY MASTER PLAN

Nick Goodwin gave a report on the Master Plan workshop that was held on April 5th and thanked all that were able to attend. Nick mentioned that he is continuing to work on incorporating comments from the workshop into the draft master plan. The Master Plan draft will then be made available for review by the committee before bringing it to the parks department for incorporation into the Parks Master plan. Nick mentioned that he hopes to have the master plan ready for review sometime in May. John Schwandt mentioned that it was great having the parks director at the last workshop and mentioned that he has been having some issues finding the most current draft of the Master Plan on google drive. Erika Eidson mentioned that she would re-send the link for the most current draft to the committee members.

7) LEGAL OBLIGATION RELATING TO TREE INSPECTIONS AND HAZARD TREES

Nick Goodwin stated that he had spent some time discussing the legal obligation tied to tree risk assessment with the City of Coeur d'Alene attorney to clarify what liability the city takes on regarding tree risk assessment. Nick provided information from Randy Adams and stated that the city is willing to take on the liability of any tree that is denied for removal by the Urban Forestry committee. The City is willing to take on this liability based on the Committee's knowledge and expertise in grading a trees health and level of risk. Nick stated that in his opinion the most important factor is the forester ensuring that any tree that is approved for removal is removed by property owners or the city in a timely fashion once any tree has been deemed to have a high potential for failure. Erika Eidson mentioned that the committee will have to deal with a high amount of potential removals as the downtown area continues to have development and remodeling of older homes, as there are many mature trees in the downtown area that have planting sites that really do not

accommodate trees of that size. Bob Hallock agreed with Erika and mentioned that many of these trees are near the end of their life cycle and mentioned the importance of reforestation in these areas with approved species and making species selection for planting site a priority.

7) URBAN FORESTRY PROJECT IDEAS

Nick Goodwin mentioned that he is hoping to start a monthly press release program and is hoping the CDA press will help with this idea. These press releases will be educational in nature with the hope of keeping the public particularly property owners informed on proper tree care and ordinance information. John Schwandt asked if there would be any VIP pruning projects soon and Nick mentioned that a VIP pruning project is tentatively planned for the last week in April at McEuen Park. Nick Goodwin stated that he hoped that this new press release program would lead up to the public forum ideas that were discussed in previous meetings.

John Schwandt informed the committee that he had walked Tubbs Hill with the Tubbs Hill Foundation where they did some assessment of hazard trees next to the trails. John brought up that there is some interest from the foundation of having some pruning done on the hill to mitigate dwarf mistletoe on young ponderosa pine that may be a good VIP project. There was some discussion regarding removing trees from the hill without looking like logging work. The foundation had mentioned to John creating some habitat trees along with tree removal on Tubbs Hill. There was a group discussion about protecting seedling using biodegradable protective wrapping. Nick Goodwin mentioned that he had some interest in using deer repellent as well. Erika Eidson mentioned that removing some Douglas fir infected with root rot and creating slash piles for burning may be an option for work on Tubbs Hill as well.

8) INSPECTION REQUESTS

- 5902 N Genoa Court: Removal Request, the committee denied removal based on the tree being healthy and having minor site conflicts.
- 510 N 7th Street: health assessment pruning/removal request. The committee approved removal of the mountain ash at this property. The committee approved pruning for the two maple trees in the request.
- 2010 N. 12th St.: Removal request from Avista: The committee approved removal of the Douglas fir tree based on utility conflicts and prior reduction cuts.
- 712 N C Street: Removal Request (sidewalk construction), removal approved due to extend of root structure to be damaged by upcoming project.
- 1819 N 9th Street: Removal Request, removal denied after tree found to be healthy. Pruning recommended to mitigate site conflicts.
- Papa Murphy's: Topped trees mitigation options, two trees approved for removal and replacement with one approved for restoration pruning.
- North 40 CDA: Topped trees mitigation options, restoration pruning recommended and required for these trees.

- 2200 Northwest Boulevard: Removal request (sign obstruction), removal denied as tree is healthy, pruning recommended to mitigate obstruction
- 716 N 3rd Street: Health assessment (cabling and bracing request), pruning approved cabling and bracing was not approved
- 1302 E Lakeside Ave.: health assessment. Large cottonwood approved for removal based on risk assessment.
- 424 E Wallace Ave.: Report of possible hazard (health assessment) , committee recommends reaching out to owner to see if a more in depth assessment can be done trees are candidate for removal based on risk assessment results.

9) ADJOURNMENT

The meeting ended at 11:00 am. Field inspections followed adjournment.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nick Goodwin, Urban Forester