

(DRAFT)

URBAN FORESTRY COMMITTEE MINUTES

FEBRUARY 19, 2021 8:05AM

City Hall – City Hall Conference Room 6

MEMBERS PRESENT:

John Schwandt, (Chairman) via zoom
Bob Hallock via zoom
Gina Davis
JD Reeves
Erika Eidson
Bruce Martinek

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Steve Bloedel
J.D. Reeves

STAFF PRESENT:

Nick Goodwin, Urban Forester

GUESTS PRESENT:

Matt Morse
Chris Rollins

CALL TO ORDER:

Meeting called to order at 8:17 by John Schwandt seconded by Erika Eidson

1) APPROVE MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 21, 2020 MEETING-ACTION ITEM

Gina Davis noted that one note of black turpentine beetle and change to red. Grammar change on approved street tree notes. Motion to approve with edits by Gina Davis seconded by Bob Hallock, motion approved.

2) PUBLIC COMMENTS

Matt Morse: owner of crushed house 1323 St. Maries. Here to observe and to find out if there is going to be more emphasis on removal of trees that may hit homes. Especially in cases where people have asked for approval and been denied. Is concerned that his son almost had to die in order for the tree to be removed.

John Schwandt: mentioned to Mr. Morse that he definitely feels for him and his family and was sickened to see what happened. Explained that the committee wrestles with the concept of removing healthy trees for in anticipation for extreme weather events in the ideas.

Mr. Morse: asked about inspection requests and how often trees are inspected and how that inspection process works.

Nick Goodwin: explained how the urban forestry committee inspects trees and how the inventory process works.

Ms. Rollins: spoke to the extent of emotional distress that her grandson, (Mr. Morse's son) is suffering from P.T.S.D and is in counseling regarding almost being crushed in the storm. Also, that her other grandson is also suffering and in fear over due to what happened. She believes that the process as it currently is does not take the value of human life into account enough. And that no tree is more valuable than a life. She mentioned that the Urban Forester mentioned that there were 5 trees in the target zone. And that grace tree service was emphasizing the need to remove unhealthy and hazardous trees. She asks the committee please change the process as there must be a balance between keeping our community beautiful and protecting the public.

John Schwandt: mentioned that he again does feel for the family and the committee appreciates them coming out and will take all these in to account.

Erika Eidson: says her heart goes out to the family and that this definitely may open a door on how we review and take these requests into consideration.

Gina Davis: stated how sorry she feels for the family, but does mention that there is no way to determine what kind of weather events can happen. That this was an extreme event that was worsened by the saturated soil and that healthy trees can fail in extreme events.

Nick Goodwin: went over the report that was filed in 2018. Nick noted that the inspection by the arborist did in 2018 was reported the homeowner in 2018 and that the homeowner accepted the report. The committee did review and approve a black locust tree for removal at this location. The committee did not review the ponderosa pine tree for removal.

3) FORESTERS REPORT

Please see the attached report.

John Schwandt: wanted to know if J.D. Reeves was able to sell any of the wood from the college property

Erika Edison: mentioned that J.D. was able to sell a large amount of the wood from the downed trees. Look into log wizard tool for removing bark from logs. Erika said she will send the info to Nick Goodwin. Erika said that the parks department should have till about April to get logs out before beetles emerge

4) ARBOR DAY 2021 IDEAS/DISCUSSION

John Schwandt gave a brief ADONI update. John stated that members have contacted the three school districts and Lakeland is the only one that thinks they would be interested in having trees as they will be

in session.

Bruce Martinek motioned that the city moves forward with the small arbor day idea. Gina Davis seconded and all approved. With the idea that it may be subject to change.

Gina Davis mentioned continuing the Arbor Day at home program to continue. Nick Goodwin mentioned that he can work towards renewing that program.

5) URBAN FORESTRY PROJECT IDEAS

John Schwandt asked if there were any ideas. Bruce Martinek asked a question about the loss of trees due to highway construction that is reducing wind break. Wanted to know if there are any ways that we can help mitigate these issues in the future.

Nick Goodwin said that he will speak to planning to see if there are any ideas

Erika brought up the demonstration type arboretum at atlas park. To demonstrate drought tolerant etc. trees to show ways to plant trees on there properties. Erika brought up for areas that have lost a lot of douglas fir having a program to help treat for MCH. Could work on a press release and mention what programs are available.

Gina Davis mentioned that it may be a good idea to put out a bark beetle article for early spring. Nick Goodwin said that he would work with Erika and Gina to get something out.

6) WINDSTORM AND REMOVAL REQUESTS DISCUSSION

Nick brought up the email that he sent out to the committee and asked if the committee has any thoughts on how this windstorm may affect our threshold for removal requests.

Erika brought up her previous inspector role in Colorado, suggested there may be software upgrades that can help with flagging and following up on trees that may have a higher level of concern. Nick said that he will touch base with the tree plotter representatives and see if any additional features may be available through the application.

The committee came to a consensus that looking in to more detailed and advanced inventory methods and continuing to take tree requests into consideration on a case-by-case basis would be the best way to move forward. Nick mentioned that his message to the community will be to try and have a balanced approach while considering tree removal in right of way locations and that he believes the committee should and will do the same.

5) INSPECTION REQUESTS

- 2102 N 14th Street: Ponderosa pine tree removal request. The committee rated the tree as in over all good condition. They found that there was some erosion on the eastern side of the root structure but the tree has healthy root growth on all other sides and showed no signs of uprooting or failure. Structural pruning and crown clean recommended, Removal denied.
- 2111 N 9th St.: Ponderosa pine tree removal request. The committee found the tree to be in good over all health and condition. Two trees in an abutting location failed but appeared to have not affected the root ball of this ponderosa pine tree. structural pruning, clearance pruning and crown cleaning recommended, Removal Denied.
- 922 E Mullan Ave: Spruce tree removal request. Due to uprooting issues regarding spruce trees and the limited space regarding the right of way planting area in conjunction with a sidewalk project at this location affecting the root ball Removal was approved.
- 320 Vista Dr.: Ponderosa pine tree removal request. Due to damage to the root system on the western side from a sidewalk replacement at this location affecting the structural integrity of this tree removal was approved. Homeowner will replace with multiple trees in the right of way.
- The Village Condos near whispering pines court/4th street: appears to be bark beetle infestation. The committee inspected the trees at this location and found 8 trees that were infested with bark beetle. Right of way trees must be removed and the Urban Forester will contact private property owners to make them aware of the beetle infestation that must be mitigated.

6) ADJOURNMENT

The meeting ended at 10:52, field inspections followed meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nick Goodwin, Urban Forester