

**(DRAFT)**

**URBAN FORESTRY COMMITTEE MINUTES**

MAY 15, 2020 8:05AM

City Hall – City Hall Conference Room 6

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

John Schwandt, (Chairman)  
Gina Davis  
Steve Bloedel  
Bob Hallock via zoom  
Erika Eidson, (Vice Chairman) via zoom

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Nick Goodwin, Urban Forester

**GUESTS PRESENT:**

J.D. Reeves (N.I.C)

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Bruce Martinek

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Meeting called to order at 8:10 am by Chairman, John Schwandt.

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

Gina Davis noticed one (1) capitalization error. With that change the meeting minutes were unanimously approved. Motion by Gina Davis seconded by John Schwandt

**2) PUBLIC COMMENTS**

J.D. Reeves thanked the committee for considering his application to become an Urban Forestry committee member. The committee members did not have any follow up questions for J.D. The Committee as a whole thanked J.D. for his application.

**3) INSPECTION REQUESTS**

- 1376 Bering Dr.: Removal request, Purple leaf plum tree from public ROW: committee found the tree to be in good health. Considered the request and asked the Urban forester to offer pruning to mitigate the site conflicts with the option of replacing this tree with a large-scale street tree if conflicts continue.
- 215 Kathleen Ave: Removal request two (2) public Purple leaf plum trees from right of way for upcoming city streets and engineering project. The committee would like to retain these trees unless the project makes retention impossible. Nick Goodwin said he would work with Chris Bosely to attempt to retain and protect these trees.
- 312 11<sup>th</sup> street: Removal request, one (1) Horse chestnut tree and one (1) Norway maple tree from the public right of way for sidewalk replacement and driveway installation. The committee found that they required more information from applicant in order to approve or deny the request. If possible, the committee would like to see the trees retained. The applicant needs to provide plans, building permit information, contractor information and a timeline for the project.

- 2338 N. Honeysuckle Drive: Removal request of one (1) Norway maple tree from public right-of-way due to a sidewalk/root conflict. The committee found the tree to be in good health and there is a lack of street trees in this area. The committee asked the Urban Forester to work with the engineering department and attempt to retain this tree if possible while mitigating sidewalk issues.
- 3702 E Sky Harbor Drive: Removal request of five Ponderosa pine trees from the public right of way. Homeowner wished to plant different/more diverse species. The committee found the trees to be in good health and denied this removal request. The committee also suspected the trees may be Austrian pine trees and asked the forester to confirm this and make the homeowner aware, if so as they are a much rarer tree and are quite large.

#### **4) UF APPLICANT QA**

The committee did not have further questions as they are quite familiar with J.D. from his previous work as an Urban Forestry inventory worker. The committee thanked him for his application and said they were exited he was here.

#### **5) FORESTERS REPORT**

Please see the attached report. John Schwandt asked if there was any update on the Arboretum idea from the January meeting. Nick Goodwin stated that he did bring the idea to the director where it was taken into consideration. There may be an opportunity to do a “Trail Side Arboretum” at a later date once Atlas Park is complete, where street trees would be on display.

#### **6) TUBBS HILL FUEL MITIGATION PROJECT: UPDATE**

Nick Goodwin informed the committee that the burn portion of the Tubbs Hill Fuel mitigation project had been cancelled/postponed due to concerns over respiratory health during the COVID-19 pandemic. Nick said if there is an opportunity to burn this fall the City will try to schedule and perform a burn. Some mechanical fuel reduction and hazard tree felling was performed by IDL and the City of Coeur d’Alene Fire Department under the Urban Foresters supervision. This work was primarily focused around the fire road and loop trail. Gina Davis said she hoped that there would be an opportunity to burn this fall and mentioned that using goats on some areas of the hill may be a good option this spring and summer.

#### **8) ARBOR DAY 2020: UPDATE**

Nick Goodwin stated that the Arbor Day 2020 celebration that was scheduled for April 25<sup>th</sup> 2020 was postponed and likely cancelled for the year. Nick Goodwin had sent an idea for a Virtual Arbor Day called “Arbor Day at Home” to the group for review previously. Gina Davis stated that she would love to see a virtual gallery of some sort for people to view the submissions. Nick Goodwin said that he is working on that with the IT department and it is a possibility. The committee unanimously approved of the idea. Judging of the submissions is scheduled for the next committee meeting June 19<sup>th</sup>.

#### **8) URBAN FORESTRY MASTER PLAN**

The Urban Forester stated that the master plan is complete and has been sent to the team at the parks department to incorporate it into the Parks Master plan as an appendix. Erika Eidson asked if Nick could send the plan out once it is complete so the committee can review how it is incorporated in to the plan before it goes to council for review. Nick Goodwin said he would send it to the committee for review once the work was complete.

#### **10) URBAN FORESTRY PROJECT IDEAS**

Gina Davis mentioned that she has concerns over the tree removals due to sidewalk issues as the garden district continues to see so many re models in the area etc. She wondered if reaching out to area real estate agents may be an option for informing people of Urban Forestry ordinances and communicating the goals of keeping large scale street trees to homeowners. Nick Goodwin said that he is exploring the getting in touch with real estate agents but stated that due to the amount of real estate agents in the area it may be tough to make an impact. Nick stated that he continues to put out press releases and communicate with different HOA's and will continue to do so

#### **9) ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting ended at 9:51 am. Site inspections followed the meeting in the field.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nick Goodwin, Urban Forester