

URBAN FORESTRY COMMITTEE NOTES

MARCH 15 2019 8:05AM

City Hall – City Hall Conference Room 5

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Keith Jones, Chairman
Erika Eidson
Glenn Truscott
Bruce Martinek
Steve Bloedel
Bob Hallock (called in)

STAFF PRESENT:

Nick Goodwin, Urban Forester

GUESTS PRESENT:

Grace Gabriel, Student Mentorship

MEMBERS ABSENT:

John Schwandt, Vice Chairman

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting started at 8:10am.

1) MINUTES

Keith Jones asked to have the mentioned public forums added to minutes, motioned to approve seconded by Steve Bloedel, unanimously approved.

2) PUBLIC COMMENTS

Nick Goodwin mentioned that a street tree fell during a snow storm this winter, the controller claimed that the committee had denied his removal request and wanted to seek damages. Fortunately it turned out that this was not the case, his approval had been approved and the controller had not moved forward with the removal. Nick mentioned that it was a good example of possible liability from trees that are approved and denied for removal and is something for us to keep in mind while we handle requests. Bruce Martinek mentioned providing space for snow removal and storage needs to be priority when planning projects in the city to protect public trees and trees in landscaping; this is something that could require more review and involvement from the committee in the future. Keith Jones mentioned that the Committee would prefer the Urban Forster to take minutes rather than record meeting in the future.

3) COORDINATOR'S REPORT

Please see attached report.

*The committee asked to have legal obligation added to the agenda for next meeting and pictures of the failed tree that caused property damage.

4) ARBOR DAY CELEBRATION REVIEW

Nick Goodwin gave report and outline of the Arbor Day celebration which would include planting 7 trees at the new workers memorial at City Park, the celebration and lunch would take place at the

gazebo area near memorial Skate Park. The city park Gazebo is being used for the 'Ooza Palooza' event. Nick also reported that he had confirmation that the Tree City USA application had been approved. And City Council had presented that Arbor Day proclamation on 03/12. Nick mentioned to the group that there will be an Arbor Day presentation at the April 15th parks and rec commission meeting where we will recognize the poster art contest winners; Nick asked to set date to pick winners for the contest. The group approved April 5th for art judging to go along with a Master plan workshop. Erika Eidson asked to have Arbor Day details sent to her.

5) REVIEW OF URBAN FORESTRY MEMBER APPLICATION

The committee reviewed applications from Gina Davis and Emma Richardson. Keith Jones asked that we invite both applicants to attend the next Urban Forestry meeting. The group recognized how fortunate we are to have such quality applicants. Nick Goodwin said that he would reach out to both applicants with an invite to the April 19th meeting.

6) URBAN FORESTRY MASTER PLAN

The committee set a workshop for 8:05 am, April 5th at city hall with the hopes that this would be our last workshop. Nick Goodwin Mentioned that his goal is to have the Master Plan ready to be included with the parks master plan in May or June in order to have the plan adopted by city council in conjunction with the parks master plan this summer. Keith Jones mentioned that he had a few concerns over adoption of the program without non-explicit approval of every section of the plan. Keith mentioned he wants to make sure that we are being fully transparent when we bring the plan forward to council for approval. Nick Goodwin said he would invite the parks director: Bill Greenwood, along with some other parks representatives to the next Urban Forestry Master Plan workshop to discuss any concerns over including the Urban Forestry Master Plan with the Parks Master Plan.

7) URBAN FORESTRY PROJECT IDEAS

The committee asked about the public forum idea regarding tree care and if it was feasible to plan one this summer. Nick Goodwin said that he would reach out the Parks Director to discuss the possibility of a forum. Nick Goodwin mentioned that he would like to start a putting out monthly press releases regarding Urban Forestry/trees and try to keep Urban Forestry in the public eye in a positive way. The committee agreed that this would be a good idea to explore.

- The committee then discussed if there needed to be any change to our meeting time, the committee agreed to keep the meeting time at 8:05 am. The committee suggested possibly putting a 2 hour meeting time on our agendas in the future. It was brought up that this would have to exclude field inspections.

8) INSPECTION REQUESTS

- 705 N 16th Street; Large Black Locust tree removal request (bluebird), The committee decided to wait on further examination of the tree after leaf out before approving or denying the removal request.
- 1029 E Wallace Ave.: Multi stemmed black locust removal request (bluebird), The Committee approved removal request based on the multi stemmed structure of the tree. The tree will require replacement.

- 1801 Northwest Boulevard: Nick Goodwin provided update regarding the approved removal and replacement of the topped trees at this location. Contactors had put estimates in and the Controller is setting up the work in conjunction with construction at this site.
 - Nick Goodwin asked the group if electronic communication for approval and denial would be an adequate way to address some removal requests. The group agreed that in some cases electronic communication (email) may be adequate but committee inspections at meetings will still be necessary on some or most removal requests.

9) ADJOURNMENT

The meeting ended at 10:45am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nick Goodwin, Urban Forester