



CITY OF COEUR D'ALENE

PARKS & RECREATION
DEPARTMENT

CITY HALL, 710 E Mullan Avenue
Coeur d'Alene, Idaho 83814
208-769-2252 FAX: 208-769-2383

Urban Forestry Committee Draft Minutes Friday, November 21st, 2025 – 8:05am City Hall – Conference Room 6

Members Present:

John Schwandt
Bob Hallock
JD Reeves
Gina Davis
Gabriel Hynes (Student Representative)
Steve Bloedel

Members Absent:

Bruce Martinek

Staff Present:

Monte McCully Trees/Trails
Kris Beyer Admin Assistant

Guests Present:

John Burke
Phil Messick
Jennifer Reiner

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 8:12 AM by John Schwandt.

MINUTES

Motion to approve September 19, 2025, minutes by Gina Davis, seconded by Bob Hallock; all in favor, motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

John Burke- introduced himself, gave some of his life background, and stated he has been living in this area for four years now and is interested in learning more about what is going on with trees and the issues in this area.

FORESTERS REPORT

**See attached report by Monte McCully.

Re-leaf Program- Only about half of the trees were planted in the spring, due to being short-staffed, and the other half had to wait until fall. The trees were put in water, but several of them did not make it. City staff were able to plant most of them, but approximately 5 people didn't get trees this year. They have been added to the list for next year. Monte will be looking into



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when trees need to be ordered by for next year, as well as what species. He will also start working on the Arbor Day project.

Monte- Haven't done any major tree work other than the grant mitigation. We have contracted out to Bluebird and Bartlett for a couple of the larger trees we had removed along the dyke road with the bark beetle infestation. There is one tree scheduled to be removed by the U of I Centennial Trail. There are also approximately 20-25 beetle-infested trees along the Prairie Trail by Ramsey Park, and city staff will work on those in-house in December. There is a large dead tree from beetle infestation on an adjacent property that is leaning over the Prairie Trail, and Monte will send a letter out to the homeowner to address this issue and have it removed by March 2026 to try to keep the infestation from spreading. In Winton Park, there are several dead trees in the natural area that will have to be contracted out to remove. The dead trees in Forest Cemetery have been removed due to beetle infestation. It was suggested to keep an eye on the trees there to make sure no other trees show signs of infestation.

URBAN FORESTRY IDEAS

Committee members mentioned discussions with Nick Goodwin in the past regarding a lot of interest in a city arboretum down along the Riverstone Park area. The committee would like to see trees planted from the city tree list with labels stating the species as examples to encourage citizens to plant free trees. That area is slated to be worked on this winter, and there is hope that maybe work can start on the arboretum idea in that area. Monte stated that another arboretum was proposed at Veterans Centennial Park many years ago, but there is some pushback from neighbors on the parking lot and trails. The parking lot and trails will be gravel.

INSPECTION REQUESTS

- 7358 N Aaron Street – Healthy Ash Removal Request.
 - This tree is not dead or dying but is an Emerald Ash tree. It also has some serious surface roots lifting.

Discussion:

****See attached report from Bartlett Tree Service by Nick Goodwin**

The report from Bartlett Tree Service was read by JD Reeves. JD Reeves stated there are structural issues, but the tree is otherwise healthy. The deciding factor was the imminent arrival of the Emerald Ash Borer and the likely death of Ash trees because of it. The committee suggested a large tree needs to be planted in its place.

Motion by Gina Davis to allow removal due to species and structural issues, but needs to be replaced by a large tree species, seconded by JD Reeves, all in favor. Motion passed unanimously.



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- 324 S 16th Street – Silver Maple with die-off

Discussion:

****See attached report from Bartlett Tree Care.**

The Silver Maple tree was assessed by Bartlett Tree Care and has been in decline for the last three growing seasons. The area the tree is in has a large right-of-way and is right on the line. The committee suggested replanting it with a medium or small tree.

Motion by JD Reeves to remove and replace the Silver Maple tree, seconded by Bob Hallock, all in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

- Grand Mill Town Homes – Repeal of 2024 Denial with New Info

Discussion:

****See attached report from Bartlett Tree Service.**

Both trees were found to be in fair health and condition with minimal site conflicts, although there is a noticeable lean. Also, there are concerns of possible damage if the tree were to fall over and hit adjacent structures. This was a ground-level health and condition assessment only.

**** See attached report from arborists hired by owners Jennifer Reiner and Phil Massick.**

The committee members did not receive the report from the arborists hired by Jennifer Reiner & Phil Massick.

JD Reeves moved to table the decision to allow/not allow the removal of two trees to the December 19th, 2025, meeting, seconded by Gina Davis, all in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

Monte: Bartlett has been contracted by the city, since Monte is not certified yet, to do assessments. Bartlett will provide a packet containing photos and a report recommendation.

Follow-Up Discussions:

Gina Davis gave notice that she is stepping down from the committee effective this month. She will follow up and give her report regarding the inspection request for Grand Mill Town Homes. Gina suggested contacting Hannah Hollowell, an entomologist, but she wasn't sure if she would be interested or not.

Monte shared upcoming tree issues.

- Montana & 9th St. The area is small, and tree size suggestions are needed as the sidewalk has buckling issues. Monte mentioned there are now three different types of sidewalk repair options available to city homeowners.



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- Area near Seltice and I-90 construction area- looking to partner with the city to plant trees to block sound from the interstate.
- Gina Davis mentioned Bluegrass area subdivision and Nick Goodwin possibly discussing with the HOA manager about doing a sample area of sidewalk alterations for buckling in the right-of-way areas, with the overall goal of keeping trees, but exploring alternative sidewalk systems. Also, exploring the possibility of this being a cost share to use as a demonstration for others in a similar situation.
- John Schwandt mentioned the area up near Lake City High School, the street with cherry trees, and asked if they had been removed yet. Gabriel Hynes added that all the cherry trees had been removed, as he lives in that area and passes by them. The cherry trees had been replanted, but he was unsure what species were planted.
- Bob Hallock and Gina Davis discussed tree planting in the Shoreview Lane area. Monte stated he would like to redo part of the trail there to join the sidewalk to create more of a swale to create more room for trees. He is working on an agreement with owners where the city still owns, but they will provide irrigation, trees, grass, and mow the area. The city should still be able to ask them to plant trees there.
- 2002 Coeur D Alene Ave- Monte wanted to share that the owners do not want to put sidewalks in, although they are required to. City is looking to do a different type of scenario with the sidewalk to be able to go around the tree and not dig down and possibly killing the tree roots.
- John Schwandt inquired about the Urban Forester position and if it will be filled. Monte shared the different possibilities the city is looking at.
- Monte shared that he is looking at software options for a user-friendly program to help streamline inquiries regarding trees.

ADJOURNMENT

Next meeting December 19th, 2025.

Motion by Steve Bloedel to adjourn, seconded by Gina Davis, all in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting ended at 9:39 AM.

**The draft minutes will become part of the official record after being voted on for accuracy during the next scheduled meeting.*