

URBAN FORESTRY COMMITTEE MINUTES

January 16, 2026, 8:05 AM

City Hall- City Hall Conference Room 6

Members Present:

John Schwandt (left at 8:50 am)
Bob Hallock
JD Reeves
Steve Bloedel
Gabriel Hynes (Student Representative) (arrived 8:15AM)

Members Absent:

Bruce Martinek

Staff Present:

Monte McCully Trees/Trails
Kris Beyer Admin Assistant

Guests Present:

Matt Perkins
Kathi Kincel
John Burke

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 8:07 AM by John Schwandt.

MINUTES

Motion to approve, as amended, November 11, 2025, minutes by JD Reeves, seconded by Steve Bloedel; all in favor, motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Kathi Kincel- Shared her concerns about a tree on 3rd & Foster south bound on the northeast corner split down middle that needs to be removed before it falls. Monte McCully said he looked at the tree, and it is co-dominant & has since split and one side fell and that portion has been cut off. When he looked at the tree, he thought about 50% of the trunk was split and the tree would need to be removed. Kathi is not the homeowner, and she noticed the tree when she drove by and saw it. Monte stated the tree isn't an immediate danger, and he will contact owner to hire a company to remove the tree.

Kathi asked about volunteer opportunities, and she was referred to Friends of Tubbs Hill by John Schwandt.

FORESTERS REPORT

Monte went through the Forester's Report. *attached*

Monte McCully contacted Garden Gate Nursery for their list of trees and costs. He noted the city usually receives the trees in April but wasn't sure when they were ordered for an April delivery in the past and will investigate that. John Schwandt shared ordering them earlier is better since they are dormant this time of year and do not want them to bud out as some come from warmer climates. The committee usually looked over the list and quantities in the past and the need for a mixed variety. Monte also said he had a gentleman from Oregon who contacted him about trees and he will come by next week with samples. Monte said he will start working on the nursery to be able to place the trees in empty spots in the ground so the trees will be more protected and will work up a drip irrigation system for them. He also shared that he would like to get the nursery moved down to the Armory in the future to be condense everything to one area and be closer for staff.

Matt Perkins talked about grants coming up. Still has \$200k to award as sub grants this year with proposals due March 2026. He would like to see some type of planting project be submitted as prior

submittals did not have any as they were all deferred maintenance proposals. The application period will open soon, and he will review the proposals for two to four weeks before he awards the grants. Monte asked if the city's proposal included an updated street tree inventory, some deferred maintenance info, and some identifiable areas that need to be planted, if that would work as a proposal. Matt stated that it would be a well-rounded proposal and would likely score high. Monte said the last time we had a seasonal worker dedicated to updating the street tree inventory was back in 2023 and only a small portion was updated. And there are now trees that have been removed. Monte would like to start using the city's tree software program, Tree Plotter by Planet Geo, to its fullest extent for work order, risk assessments etc. Monte would like to investigate to purchase the interface for the program to allow the public to report trees that will go straight into a work order or report. Matt said he wants to schedule actual training courses for the program for all users.

Matt talked about a nonprofit called Treasure Valley Canopy Network. They came out of a canopy assessment in the Treasure Valley in 2013 and that project was funded through the US Forest Service. When that work was completed, the network of people that came together to accomplish this grant did not want to dissolve completely after the project was done. They identified more work to be done through the canopy assessment and funded that work and awarded grants. Now that network is a nonprofit organization and has been doing work all over the Treasure Valley. This year they are expanding statewide and are called Trees Idaho. Matt will share a link to their website and is excited to partner up with them to do projects outside of the Treasure Valley area. Trees Idaho was awarded \$1 million from US Forest Service and still has some monies left. The grant Matt administers has no grant match requirement and he doesn't think Trees Idaho has one either. Trees Idaho can do work on private property, and the grant funding Matt administers cannot do work on private property. One of Tree Idaho's goals is to start a program to help people who are in need.

John Schwandt shared the city ordinance for Urban Forestry Committee has no specific requirement of membership numbers (Update: the ordinance specifies 9). Generally, committees have about 7 members. Monte said one of Trees Idaho members, Danny Rupe will be moving to the Coeur d'Alene area from Boise in April and has applied for the committee. Committee member applications will be discussed in the next Urban Forestry meeting on February 20th.

- Tree Planting Opportunities/Inventory Grant
See above
- Training
Matt Perkins wants to do training courses for the Tree Plotter program through Planet Geo. Monte is still waiting to see if he has his arborist as results are not available yet.
- CDA Ave Sidewalk
Monte McCully said the owner had been sent a letter. He must put a sidewalk in and cannot remove the tree. Monte met with Street Department, and they gave the owner a plan on how to put the sidewalk in with the tree staying there. Monte wants to look at spayed requirements on cutting roots and get them added or updated.
- Beetle Infestations
Winton and Prairie Trail have had about 20 trees removed from each area due to beetle infestation. And two or three trees removed from Seltice Way median near the tree that fatality injured a person a few years ago. We had a lady who lives across the street from the Seltice Way area cut a bunch of trees around her property in the general area in front of Frontier Ice Arena and may have cut some Right of Way (ROW) trees and Monte doing research to see if any ROW trees

were cut down. Monte has Bartlett Tree Experts on retainer to do the actual assessments once Monte determines if they need assessments. There are several more infested trees in Cherry Hill we can remove in-house. Matt Perkins will see if MCH packs program is still available. It was suggested it would be a good idea to get IDL entomologist out to Tubbs Hill to look. IDL just hired a new pathologist, Noah Linstrom, and may be able to have him come out to get some experience.

- Tree Removals
 - City Park- 1 Ponderosa Pine
 - Gittels's- 3 Plums
 - Palmer Drive- 1 Ponderosa Pine, private
 - 23rd St- Black Locust
 - 612 W Empire- Black Locust

Most were already dead and didn't need committee approval.

A Ponderosa tree at City Park was removed. Several trees were lost in the windstorm but there is not a total yet. Several of those trees were split trunks and weak. A lot of the trees were snapped halfway off.

There are 3-4 trees Monte will be reaching out to homeowners who have similar split trunk trees. Monte wants to investigate increasing the Cost Share Program and will place it on the next agenda.

John Schwandt ordered 400 trees to give out to area 4th graders and some money was donated. City will plant trees along the City Park sea wall for Arbor Day.

URBAN FORESTRY PROJECT IDEAS

Riverstone arboretum updates: Monte will refresh himself on Riverstone arboretum. Nick Goodwin (prior Urban Forester) had some plans sketched out possibly on Riverstone arboretum.

Monte -planning a new park at the Trails subdivision off of Hanley. Bill Greenwood has the wheels in motion to get that park built using impact fees. Front end of the park will have bathrooms, playground, and parking. The back end of the park, which is about 5 acres, will be natural grasses, trees, gravel trails and arboretum. Monte is hoping the tree planting for the park will begin in the spring of 2027.

There may be an extensive arboretum at a new park down by Harbor Center.

The Midway Park project will start building this year. Monte will investigate whether the developer may be required to plant and sign the arboretum trees.

Steve Bloedel & Monte McCully will be working on the next phase of Tubbs Hill this winter. They will look at areas for ideas for the remaining grant money. There is a little over \$100,000 left, which should be more than enough to do the other areas on Tubbs Hill. Canfield grant has about \$15,000 remaining. Monte said Fiends of Tubbs Hill wants to hire a professional tree planter. But Steve is not sure how many trees are needed, and the species needed. Monte will get together with Friends of Tubbs Hill and figure out the scope and contact the US Forest Service or the University of Idaho to find some seedlings.

Monte suggested looking at Cherry Hill Park as an area to possibly work on. Another idea is the water tower near Cancourse because it would be a good area to re-tree. Tubbs Hill Fire Mitigation Grant money can be used in other places by writing a letter of explanation. Fire Mitigation Grants are only for cutting trees and not planting.

INSPECTION REQUESTS

- No Outstanding Requests

John Burke submitted his application to be on the Urban Forestry Commission. He added his experience as an arborist. He has done a lot of consulting, tree risk assessments, and tree reports. He will be added to next month's agenda to be voted in as a member.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Bob Hallock to adjourn, seconded by Steve Bloedel, all in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting ended at 9:03 AM.

Next meeting February 20th, 2026.