



URBAN FORESTRY COMMITTEE MINUTES

July 17, 2026, 8:05 AM
City Hall- City Hall Conference Room 6

Members Present:

John Schwandt (Chair)
John Burke
JD Reeves
Bruce Martinek
Gabriel Hynes (Student Representative)

Members Absent:

Steve Bloedel
Daniel Roop
Will Ahmer (Student Representative alternate)

Staff Present:

Monte McCully Urban Forester
Kris Beyer Admin Assistant

Guests Present:

Matt Perkins
Paola Nansel
Kathy Kincel

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 8:09AM by John Schwandt.

MINUTES

Motion to approve June 2026 minutes by Bruce Martinek with a correction noted on the June 2026 minutes regarding a member's name. The minutes listed "Bruce Hallock" incorrectly and were corrected to "Bob Hallock.", seconded by John Burke; all in favor, motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Kathy Kincel- reported tree branches obstructing traffic and street signs, including a sign on Mullan Ave. near 11th or 12th St. Monte McCully advised that residents should report such issues to the Urban Forestry Division by email or through the City's website under the "Report a Problem" feature. Staff will inspect the site and determine whether pruning will be completed by the homeowner or the City. Kathy also shared a positive update regarding her maple tree that had appeared stressed the previous year but has since recovered and is growing well.



FORESTERS REPORT

****See attached report by Monte McCully.**

Monte McCully reported:

- Three tree removal requests were received during the month.
- One removal request was approved administratively at Coeur d'Alene Charter Academy. Several declining ornamental cherry trees were approved for removal and replacement with more appropriate tree species due to poor condition and improper spacing.
- Staff discussed possible replacement species, including serviceberry tree varieties.
- Three Crimson Oaks planted at Phippeny Park are showing signs of stress. Staff is providing supplemental watering and monitoring conditions.
- Planning for 2027 tree purchases should be placed on a future agenda. Staff will review the City's street tree inventory and recommended species list to determine future planting needs.
- The City's Urban Forestry website is undergoing substantial updates and reorganization to improve public usability, permitting information, reporting functions, and educational resources.
- Staff discussed improvements to the American Chestnut trees in City Park, including aeration, mulching, soil improvement, and protection from mower damage.
- Staff provided an update on the City nursery area and discussed opportunities to grow American Chestnut seedlings for future public and conservation plantings.

UF COMMITTEE REMOVAL REVIEW

801 E. St. Maries Avenue

The Committee reviewed the previously discussed request to remove a Douglas-fir tree at 801 E. St. Maries Avenue. Discussion noted that:

- The tree appears healthy and structurally sound.
- Previous inspections found no significant defects, decay, infrastructure conflicts, or safety concerns.
- The applicant's concerns centered primarily on the tree's size, minor lean, and fear of future damage based on an experience elsewhere.
- The Committee expressed concern that approving removal of a healthy tree would set an undesirable precedent.

Motion: Bruce Martinek moved to deny the removal request and uphold the Committee's previous determination that would allow pruning of the Douglas Fir Tree. Seconded by John Burke, all in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

The property owner may appeal the Committee's decision to City Council.

INSPECTION REQUESTS

- None

ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION



The Committee discussed:

- Surface root issues associated with various tree species and the influence of soil compaction and irrigation practices.
- Reviewing and updating the City's approved and discouraged tree species lists.
- Potential grant funding opportunities to update the City's tree inventory database.
- Continued collaboration with Idaho Department of Lands personnel regarding urban forestry grants and American Chestnut conservation efforts.

GUEST INTRODUCTION

Matt Perkins introduced Paola Nansel, the new Community Forestry Assistant contracted through the Idaho Department of Lands. Paula will assist communities with urban forestry planning, inventories, ordinances, grant activities, and technical assistance.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE UPDATE

Gabriel Hynes informed the Committee this was his last Urban Forestry Committee meeting, as he will be attending Boise State University beginning in August, with move-in scheduled for August 19. He plans to study Political Science and thanked the Committee for the opportunity to serve as Student Representative. Committee members wished him success in his future studies and thanked him for his service to the Urban Forestry Committee.

ADJOURNMENT

Next meeting Friday, August 21st, 2026, at 8:05 am.

Motion by John Burke to adjourn, seconded by Bruce Martinek, all in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting ended at 9:11 AM.