

URBAN FORESTRY COMMITTEE MINUTES
DECEMBER 15, 2017 8:00AM
Fire Station 3 – 1500 N 15th Street

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Keith Jones, Chairman
John Schwandt, Vice Chairman
Tom Ball
Tim Kastning
Glenn Truscott

STAFF PRESENT:

Katie Kosanke, Urban Forester

GUESTS PRESENT:

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Bob Hallock (*out of town*)
Steve Bloedel (*work conflict*)
Bruce Martinek
Marie Michaelson, Student Rep

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jones at 8:06am.

1) MINUTES

Glenn Truscott pointed out some minor corrections in the minutes. John Schwandt made a motion to approve the November 16, 2017 Urban Forestry Committee minutes with noted corrections, Glenn Truscott seconded the motion, motion passed.

2) PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

3) COORDINATOR'S REPORT

Please see attached report.

4) REVIEW OF NATURAL OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE

Glenn reported that a subcommittee workshop was held to discuss comments collected at the recent Parks and Recreation Commission meeting on the Veteran's Centennial Park concept plan. In total 11 comments were collected and also some letters were submitted. There were concerns regarding wildlife, park features, crime and more. An email was sent from the land donor's nephew who is in support of the first concept plan. Items were discussed to make some features in the park concept plan more natural and possibly less overall features.

5) REVIEW OF TREE INSPECTION PROCESS

The committee reviewed the revised inspection form that was discussed at the November meeting.

Suggestions were given for multi-tree form in order to better fit it on one page. The committee will test out the revised form to see how it works out in the field. Until a new form is approved, staff would like the committee to continue to submit current forms for regular inspections. The committee is to provide feedback to staff and the form will be further reviewed at the January 2018 meeting.

6) REPLACEMENT TREE POLICY

In November, Tim Kastning asked about the current replacement tree policy and thought the committee should consider having a ‘big picture’ policy for tree removals, so the item was added to the December agenda for further discussion. Tim explained the policy would be for trees that have little contribution and gave an example of a small volunteer tree in front of a billboard with many other trees growing nearby. The removal program would collect funds to assist in planting other trees throughout the city. John Schwandt commented that this had been discussed at one time and the committee never elected to put a policy in place. Staff mentioned if a policy was in place, it would require an ordinance change. Staff and committee members brainstormed past situations where a new policy could be applied, however could not come up with an example. The committee thought knowing of an instance where this would be applied within the city would be helpful; as such a program may not be needed. Committee members asked for staff to send out related ordinances that may be applied or revised for this type of program. Tim mentioned that it would be good to have a program in place for these rare occasions which would financially benefit the urban forestry program and assist with planting more public trees.

7) URBAN FORESTRY PROJECT IDEAS

None.

8) AUGUST INSPECTION REQUESTS

- 609 and 613 Indiana Ave – request to remove/replace a birch and ponderosa pine. Birch tree approved for removal due to overall poor condition (dieback and decay from bronze birch borers). Also approval of ponderosa pine tree due to site conflicts and signs off bark beetles. The address needs be verified, as the ponderosa pine tree appears to be abutting the property to the west.
- 1915 W Canyon Drive – request to remove/replace a maple tree approved due to codominant leaders, damaged roots, conflicting utilities and other site conflicts.

9) ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:00am, which included field inspections as a group.

Respectfully Submitted,

Katie Kosanke, Urban Forester