

URBAN FORESTRY COMMITTEE MINUTES

MARCH 17, 2017 8:00AM

City Hall – Warner Room

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Keith Jones, *Chairman*
John Schwandt, *Vice Chairman*
Glenn Truscott
Tom Ball
Steve Bloedel

STAFF PRESENT:

Katie Kosanke, Urban Forestry Coordinator

GUESTS PRESENT:

Bill McElver, North Idaho College
Christa Bella Fischer, North Idaho College

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Tim Kastning
Bob Hallock (*out of town*)
Bruce Martinek
Marie Michaelson, *Student Rep*

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 8:05am by Chairman Jones.

1) MINUTES

Motion by John Schwandt to approve the February 17, 2017 minutes, seconded by Glenn Truscott, motion passed.

2) PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

3) COORDINATOR'S REPORT

Please see attached report.

4) REVIEW OF NATURAL OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE

Glenn reported that the last meeting was cancelled although he did meet with a subcommittee to discuss Veteran's Centennial Park. He recently made a presentation to the local Native Plant Society and asked for support for maintenance of native plants at the proposed arboretum. The group currently has time dedicated elsewhere and wasn't able to commit to supporting plants or landscape beds at the site. There will soon be a concept plan in place for the park site; an architect has offered assistance in a design at no cost. The plan may need to be simplified due to maintenance concerns.

5) TREE CAMPUS USA – NORTH IDAHO COLLEGE

Two representatives from North Idaho College attended the meeting to discuss the Tree Campus USA program. Bill McElver, Facilities Operations Manager and Christa Bella Fischer, landscaper at NIC attended to talk about partnership opportunities to assist them in becoming a Tree Campus USA. Katie mentioned that for some time she has wanted to approach NIC about the Tree Campus USA program

which is similar to the Tree City USA accreditation. Currently, there is only one other Tree Campus USA in state of Idaho, which is Northwest Nazarene University in Nampa. Bill said NIC already does many of the items needed to qualify and the recognition program was recently discussed with him by a local tree care service.

Staff gave overview information about the program and how the local Urban Forestry program and committee may be able to assist. As a Tree City USA, staff wants to help NIC to become a Tree Campus USA which helps colleges and universities around the country establish healthy community forests. There are five qualifications for NIC to become a Tree Campus USA.

The first requirement is to have a campus tree advisory committee; Bill stated that they currently have a sustainability committee and a tree committee formed. Katie said that she would be willing to serve on NIC's committee or possibly an urban forestry committee member.

The second requirement is to have a Tree Campus Tree Care Plan; this is a plan flexible enough to fit the needs and circumstances of the particular campus. The Tree Care Plan should be goal oriented and provide the opportunity to set good policy and clear guidance for planting, maintaining, and removing trees. It also provides education to the campus community, citizens, contractors, and consultants about the importance of the campus forest and the protection and maintenance of trees as part of the growth and land development process.

The third requirement is that there needs to be dedicated annual expenditures related to trees and tree care which is already in place. Katie mentioned that many things can be counted into the total including both staff and volunteer time on related tree activities. Campuses are suggested to work toward an annual expenditure of \$3 per full-time enrolled student.

The fourth requirement is that they must observe Arbor Day which serves as a great opportunity to educate the campus community on the benefits of trees on their campus property and within the community.

The last requirement is for service learning project which is an outreach project as an opportunity to engage the students with tree related projects. Katie commented that the parks dept is a good source for ideas on any of these topics.

Bill will soon meet with NIC staff for feedback and be in touch with city staff. Katie recently spoke with David Stephenson, the State Community Forestry Assistant and asked if it was possible for NIC to use the tree inventory software that was made available to Idaho Cities. The program coordinator decided that the software will be available for use by Tree Campus USA schools which assist in monitoring tree diversity, condition, and maintenance needs. The program also calculates the benefits that each tree provides.

6) ARBOR DAY PLANNING

Staff mentioned the 2017 Arbor Day event will be at McEuen Park near the Harbor House. Since this is the 145th year of Arbor Day, the theme will be 'Happy Birthday Arbor Day'. There will be a tree planting of 5 or 6 native trees at noon and various information and seedlings will be handed out. The usual Tree City USA ceremony will also take place at 12:45pm. Cake, snacks and punch will be served, sponsored by Sun Valley Tree Service. John gave a quick update on the seedling program which is now officially the Arbor Day Organization of North Idaho.

7) EARTH DAY EVENT

At the February meeting, the committee decided to have a booth at the Arbor Day event. Staff will look into ordering seedlings, as a source for a donation couldn't be confirmed. Educational materials will be given out at the event as well as information about the upcoming Arbor Day Celebration.

8) APPROVED STREET TREE LIST REVISION

Staff presented a staff report for this item for a modification of the current city approved street tree list. The City's first approved tree list was developed along with the urban forestry ordinance, and was adopted in January of 1985. The list went through revisions in 1987, 1989, 1993, 2004 and most recently in 2014. The list designates which tree species can be planted within the public right-of-ways within the city. The printing of the approved street tree list for distribution is currently done by photocopier on an as-needed basis. Changing the list will not result in a supply of unusable/out-of-date publications; nor will it incur any additional photocopying costs.

The urban forestry ordinance specifies, "No species other than those included in the list may be planted as a public tree without prior approval of the city council . ." The urban forestry ordinance specifies, "A list of the official public tree species for the city of Coeur d'Alene shall be established by resolution of the city council."

The draft revision includes the following changes:

- Some "new" species and cultivars are included in the list, giving more selections (Silverbell, sweetgum, magnolia, parrotia, serviceberry, Pagoda tree, and cucumber magnolia).
- Purple Robe black locust was removed from the approved street tree list. This species has been unsuccessful in the landscape, declining from locust borers and causing a nuisance with sucker sprouts off of the roots (this cultivar claimed it wasn't supposed to do this).
- *Fraxinus* (ash) species were removed from the list due to the invasive non-native insect pest, Emerald ash borer making its way toward Idaho. This pest has caused devastation to ash trees on the east coast estimated in the billions of dollars in damage and mitigation. This pest has been detected in Colorado. State Community Forestry representatives have advised removing ash trees from the approved street tree list. Currently there are 1,655 ash trees in the public tree inventory (6.3% of all public trees).

Having a diversity of species is important since pest problems are generally species specific. If there is an outbreak of a major pest, it can easily move from tree to tree and cause significant damage. There may be instances when planting one of the species removed from the list is allowed, for example a replacement tree within a uniform planting in a commercial or homeowner's association area.

The committee discussed the new proposed species briefly and asked if there are many of those species growing in Coeur d'Alene. Staff answered that some are very common while others are not. However, the new species are hardy for our zone and are already featured on nearby cities approved street trees lists. Each species was also researched as well.

Tom Ball made a motion to recommend the revision of the city's approved street tree list, seconded by John Schwandt, motion passed.

9) URBAN FORESTRY PROJECT IDEAS

A reporter contacted Tom and John about a possible Urban Forestry article in the CDA press. The main questions he asked were about threats to Coeur d'Alene public trees. Staff will provide the requested

information.

10) ARBOR DAY POSTER ART JUDGING

The committee looked at the posters and chose the top winners for the contest. Usually there are 150+ entries and this year there were only 7 from two schools. The poster art entries from one school didn't seem to follow the directions although the art did have trees on them. The committee picked a top winner from each school and the rest of the students will receive participation certificates. Staff will seek feedback from the 5th grade teachers and art teachers to see why there wasn't much participation this year.

11) INSPECTION REQUESTS

- 508 S. 16th Street – request to remove/replace a Siberian elm tree approved due to overall poor condition.
- 2111 & 2115 N 9th Street – request to inspect three pine trees. A potential home buyer requested this due to concerns that the trees at this location may be a hazard because of their large size. The committee inspected the trees and from a limited ground assessment they appear to be in good health. The southern-most tree was struck by lightning which caused a wound that should be inspected by a certified risk assessor to determine the extent of possible decay.
- Ramsey Rd north of Kathleen Ave – request/replace to remove oak tree (east side of Ramsey abutting Coeur d'Alene Village) by Kootenai Electric because of utility conflicts. The Committee recommended removing and replacing the tree based the major site conflicts and for the opportunity to fix the problem while the tree is still fairly young.

12) ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:30am. Keith, Tom and Glenn then went out for inspections.

Respectfully Submitted,
Katie Kosanke, Urban Forestry Coordinator