

URBAN FORESTRY COMMITTEE NOTES

SEPTEMBER 15, 2017 8:00AM

Fire Station 3 – 1500 N 15th Street

MEMBERS PRESENT:

John Schwandt, Vice Chairman
Glenn Truscott
Tim Kastning (*left at 8:30am*)
Steve Bloedel

STAFF PRESENT:

Katie Kosanke, Urban Forestry Coordinator

GUESTS PRESENT:

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Keith Jones, Chairman
Bruce Martinek
Bob Hallock
Tom Ball
Marie Michaelson, Student Rep

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting started at 8:00am (no quorum).

1) MINUTES

Glenn pointed out a couple of minor corrections in the minutes and mentioned Michael Walker needed to be added to the guest list. There wasn't a quorum at the meeting, so the August minutes could not be approved.

2) PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

3) COORDINATOR'S REPORT

Please see attached report.

4) REVIEW OF NATURAL OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE

Glenn did not have a report. He mentioned that since many goals of the committee have already been met, they are looking at possibly becoming a subcommittee or ad-hoc committee.

5) HUB BOOKLET COVER OPTIONS

Staff presented four cover options designed by graphic artist, Savana Fernades. Savana is donating her time and skills for the job. Staff offered her an ad space in the booklet for doing the design. Committee member preferences were emailed previously and it was a tie between option #1 (person viewing concolor fir) and option #4 (looking up tree trunk to green canopy). It was discussed that #4 is more eye-catching and modern and fits in well with the overall design of the

booklet. It was suggested that small formatting items completed in order for the text stand out better. John, Glenn and Steve recommended moving forward in selecting option #4 for the cover.

6) BLACKWELL ISLAND PROPERTY – TREE/RIPERIAN AREA (DISCUSSION)

A citizen approached Urban Forestry staff about the agenda item Urban Forestry Project Ideas. The citizen said that she had an idea for the committee to make recommendations and perhaps set up a volunteer work day for the small Blackwell Island property. Several committee members visited the site in August and made observations and recommendations. In regards to trees, there are only a few growing there including a few black locusts, a hawthorn, a Norway maple, a cherry and an apple tree. There are a few cottonwood trees growing on the property which are the only native trees on the site. The committee recommended picking up trash, mowing the weeds and leaving the plants as-is for now until a plan is determined. Volunteers could be used for trash pickup. Staff mentioned that the Parks & Rec Director hoping to get the trail crew over to the site this fall or in the spring to reduce some of the weeds.

7) COMMUNITY CANOPY LANDSCAPE OF EXCELLENCE AWARD

Staff mentioned making a nomination for the Landscape of Excellence Award to Kootenai Health for their efforts in preserving the London planetrees along Ironwood Drive during the recent street project. This location is a great example of a successful partnership between the hospital, the City of Coeur d'Alene, the Idaho Transportation Dept, the construction contractor and a tree service to limit the impacts to the existing street trees. Even after the work had begun, additional deviations were made to move sidewalk further away from the trees to limit impacts to the roots. Kootenai Health also contracted with Bartlett Tree Experts to expose the roots, inspect them and prune cleanly where needed. Kootenai Health staff is also looking into a reinvigoration program which will entail having a tree service amend the soil which provides additional nutrients to the trees.

8) URBAN FORESTRY PROJECT IDEAS

Steve mentioned an event could be held in conjunction to the release of the HUB Tree Booklet. It was discussed that seedlings could be grown from the parent trees featured in the booklet and given out as prizes. He also mentioned if the city does move forward on the Blackwell site, Urban Forestry could again discuss it and make recommendations depending upon what is proposed. Katie mentioned that focus is currently on the old mill site and there currently isn't any plan in place for the Blackwell Island piece of property.

9) AUGUST INSPECTION REQUESTS (DISCUSSION)

- 424 Wallace – request to inspect three beech trees in August. The committee inspected the trees in August and found some decay, however they recommended a higher level of risk assessment be performed. Tim Kastning offered to assist with an advanced risk assessment of the tree which was performed on August 31st. The inspection consisted of sounding and drilling the wood to determine the extent of decay versus sound wood. After the assessment, it was determined that although there is some decay, there is a substantial amount of sound wood and the trees should be retained.

- City Park near HREI Building – Committee members discussed the condition of the tree and scheduled a site visit. Tim offered to assist with an advanced risk assessment of the tree of the tree which was performed on August 31st. The inspection consisted of sounding and drilling the wood to determine the extent of decay versus sound wood. Previously a report was done showing evidence of some decay in the trunk. Grilling was done at the sites where decay was previously reported, with none whatsoever being found. Tim thought perhaps there was an error when the tree was inspected previously with Arborsonis Software. The roots are functioning very well as the tree is continuing to grow in diameter and is holding on to at least five years of needle growth. Since the tree was previously reduced by 35 feet, a substantial weight load was removed, which reduces the weight and lowers the risk. No signs were observed to indicate risk of failure.
- 19th / Mullan NE – possible remove/replace opportunity. Staff asked committee members to inspect these trees. Medium species were planted under the powerlines and they have been pruned down for the lines and up for street clearance. While the trees are somewhat young, removing and replacing them with a small species tree could be considered as recommended by the utility company. Avista would assist with the removal of the current trees and provide replacement trees. The Parks Dept would only need to help plant the replacement trees. There was some discussion about the removal with favor. Since this would be a winter project, staff asked members who haven't inspected the trees to do so for more discussion in October.

10) INSPECTION REQUESTS

- 4th Street at Knotty Pines at the Village Condominiums – Request to remove/replace aspen trees and four lodgepole pine trees. Approve aspen trees due to poor condition due to borers, scales, cankers and dieback. Approve removal/replacement of four lodgepole pine trees also because of trunk defects and general condition issues (poor form / dieback).

11) ADJOURNMENT

The meeting ended at 10:00am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Katie Kosanke, Urban Forestry Coordinator