

**URBAN FORESTRY COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
DECEMBER 16, 2016 7:30AM  
City Hall – Warner Room

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Keith Jones, *Chairman*  
John Schwandt, *Vice Chairman*  
Bruce Martinek  
Tim Kastning  
Bob Hallock  
Tom Ball

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Katie Kosanke, Urban Forestry Coordinator

**GUESTS PRESENT:**

None

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Glenn Truscott  
Steve Bloedel  
Marie Michaelson, *Student Rep*

**CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order at 7:40am by Chairman Jones.

**1) MINUTES**

Motion by Tom Ball to approve the November 18, 2016 minutes with one spelling correction, seconded by Tim Kastning, motion passed.

**2) PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None.

**3) COORDINATOR'S REPORT**

See attached report for December 2016.

**4) REVIEW OF NATURAL OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE**

No update.

**5) URBAN FORESTRY ORDINANCE CHANGE**

Staff handed out a staff report for this item. At the April 2016 Urban Forestry committee meeting, staff discussed various changes that needed to be made to the urban forestry ordinance. At that time the committee made recommendations for additional areas needing improvement and/or clarification. Staff brought this item to the committee in October, but the committee felt that more work was needed and two workshops were held to go over changes/edits. The areas for proposed changes include: various definitions and wording changes for clarification, take out topping and replace with crown reduction, clarify fee in lieu of replacement tree, allow exceptions for replacement trees when planting a replacement tree is not practical, add additional provisions for tree service licensing to ensure quality control, allow others to plant trees in the right-of-way (not just tree services), permits required for root

pruning of public trees, include new technology for root containment, and outline penalties for violations to be consistent with the appraised value of the damage.

Tim Kastning commented that A300 needed to be added where the ANSI standards are mentioned.

**Bob Hallock made a motion to recommend to the Parks & Recreation Commission approval of the urban forestry ordinance changes with the addition of the A300 section of ANSI, motion seconded by Tom Ball, motion passed.**

## **6) TREE PROTECTION ORDINANCE**

Staff handed out a staff report for this item. This item was also brought to the committee in October, but the committee felt that the ordinance needed more clarification and two workshops were held to review changes/edits.

Currently there are no standards in place to protect trees and tree roots from impact through site development. This has resulted in dieback of tree branches and/or tree decline and removals which can pose safety risks. The City's Commercial Design standards for C-17 and C-17L include a section regarding preserving private property trees called "Grand Scale Trees". These are large diameter trees on private property within 20' of a public street that a developer can choose to retain. The intent of this program is to encourage the retention of existing, larger, mature trees on private property (not street trees that are required to be retained unless approved for removal by the Urban Forestry Committee). The developer can receive bonuses for preserving grand scale trees in order to support the natural beauty of Coeur d'Alene. Recently, there were locations where Grand Scale Trees were intended to be preserved, however no measures were put in place to ensure survivability through the development process. The impact of the construction (root cutting, soil compaction, and trunk damage) resulted in tree decline and the trees had to be removed, while the developer had received bonuses for preserving them.

With new requirements, developers will need to provide a tree protection plan when preserving grand scale trees or when there are close by public trees. The tree protection will consist of fencing, signs, and mulch supplied by the developer to be in place throughout the duration of the project. City staff time will be needed for pre-site inspections, review of plans, monitoring the site during construction, and increased coordination with the developer. If the tree protection measures are not followed, or the tree fails due to construction impacts within the tree protection zone, the appraised value of the tree will be charged to the developer. The appraised value of the tree will be determined at the beginning of the project following the Council of Trees & Landscape Appraisers Guide for Plant Appraisal. In addition to the appraised value, the developer will also have to plant a 2.5" caliper sized tree.

The intent of having increased requirements for public and Grand Scale Trees is to ensure trees are not significantly impacted during development. The benefits of the protection standards will result in healthier trees that live longer, minimize potential safety risks, and reduce costly pruning or removals. The new standards (attached) are simple to follow so they are not so stringent that developers will choose not to retain Grand Scale Trees which are located on private property. By taking these additional protection measures there will be increased survivability of trees and more accountability to developers that choose to retain them for bonuses. Trees on private property should be encouraged to be retained since they provide many benefits throughout our city and contribute to the city's urban canopy cover.

**Motion by John Schwandt to recommend the Parks & Recreation Commission tree protection standards for street trees and Grand Scale Trees, motion seconded by Tom Ball, motion passed.**

## **7) ARBOR DAY**

Staff asked the committee to start thinking of ideas for Arbor Day. Currently there isn't a project identified for the 2016 event. Keith suggested having the event at a natural open space park. Idaho's Arbor Day is April 28<sup>th</sup>, so the event could be that day, or on Saturday April 29<sup>th</sup>. John discussed the Kootenai County Arbor Day program that distributes seedlings to 4<sup>th</sup> graders and how they are considering becoming a non-profit. The seedling bagging has been set for Tuesday, April 25<sup>th</sup>. John said the seedlings have been chosen to be given out this year include Scarlet oak, beech, ginkgo and redbud. Staff mentioned ideas for accounting for the seedling program which is fairly minimal. A meeting was set for Wednesday January 11<sup>th</sup> at noon for the Kootenai Arbor Day Committee in the Park & Recreation meeting room at City Hall.

## **8) URBAN FORESTRY PROJECT IDEAS**

- Bob Hallock asked about the status of the Urban Forestry Master plan. Staff commented that daily work and other big items such as the ordinance changes and tree protection plan have stalled the plan a bit and that the committee should continue working on it. Keith suggested scheduling a workshop to resume working on it again. A meeting was scheduled for Monday, January 4<sup>th</sup> at 8am in the Parks & Recreation meeting room at City Hall.
- Tim mentioned inconsistent tree care along Appleway Ave. The committee discussed the corridor briefly. Future agenda item, Appleway Ave – inconsistent/improper tree care along this corridor, also locations where there are stumps. Most of the poor pruning is because of signage conflicts. Committee will discuss in detail later on, could be a location for a new planting, or possibly a street project?
- Tim mentioned he would be interested in understanding more about the Urban Forestry program day to day tasks and projects. Staff will look at presenting an overview at an upcoming meeting. Details about the various aspects of the program including permitting, requests/reports, reviewing plans, street tree requirements, fuel reduction programs, tree plantings, tree pruning, removals, education programs and public outreach, public tree inventory and analysis, organization, contract projects, Tree City USA, overlay pruning, addressing high risk trees, tree service licensing and more can be reviewed.

## **9) INSPECTION REQUESTS**

- 3910 Speirs – request to remove a spruce tree approved due to site conflicts and poor structure. Replacement tree required, two large species trees recommended since there is plenty of room for new trees within the public right-of-way.

## **10) ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 9:40am.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Katie Kosanke, Urban Forestry Coordinator