

URBAN FORESTRY COMMITTEE NOTES

OCTOBER 20, 2017 8:00AM

Fire Station 3 – 1500 N 15th Street

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Keith Jones, Chairman
John Schwandt, Vice Chairman
Tom Ball
Bob Hallock
Tim Kastning (*left at 8:30am*)
Glenn Truscott

STAFF PRESENT:

Katie Kosanke, Urban Forester

GUESTS PRESENT:

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Steve Bloedel
Bruce Martinek (*out of town*)
Marie Michaelson, Student Rep

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jones at 8:15am.

Tim Kastning made a motion to move the November meeting from Friday, November 17th to Thursday November 16th, due to a conflict with the Community Canopy tree care workshops. Motion seconded by Bob Hallock, motion passed.

1) MINUTES

Keith Jones and Glenn Truscott pointed out numerous minor corrections in the minutes. John Schwandt made a motion to approve the 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 the Natural Open Space Committee will likely be around until January or February to allow time for the Veteran's Centennial concept plan finalization. He mentioned that a letter was received from Jack Seagraves, a descendent of the person who donated the property in support of the concept plan. There will be a workshop at the November 20th Parks & Recreation Commission to discuss the concept plan. Urban Forestry Committee members were encouraged to attend and provide feedback.

5) VETERAN'S CENTENNIAL PARK FUEL REDUCTION GRANT

The Urban Forester submitted a FEMA grant application for a fuel reduction project for the nine wooded acres at Veteran's Centennial Park. The original letter of intent was accepted and state representatives asked staff to move forward with the federal grant application. The fuel reduction project will be well within the scope of work already adopted in the Open Space Management Plan. The work would be low impact, similar to fuel reduction projects on Tubbs Hill. The project proposes to reduce ladder fuel including reducing the number of shrubs, thinning small trees and pruning up low branches of trees. Keeping ladder fuel limited, will keep any potential fires small, on the ground and slow spreading. The Fire Department will have time to respond and put out any fires before they become out of control. Tim offered to review the scope of work for the project.

6) URBAN FORESTRY PROJECT IDEAS

Removal requests and inspections – Tim Kastning recommended reviewing the current tree inspection form and removal request process. There was discussion regarding the current standard form and if inspection requests could be improved or streamlined. Staff will place this item on the November committee agenda for further discussion.

Ash replacement program in Colorado – Tom Ball mentioned in Colorado a program is being implemented which includes planting shadow trees next to *Fraxinus* species in preparation to Emerald ash borer infestation. He mentioned that Coeur d'Alene could consider a similar program which would lessen the impact/loss of trees when the destructive pest reaches the area.

Urban Forestry Master Plan – a workshop was scheduled for Tuesday November 7th at 8:00am to work on the master plan. Staff will send out the draft and post the agenda.

7) AUGUST INSPECTION REQUESTS

- 19th/ Mullan NE – Avista remove / replace option – the committee suggested talking with the abutting property owner first and seeing if they would be supportive of removal and replacement, or if they just want Avista to continue pruning the trees for clearance under the powerlines. While the trees are in fair condition, it may be an opportunity to remove and replace them while they are somewhat small. Staff reported that there may be other locations in town which would be more beneficial to address, such as replacing larger trees under powerlines.
- 1013 Coeur d'Alene Ave – request to remove a maple tree in the alley right-of-way approved due to overall poor condition from being pruned under powerlines and site conflicts.
- 711 Montana – request to remove a maple at the corner of 8th/Montana approved due to overall poor condition including branch dieback, an existing hollow cavity, and recent root pruning for sidewalk repair.
- 15th/Hoffman SW – request to remove/replace four aspen trees approved due to overall poor condition including significant dieback and nuisance issues.

- 1104 A Street – request inspection of a Siberian elm tree by staff. The committee inspected the tree and approved removal due to the poor condition of the attachment between the two trunks. Mitigation could be done which would include significantly reducing the overextended trunk to reduce the weight overextended away from the connection.
- Forest Cemetery – request to inspect three trees in section A by staff. Approve removal of dead tree, a tree with broken top and a tree with a cavity.

8) ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:25am. Numerous members went into the field for inspections.

Respectfully Submitted,

Katie Kosanke, Urban Forester