

**(DRAFT)**

**URBAN FORESTRY COMMITTEE MINUTES**

JUNE 18, 2021 8:05AM

City Hall – City Hall Conference Room 6

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

John Schwandt, (Chairman)  
Erika Eidson via zoom  
Bruce Martinek  
Bob Hallock  
Gina Davis

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Nick Goodwin, Urban Forester

**GUESTS PRESENT:**

None

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Steve Bloedel  
JD Reeves

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Meeting called to order at 8:12 by John Schwandt

**1) MINUTES**

Edits from John Schwandt. motion from Gina Davis to accept the April Minutes with John Schwandt's edits, Seconded by Erika Eidson, all in favor

**2) PUBLIC COMMENTS**

none

**3) FORESTER'S REPORT**

See attached

**4) TRAQ INSPECTIONS**

Nick went over the TRAQ inspection form that he will be using on reports of hazardous or high-risk trees. Nick went over a recent report and explained the grading factors and grading system. Nick explained how he will go over the report with homeowners and hopes it will provide more clarification on how the city assesses risk regarding public trees. Gina Davis asked if Nick will be providing the homeowners with a copy of the form. Nick stated that he will provide the form if it is requested. Nick noted that the TRAQ inspection form is a note taking form and it is not ideal to

provide homeowners with the entire report. Nick said he is working on a report form to provide homeowners with and that it will be incorporated with the new Inventory Program upgrade that the city will be purchasing in the next fiscal year. The committee as a whole felt that this was good move forward in being more concrete with the program. Erika Eidson asked for clarification on the idea regarding using the TRAQ system to help with removal request decisions. Erika also asked if there was any news regarding the idea of allowing people to pay a portion of the assessed value for trees that fall in to the “medium” risk category. Nick said that Bill Greenwood was interested in the idea but that it would need to be fully vetted by the committee and that it would require a code change that would need to go before city council etc. Nick said that he though it would be best to look at this further once the upgraded inventory program was in place and then put together a plan to propose these code changes.

## **5) INVENTORY PROGRAM**

Nick informed the committee members that the new upgraded inventory program purchase has been approved for a one-year term. Nick said that after review with the Director that it would be best to purchase the program in September so that it is more in line with the fiscal year. Nick said that after the purchase Tree Plotter would be providing training for the staff and committee members. John Schwandt asked for clarification on some of the features. Nick said that it will allow each member to have an account and view trees through the program for a more streamlined pre-inspection process. Also, it will incorporate the TRAQ system so that a full TRAQ can be performed for every tree in the inventory program. This will also allow the Urban Forester to have full control of who has accounts and control what features/edits they can do.

## **6) URBAN FORESTRY PROJECT IDEAS**

Bruce Martinek asked for an update on the Street Tree arboretum idea as he had missed some meeting and not been in the loop on this project as much. Nick laid out the area near Riverstone where the trailside arboretum will be started in line with a proposed project that will be underway this fall at the location near the trail at Beebee boulevard. Bruce also asked if there was any luck in propagating any American Chestnut trees from city park. Nick said that he has not had any luck but is making it a priority to get several starts for next spring and so some research on propagating these particular trees. This started a conversation regarding previous talks regarding having these trees certified through the American Chestnut Foundation. Gina Davis said she has some packing material and can assist Nick in getting samples shipped to Connecticut. Nick said he would get with the Parks Superintendent regarding gathering samples.

## **7) INSPECTION REQUESTS**

- 700 NW Blvd: Second request regarding these red maple trees. Removal and replacement approved due to storm damage and desire to plant a more desirable species of tree.

## **10) ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting ended at 10:35

Respectfully Submitted,

Nick Goodwin, Urban Forester