



**Committee Members:**

Chairperson - Van Voorhis, Ken x  
Burt, Melissa x  
Davis, Garth \_  
Lindstrom, Phil \_  
Wright, Chris x

Also Present: Park Board – Ross Kelley, Gary Lawton, Jim Santorsola, Randy Cameron; Staff – Jacki Faught, Angel Spell, Jeff Perry; UF Volunteer – Johnna Woodruff; CAC Member – Marilyn Lloyd, Ed Miles; and Citizen – Nancy MacKerrow.

**Urban Forestry Tree Committee of the Spokane Park Board  
August 2, 2011, 4:15 p.m. – 5:54 p.m.  
Willow Room, Woodland Center  
John A. Finch Arboretum  
Angel Spell, Urban Forester**

**Summary**

- Action item: Committee approval of staff recommendation to purchase compact track loader or equivalent equipment was discussed and unanimously approved to go to Park Board.
- Staff and the Citizen Advisory Committee are working together to solicit comments on the Approved Street Tree List.
- Partnership with The Lands Council has been formalized with a signed MOU.
- The Committee is interested in organizing an Urban Forest Tree Tour for the Park Board members.
- Next regularly scheduled meeting is August 30, 2011, at 4:15 p.m. in the Woodland Center at Finch Arboretum.

## Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 4:15 p.m. by Chairperson, Ken Van Voorhis.

### Action Items:

1. Staff Recommendation: Approve purchase of equipment: Kubota SVL75WC Compact Track Loader or equivalent. Fleet Services will negotiate best price, product, and vendor. Estimated cost is not to exceed \$52,000.00, including tax.

**Motion #1:** Chris Wright moved to approve.

Melissa Burt seconded.

An extensive discussion was had regarding the omissions that the Board felt needed further discussion. The information was provided previously separately via email with the UFTC agenda and the UFTC minutes and again after the July Park Board meeting. Staff advised on the dictionary definitions of "tree" and "shrub". The differences were briefly discussed. This spring 48 trees in total were planted. This year to date, 171 trees were removed on Park property. Additional removals were done on other property. The difficulties coordinating with Park Operations were discussed. Timing for both crews is often an issue, the costs to Urban Forestry for rental of equipment and staff from Operations can be large, and Park Operations equipment can be too large to accomplish the job, either it will not fit where needed or may cause extensive turf damage. The requested piece of equipment is seen by the Chair and committee members as a maintenance need. One Board member expressed his opinion that the piece of equipment requested is overkill. Staff has done extensive research on equipment options to meet all of the department's needs for planting, removal, conservation lands needs, increased efficiency, increased staff safety, some pruning operations and sharing with other areas of the Department. The same type of equipment from Case or Bobcat would cost up to \$30K - \$40K more. Staff's objective is to spend the least amount of money and get the biggest bang for our buck. This item is in the 2011 Capital Plan.

Motion passed unanimously.

### Discussion Items:

1. Memorandum of Understanding with The Lands Council.

A copy of the signed MOU with The Lands Council was provided. The Committee inquired how this agreement differs with the agreement with the Foundation. There is currently no agreement with the Foundation. Staff has been working with the Foundation on an agreement. Staff met with Toni Nersesian of the Foundation because this agreement includes a fund similar to that of Reforest Spokane. Reforest Spokane will remain with the Foundation. The Lands Council will create their program under a different name, offering two revenue streams. The Foundation expressed they did not feel threatened by the agreement with the Lands Council.

2. Revision and update of Approved Street Tree List.

We are starting to take comment from industry professionals and the public. We are hoping to release the list in January 2012. Garth Davis is collecting and distilling the

information to provide to staff. This is not a list that is approved by Committee, Board or Council. The list is a staff responsibility.

3. 2011 Bond Projects Street Tree Summary Process.

Engineering Services, Urban Forestry and the on call arborist hired under City contract are coordinating on these projects. Urban Forestry's role is supervisory, quality control through assessment, inventory and recommendations. A copy of the process was provided to the Committee. Urban Forestry's work is being reimbursed by the Bond. The \$200K previously discussed was for the on call arborist. Urban Forestry does not currently have the equipment of staff to do all the work on these projects.

4. Stormwater Utility Fee.

A Park Board resolution in support of the Stormwater Utility Fee for the purposes of Urban Forestry will be taken to Finance Committee. A request was made for the resolution by Council President.

**Standing Report items:**

1. Urban Forestry Staff Report - Angel provided a written report.
2. Citizen Advisory Committee Report – No report was provided.

**Other Business:**

1. Tour of the Urban Forest.  
Ken Van Voorhis asked that a tour of the Urban Forest be provided to the Board.

Meeting adjourned at 5:54 p.m.

Next regularly scheduled meeting is August 30, 2011, at 4:15 p.m. in the Woodland Center at Finch Arboretum.