



Committee Members:

Chairperson - Van Voorhis, Ken
Burt, Melissa
Davis, Garth
Lindstrom, Phil
Wright, Chris
Alternate – Cameron, Randy
Alternate – Traver, Susan

Also Present: Park Board – Ross Kelley, Jim Santorsola; Staff – Leroy Eadie, Cheryl Miller, Angel Spell, Johnna Woodruff; and Citizen – Carrie Andersen

**Urban Forestry Tree Committee of the Spokane Park Board
August 30, 2011, 4:15 p.m. – 5:45 p.m.
Willow Room, Woodland Center
John A. Finch Arboretum
Angel Spell, Urban Forester**

Summary

- An Interlocal Agreement with Spokane County Detention Services, Geiger Corrections has been signed by both parties.
- A Tree Tour for Park Board members was discussed. Details will be forthcoming.
- Updates were given for the Stormwater Utility Fee proposal, and the proposed 2012 Urban Forestry Budget.
- The October 4, 2011, meeting of the UFTC is rescheduled to September 27th at 4:15 p.m. in the Woodland Center at the Finch Arboretum.
- Highlights of the Urban Forestry Staff Report include:
 - The NeighborWoods Educational Series, the PNWSA Conference, and the Fall Leaf Festival will be in October; and Operational statistics were reviewed.
- Highlights of the Citizen Advisory Committee Report include:
 - Updates on the Benefits of Trees Campaign, Conservation Area Subcommittee and the Recommended Street Tree List Subcommittee; and The Fall Leaf Festival is October 15th 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Finch Arboretum.

Minutes

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

Action Items: No Action Items were presented.

Discussion Items:

1. Interlocal Agreement with Spokane County Detention Services, Geiger Corrections

Both parties have signed the agreement. Geiger will provide land and labor at the center, and reasonable access to the Urban Forestry operations located there, and classrooms. The City will provide trees, mulch, other rooting media, nursery design guidelines, operating procedures and technical assistance, some tools and equipment, and education and training (with minimum training of 24 hours per year). A press release is being drafted. The transition from the current nursery to this new arrangement should be smooth and is expected to take two to three years.

2. Tree Tour for Park Board members

This would be an opportunity to educate Park Board members and other interested persons about seemingly healthy trees that actually are not healthy, and to see good and poor examples. Duration is expected to be about two hours. Conduct the tour during September is preferred, but no date was selected. Public/Special meeting notice will be necessary.

3. Update of Stormwater Utility Fee proposal

The original request of a \$0.50 increase on stormwater fees was reduced to \$0.25. Support has increased, but is not yet enough to pass the ordinance. The strategy now is to continue to monitor the situation and grow support. If it gets too politically contentious we will request to pull it out of the ordinance. The City Council vote is expected to be in late September or early October.

4. Update of proposed 2012 UF Budget

The budget process was explained. A written report, representative of what has been discussed through the year, was provided and reviewed. The projections are conservative. This information will also be included in the presentation at the September 6th Finance Committee meeting. It was mentioned that availability of details (descriptions not figures) of what is included would be advantageous at that meeting. An option is being added for on-line donations in conjunction with utility bill payments. The question was asked of how other comparable cities handle tree permits. Angel will research the answer.

5. October 4, 2011 meeting of UFTC to be cancelled or re-scheduled

Urban Forestry staff and Citizen Advisory Committee members (including some UFTC members) will be attending a conference on October 4th. It was decided to reschedule the next UFTC meeting to September 27th, at 4:15 p.m. in the Woodland Center at Finch Arboretum.

Standing Report items:

1. Urban Forestry Staff Report - Angel provided a written report. Highlights include:

- a. Citizen Advisory Committee is working on a revised street tree list; stewardship plans for conservation properties; the Tree Benefits Campaign; applying for a grant this fall to help fund the benefits campaign.
- b. NeighborWoods Educational Series is set for October. Details of the four workshops are on the website and on-line registration is available.
- c. The PNWSA Training Conference, and the Fall Leaf Festival, both to be held in October, are listed on the Urban Forestry website for anyone interested in more information.
- d. Staffed attended the James Urban 'Up By the Roots' workshop in August.
- e. The Interlocal Agreement with Geiger Corrections has been signed. The nursery is planned to be up and running this fall.
- f. Operationally this month there were: no plantings; 22 trees pruned at various locations; 18 acres of fuels reduction/thinning work at Five Mile Water Tank; 10 additional trees removed at various locations; processed 27 permits representing 161 trees; and consulted on several different projects including installation of 3 steel containers around trees near 29th and Grand Blvd; Stormwater Improvement project at 14th and Lindeke; and Riverfront Park and YMCA projects.

2. Citizen Advisory Committee Report – per Garth Davis highlights include:

- a. Work continues on the Benefits of Trees Campaign. A DNR grant will be pursued to provide funding for the campaign.
- b. The Conservation Area Subcommittee is in the process of creating stewardship plans. Ben, Ed Miles and Eric Showquist are currently working on inventory at Hamblen Park.
- c. The Recommended Street Tree List Subcommittee will be reviewing the entire list species by species. There are five members on the committee. A member to represent retail nurseries is being sought. A recommendation of what should be dropped from the list and what should be added to it will be made to Angel.
- d. Fall Leaf Festival is October 15, 2011, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Finch Arboretum.

Around the Room:

1. Jim Santorsola asked how work release works. Angel explained that there are two programs; Geiger Corrections work crew and the Airway Heights Prison work crew. Each program allows crews to perform different activities. The Prison crew costs about \$685 per day and the cost for the Geiger crew is about half of that. The Prison crew has more skills. Crews are in demand around the area, so requests for one have to be submitted so they can be scheduled.
2. Chris Wright reminded everyone to vote for Reforest Spokane.

Meeting adjourned at 5:19 p.m.

Next meeting is scheduled for September 27, 2011, at 4:15 p.m. in the Woodland Center at Finch Arboretum. (Please note this is one week earlier than usual.)