



**City of Spokane
Citizen Advisory Committee to the
Urban Forestry Tree Committee**

3 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 30, 2021

WebEx Virtual Meeting

Katie Kosanke - Urban Forester

Committee Members:

- Matt Ugaleda (Absent)
- X Tim Kohlhauff
- X Beth LaBar
- X Guy Gifford
- X Toni Sharkey
- X Kris Neely
- Catherine Olsen (Absent/excused)
- Cindy Deffe (Absent)
- X Joe Zubaly
- Caleb McIlraith (Absent)

Parks Staff:

Katie Kosanke
Karin Cook

Guests:

Chelsea Updegrove
Paul Kropp

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 3:05 p.m. by member at-large Tim Kohlhauff.

Consent Agenda:

A quorum of committee members was not in attendance at the meeting. Approval of the July and November meeting minutes will be placed on the next committee agenda.

Discussion Items:

1. Ceremonies, Appointments, Announcements

- Chairperson's Role – Matt Ugaleda announced at last month's meeting he is resigning as chairperson of the CAC. He will continue to be a member of the committee as the utility representative. Tim asked if anyone on the committee would like to be considered for the chairperson role. Chelsea Updegrove is considering also serving on the UFCAC, as well as the UFTC and would consider the position, however, she would like another month to consider it.

Public Comments:

None were reported.

Standing Report Items:

1. Community Assembly

Paul Kropp reported the Community Assembly will nominate two more people Dec. 2 to participate on Park Board committees. He said the Park Board created a Development and Volunteer Committee which will also have a citizen advisory committee. The Community Assembly was invited to provide representatives for each committee, and two people were selected for those committees. Paul will introduce the new people at the next CAC meeting. Tim said it would be wonderful if the new people joining those committees are interested in being a part of the CAC, as well.

2. Staff Report

Katie Kosanke gave a staff report and summary of work taking place this winter.

The Urban Forestry crew will be removing several dead trees throughout the park system this winter.

The project to remove the section of small trees in Underhill Park that died due to beetle kill is being put on hold for now. Katie said they want to be sure they have good communication with people in the area to make sure everyone knows it is a park project and not a part of the nearby construction taking place to the east of the park. She said the trees are small diameter ponderosa pines that are in a tight area. She indicated there is already a lot of natural regeneration happening in the area. She said they shouldn't have to do much replanting, but replanting can be done if needed.

Winter work in Riverfront Park includes taking care of several small dead trees. A number of the ornamental pines in the park struggled this year, possibly due to drought-like conditions and some beetle activity.

The Urban Forestry crew assisted in placing holiday lights this week at Manito Park, along the route for the holiday show. Katie said it is a nice drive through event, and she encouraged everyone to drive through and see the lights and displays. Information about the event is on the Parks Department website. Katie will be volunteering several nights helping to direct traffic.

Windstorm summary – Katie reported there was minimal impact in the parks due to the recent windstorm. Out of thousands of trees throughout the park system, only seven trees were lost, which included several dead trees at the golf course. Urban Forestry crews were able to clean up most of the damage the same day, and what they couldn't get to they cleaned up the next day. The crew inspected every park to ensure nothing was missed and checked to be certain no trees were compromised. Overall, there were no significant losses throughout the park system.

CO inspections continue to come in at a rapid pace with lots of people trying to finish up projects for end of the season. Katie said Urban Forestry is starting seasonal bonding for landscapes that haven't been completed yet. Seasonal bonding is offered due to challenges at this time of year planting trees and finding trees due to many nurseries being closed for the season, and it allows for landscaping to be completed in the spring.

Each year, there are about half a dozen appeals for tree permits that are denied. There are currently three appeals coming up, including two next week and one the following week. Katie said if anyone is interested, she can send them her packets of information for the appeals so they can see how the appeals work. She gave a brief overview on the three appeals. She said she believes the hearings are public meetings if anyone is interested in attending and that the hearings may be live streamed, but

she wasn't sure. Guy Gifford asked why the trees are being requested to be removed. Katie gave an expanded overview of the information provided by the people submitting the appeals.

Old Business:

- Heritage Tree nomination – 1118 W Cleveland, maple tree

Tim Kohlhauff said they will revisit the Heritage Tree nomination for a maple tree at 1118 W Cleveland at the next committee meeting. The committee is awaiting additional information from the homeowners, the Powell's. Tim, Guy Gifford and Beth LeBar previously inspected the tree. Tim said they observed the tree had been topped many years ago and the structure was not in the best condition. The tree is on a property line with the neighbors and the Powell's may be nervous the neighbors want to remove the tree. Tim said the primary reason the Powell's are asking for the tree to be designated as a Heritage Tree is because they believe it may be of some historical significance. Tim would like to give the Powell's another opportunity to submit any additional information as to why the tree should be designated a Heritage Tree. He left the Powell's a voicemail message letting them know they could write down the additional information and submit. The committee suggested allowing the Powell's one more month to submit information they want considered as to why the tree should be designated a Heritage Tree.

- Other educational programs/program ideas:

Watering trees messaging – Guy Gifford's wife Ruth submitted a proposal with several options on how the committee might educate the public on the need to water trees and how to determine when it's time to water trees. It was determined that some of the terminology in the proposal may be too technical for public messaging. The scenarios given at the end of the proposal are good, and Katie said she thought the touch moisture test scenario would be good in video format along with a catchy phrase. Tim will go over the original proposal, take out some of the technical terminology and focus on some of the scenarios at the end of the proposal. He will also talk with Ruth again to see if she has any additional input. The committee will review any additional ideas received at the January committee meeting.

New Business:

- Downtown Spokane Partnership - possible tree program opportunity

The Downtown Spokane Partnership has expressed interest in partnering on a project to help keep the canopy downtown thriving and prevent removals/replacements, which are often attributed to watering issues. Katie will check on the timeline for the Washington State Department DNR Urban and Community Tree Grant program. She said the city could apply for the grant, or the Downtown Spokane Partnership could apply. Katie purchased gator watering bags and would like to brand them with a clever watering message and possibly find a sponsor. Committee members had several ideas on areas that could be focused on for the grant proposal. Ideas included updating the tree inventory, educational outreach, partnering with the green team or new tree team to monitor trees and catch issues early, provide

training to those teams on what to look for, recruit volunteers for monitoring the trees, and possibly assist owners with planting replacement trees. Katie asked for suggestions from the other committee members. She said anything we can do to help with the success of the canopy downtown would be beneficial.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 3:59 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting is 3 p.m. Jan. 4, 2022, via WebEx meeting.