



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

3 p.m. Tuesday, April 12, 2022
Special Meeting – Field Trip to Camp Sekani
Katie Kosanke - Urban Forester

Committee Members:

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

Parks Staff:

Katie Kosanke

MINUTES

The field trip at Sekani included reviewing the burn areas and natural and recently planted ponderosa pine seedlings. Unfortunately, many of the members were unable to attend, so it was a small group.

It was observed the natural occurring tree seedlings are growing much better than those which were planted in the fall of 2021. Although some of the planted seedlings are succeeding, some of them were browsed (eaten) by deer. Guy Gifford, who is a forester with WA DNR, mentioned the planted nursery grown seedlings are full of nutrients and are more frequently browsed by deer. Guy also pointed out how the downed material is providing habitat for various species of wildlife. Wildlife seen on the field trip included chipmunks, deer, an osprey, hawks and various cavity nesting birds. As a forester, Guy asked the goals for the site which is used heavily for its recreational value including disc golf, hiking, mountain biking and day camps. Katie responded goals are for it to be a safe recreational site for users and to re-establish the tree canopy, which park users are accustomed to.

Although citizens want to help the site recover as quickly as possible, the forest on its own is recovering well and new ponderosa pines are sprouting naturally throughout the burn area. The only items discussed for improvement of maintenance was lop and scattering some of the downed material, so it is in contact with the ground to encourage deterioration. As the material breaks down,

it will provide much needed organic matter into the soil. Leaving some small piles of downed material for wildlife value is also recommended.

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