

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

3 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 31, 2023 Hybrid in-person and WebEx virtual meeting Katie Kosanke - Urban Forester

Committee Members:

- X Kris Neely Chair
- X Tim Kohlhauff (Absent Excused)
- X Beth LaBar Guy Gifford – (Absent)
- X Toni Sharkey
- X Catherine Olsen Cindy Deffe – (Absent)
- X Joe Zubaly (Joined 3:07 p.m.)

Parks Staff:

Katie Kosanke Karin Cook

Guests:

Matt Stewart – Spokane Conservation District Kyle Merritt – City of Spokane Water Department Ben Kappan – Avista Utilities

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 3:07 p.m. by committee chair Kris Neely who opened the meeting with introductions.

Approval of Minutes:

The minutes from the January 3 meeting will be reviewed at the next committee meeting.

Discussion Items:

- 1. Ceremonies, Appointments, Announcements
 - Current openings on the committee include representatives for the at large, downtown, historic preservation, and utility positions. Several people who attended the meeting are interested in a position on the committee.
 - Letter of Interest Matt Stewart with the Spokane Conservation District submitted his letter of interest for the committee to consider appointing him to one of the open committee positions. Katie asked the committee to consider appointing Matt to the open historic preservation position. She indicated the position has been very hard to fill and has been open for at least 4 years. She also went over some of Matt's qualifications that would make him a good fit for this position. Some of those qualifications include he currently works at the Spokane Conservation District, is an arborist, wood worker, and lives in a historic neighborhood. The historic preservation office and the director of parks both gave their consent for Matt to be appointed to the historic preservation position on the committee.

In addition, the committee reviewed Matt's letter of interest and an email from a citizen, James Bergdahl, who had concerns about Matt's qualifications for appointment to the historic preservation position. They also heard from Matt as to why he would like to be appointed to this position and discussed if Matt should be appointed to the historic preservation position or may be better suited to the at large position. In addition to the qualifications already mentioned, Matt said he has some experience of historical preservation of trees and their surroundings. He advised he has worked on historic properties mainly on the south hill and various other properties around town and when he worked for the City of Spokane, he also worked in local areas that were of historical nature as well.

Joe Zubaly made a motion to appoint Matt to either of the open positions, either the historic preservation or at large position. He then withdrew his motion.

Toni Starkey made a motion to appoint Matt to the historic preservation representative position. Joe Zubaly seconded the motion. A vote was taken to appoint Matt Stewart to the historic preservation position and passed unanimously 5-0.

Public Comments: Via Email - An email was received from a citizen, James Bergdahl, regarding concerns he has about Matt Stewart's qualifications to be appointed to the historic preservation position on the CAC.

Standing Report Items:

1. Community Assembly – No report.

2. Staff Report:

Katie Kosanke reported Urban Forestry is working on their Annual Work Plan, which is an outlook of the work that will be done this year. Katie will present the Annual Work Plan for 2023 at the next committee meeting. Urban Forestry staff are working on regular maintenance in the parks including formative young tree pruning, clearance pruning and removals of dead trees throughout the park system. She also noted the UF department has been short staffed with an employee out for a month on jury duty.

Old Business:

- Watering trees educational messaging Spokane Tree Watering Quick Guide Brochure Katie Kosanke
 - A few minor changes were made to the brochure and an updated brochure will be sent out to the committee for review. There will still be time to make further adjustments to the brochure if needed before it is distributed in the spring.

New Business:

<u>2022 Annual Report</u> – Katie Kosanke presented the 2022 Annual Report.

There were many accomplishments this year and many successful community tree plantings citywide. There were 408 trees planted by Urban Forestry staff, through The Land Council SpoCanopy partnership program, and through park and city projects. There were also 1,000 seedlings distributed through a giveaway event this year. Some of the projects included two Susie Forest trees that were planted early in the season, 72 trees planted at Upriver Park and 20 trees planted at the downtown library.

An Earth Day Tree Planting Event was held at Comstock Park. Restoration efforts continue at the park and thirty trees were planted at the event. The Lands Council assisted with volunteer recruitment and event planning.

Urban Forestry worked with On-Track Academy and Pacific Education Institute again this year. A tree symposium was held in the spring. It was a very lively event which included arts, crafts, and activity tables, as well as a tree planting demo. There were many project displays including student's artwork, poster board displays, other tree work projects they have done and stained art glass pieces with trees on them. PEI has done a lot of work to build Urban Forestry curriculum into the classroom and that curriculum can also be sued by any teacher, as well as across the State of Washington.

In conjunction with the Tree Symposium, On-Track Academy and PEI gave away 1,000 seedlings. Five hundred seedlings were given away at the event and 500 were distributed through the School District. Bartlett Tree Experts provided the seedlings for the giveaway.

An Arbor Day Celebration was held in the spring. The in-person event returned after a two-year hiatus. It was a fun day and included a ceremonial tree planting with help from the Girl Scouts. The WSU Master Composters and Recyclers were also there with their composting program.

Twenty-four street trees were planted by On-Track Academy and PEI around their school and in their Bemiss Neighborhood. The students had lots of fun planting the trees and were excited to be a part of the planting program. They took pictures to share on their social media accounts and they know the many benefits of trees from all they have learned in the classroom. PEI funded the trees through a WA DNR grant. On-Track Academy also renewed their Tree Campus USA accreditation. This is the second year they have received that accreditation. Their campus was the first in the nation to have this accreditation, so they are a founding campus of the program.

Spring and Fall Street tree plantings were completed through the SpoCanopy Program in partnership with The Lands Council. The Lands Council received an Ecology grant to provide 200 trees. A Spokane Scape add on was done at many locations where additional turf was removed and drought tolerant plants were installed. A total of 200 trees were planted. Volunteers planted 80 and a 120 were planted by a contractor.

Twenty trees were planted along Park Blvd for the Susie Forest. Nancy MacKerrow of the Susie Forest donated the trees and has also committed to financing 20 more trees in 2023. There were also numerous individual Susie Forest trees donated in 2022.

The Fall Leaf Festival was held at the end of October. The in-person event returned after a two-year hiatus. The weather was great and there were many people in attendance. There were several new additions to the event including lively music and a coffee vendor and kettle corn vendor. Many vendors participated to make this a great event and there were various new educational booths, interactive displays, etc. UF is looking into sponsorships for the vendors for 2023. This would allow for a fully free event with no pressure for attendees to purchase anything.

Urban Forestry planted a giant Sequoia tree in appreciation of the Engineering staff's giant efforts in protecting trees during their various projects. UF has great communication and collaboration with the Engineering Department. They will often design around trees to limit impacts to trees and they take input from Urban Forestry staff and often redesign if asked.

The Urban Forestry Crew accomplished a lot of work this year. Some of their work tasks included routine pruning, removals of dead trees in parks, fuel reduction projects, mulching of park trees and storm damage response.

This year the Urban Forestry arborist crew field operations planted 116 trees, pruned 443 trees, and did 107 removals. In addition, they spent 414 hours on other items, which included time spent on stump grinding, mulching, pesticide application, nursery care, mowing, weeding, equipment maintenance, safety training, storm cleanup and more.

Scope of works for Engineering Construction Projects, Street tree permits and inspections, development plan reviews, demo permit reviews, and Certificate of Occupancy inspections are all performed by Urban Forestry Specialist, Becky Phillips.

In 2022 Becky performed tasks for 30+ various City Engineering Projects, which includes a Tree Scope of Work for each project to ensure public and street tree impacts are minimized when city projects are under construction. For each project she identifies any trees that could be impacted by the projects and advises Engineering on what trees need protected during the project and what trees may need clearance pruning or to be removed prior to the project. Abutting property owners are also sent a letter advising them if any trees need to be removed as a part of the project.

Becky also reviewed and issued 452 street and public tree permits for 2,725 trees, completed 248 Development Plan Reviews, reviewed and signed off on 328 Certificates of Occupancies, and reviewed 97 demo permits.

- Permitted tasks included:
 - Plant 496 (this number includes trees planted as a part of landscaping requirements for new building)
 - o Prune 1,348

- Remove 512 (removals must meet criteria and be in declining condition)
- Root treat 132
- Protect 371
- Total tree tasks 2,725

Urban Forestry received two awards this year in recognition of all the work they have done. A Community Collaborator of the Year award from PEI and a Conservation Award from Daughters of the American Revolution.

UF cannot do this work alone and are grateful for all the volunteers who assist in these efforts. In 2022 there were 283 volunteers and a total of 1,743 volunteer hours. Committee member volunteers had an average of 500 volunteer hours. The Lands Council committed time to recruit volunteers and assist with planning planting events and the SpoCanopy Program spent approximately 80 hours a month working on planting projects and communicating with homeowners. Volunteers also assisted with watering at Audubon and Comstock Park during the hot summer months.

Toni Sharkey asked if the Tree Symposium and seedling giveaway will be happening again this year and if a date has been set. Katie advised she believes it will be the Saturday before Arbor Day, which is April 22. They are just in the beginning stages of planning for this event. If anyone is interested in volunteering, they can let Katie know. The school may need assistance with planning the event and help on the day of the event.

Kris Neely suggested sharing the 2022 Annual Review presentation at one of The Lands Council board meetings. Katie said she would be happy to share the presentation at one of their board meetings. She also said she would like to work on a recognition program to give them an award and thank them for all their efforts in pursuing grant funding, coordinating volunteers and all the other things they have been assisting UF with. Toni or Kris will ask at the next Lands Council meeting about Katie presenting and see when they can get a spot for her to make her presentation.

Arbor Day 2023 planning is underway. Some items being discussed are securing sponsors to cover refreshments and games for families. If anyone has ideas or wants to be a part of planning the event let Katie know.

Other Program Ideas: None.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 3:51 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting is 3 p.m. Feb. 28, 2023.

January 24, 2023

Garret Jones

Director of Parks and Recreation

City of Spokane

808 West Spokane Falls Blvd.

Spokane, WA 99201

Dear Mr. Jones

I am writing to express my interest in serving on the Urban Forestry Citizen Advisory Committee. Please consider me to fill one of the vacant positions.

I have been an ISA Certified Arborist since 2000 and I am currently the Quarry Stewardship Coordinator for the Spokane Conservation District. In this role, I'm responsible for a wide range of projects on 50 acres of forested land situated on 8th and Havana streets and other properties within Spokane County.

Throughout my arboriculture career in our area, I have worked for two local nurseries, Gibson's and Blue Moon, operated my own tree care business, and worked in the Urban Forestry Department for the City of Spokane.

My wife and I feel fortunate to have been able to raise our two boys within walking distance of Manito Park, where we were able to enjoy all that city parks have to offer and witness, firsthand, the benefits of our urban forest. With my chosen field of work and a natural love of trees, I hope I would be able to add to the already great collection of committee members.

Thanks for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Matt Stewart

From: <u>James Bergdahl</u>

To: <u>Cook, Karin; Kosanke, Katie</u>

Subject: January 31 Urban Forestry Citizen Advisory Committee_ Historic Preservation vacanciy

Date: Friday, January 27, 2023 12:27:43 PM

[CAUTION - EXTERNAL EMAIL - Verify Sender]

Re: Urban Forestry Citizen Advisory Committee_ Historic Preservation member vacancy

Dear CAC members,

Is Matt Stewart active in *Historic Preservation* in Spokane, or is he applying for this CAC vacancy just because it is an open seat? Has this applicant been endorsed by the City of Spokane Historic Preservation Office, or Spokane Preservation Advocates?

The person who fills this position should specifically have experience in

historic preservation issues. Nothing Mr. Stewart mentioned in his letter suggests this to me. This person would be a better fit as an at-large member or as a representative of arboriculture businesses, e.g the position Mr. Zulaby has occupied for decades.

James Bergdahl

active participant in Spokane's Historic Preservation community Cannon Streetcar Historic Neighborhood 919 S. Adams St. Spokane, WA

On Fri, Jan 27, 2023 at 11:13 AM Cook, Karin < kcook@spokanecity.org > wrote:

Good morning,

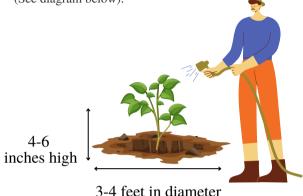
Please click <u>HERE</u> to view the 3 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 31, Urban Forestry Citizen Advisory committee meeting agenda packet.

The Jan. 31 Urban Forestry Citizen Advisory committee meeting will be held in the 1st floor lobby **Tribal** conference room at City Hall, 808 W. Spokane Falls Blvd. Committee members, staff, presenters, and the public still have the option to participate virtually via WebEx during all meetings.

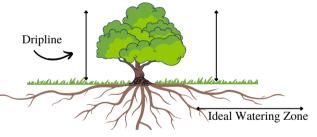
Tree Watering Distance

Target the tree root system when watering!

Newly planted trees: form a small temporary
watering well around the tree, about 3-4 feet in
diameter and about 4-6 inches high to focus water
(See diagram below).



For young trees: 2-3 years after planting, extend the watering zone to the dripline. (See diagram below).



For an established tree: 3+ years, picture a wine glass on

a dinner plate. The wine glass is the tree above ground. The dinner plate is the root system - much broader and shallower than people think. Most roots are in the top two feet of soil.

A hose, soaker hose, drip heads, or other sprinklers may be used to water the tree.

Water the roots, but not the trunk of the tree. Remember to keep an eye on watering duration. Infrequent deep watering to wet the entire root zone is best for the tree.

TIPS

- Frequent watering leads to shallow roots, which dry out more quickly.
- In summer heat, water at the coolest times of day, preferably in the early morning.

Types of Soils

- Sand: gritty texture, which has space for air and water, but don't retain water well.
- **Silt**: smooth texture, which has space for air and water; it's better at holding water than sand.
- Clay: thick, heavy texture, which holds water extremely well. However, clay soils are vulnerable to compaction and to becoming waterlogged. For this reason, trees may not grow as well in soils high in clay.
- Loam: mix of sand, silt, and clay. Loamy soils combine the advantages of all three soils mentioned above while minimizing their disadvantages; ideal for tree growth.

How Do I Know When to Water?

Test the moisture level of your soil!

- **1.**Go to a spot about half-way between the trunk of the tree and the dripline.
- **2.**Insert a garden trowel approximately 4 inches into the soil.
- **3.**Withdraw the trowel, then insert your hand or fingers into the opening you just made.
- **4.**If soil sticks to your fingers, then you don't need to water.
- **5.**If your fingers come out relatively clean, or if the soil feels dry, it's time to water.





SPOKANE TREE WATERING QUICK GUIDE



Contact Us

www.urbanforestry.org 509.363.5495 urbanforestry@spokanecity.org



Trees need water to live and grow. In Spokane, trees live in a "high desert" environment, which requires more water because during warm or hot days the trees lose large amounts of water through their leaves to keep cool. As a tree grows, it may take more than 100 gallons of water a day during the summer.

Watering Basics

The most critical factor in the establishment and survival of young trees is proper watering. Too little or too much watering can damage the roots, weaken the tree, and make it susceptible to insects and disease. For a quick check on younger trees (1-3 years), when the soil feels dry an inch below the surface - it is time to water.

Seasonality

Tree water needs vary by season. In Spokane, the growing season may vary from one year to another. Generally speaking, the growing season stretches from April to late October. Some years, a late or early winter may impact this timeline.

Spring: Trees may not need additional water during a rainy spring. Use the soil moisture test (see watering) and water if dry.

• Trees near house foundations, under eaves, or other coverings get little water from precipitation, so keep an eye on them.

Summer: Trees need additional water during the long, hot summers of Eastern Washington.

- Trees with southern, southwestern, or western exposures often show more heat stress and must be watered more frequently.
- Reflected heat from housing walls, driveways, and sidewalks increases stress on trees and so trees must be watered more frequently.
- Native trees, such as Ponderosa pine or Douglas fir, that have been in the ground a few years may need less frequent watering.

Fall: Continue watering until mid-fall. Taper down as lower temperatures arrive.

Winter: Trees, especially evergreens, continue to use some water throughout the winter.

 Watering trees late into the fall will help prevent winter water stress. However, when heavy rain or snow soak the ground, stop watering.

How Often Should I Water?

Establishing a basic watering routine is one key to a healthy tree. Let's look at the primary growth stages of a tree.

- Newly planted. After a tree is planted, water the root zone to eliminate air pockets.
- Once planted, keep the soil moist but not soaked. Start with five gallons of water per inch of trunk diameter per week and adjust as needed to keep the soil evenly moist. Water trees at least once a week, barring rain, and more frequently during hot weather (but remember not to over water.)
- Mulching newly established trees helps prevent moisture loss. For more information on proper mulching refer to the City of Spokane "Tree Stewardship Guide."
- Planted, 1-3 years old. Young trees should be watered deeply once or twice a week.
 Establishing a regular weekly watering schedule, such as the five gallons of water per inch of trunk diameter (see above), is a good start.
- After 3 years. Stick with your weekly
 watering schedule, increasing water amounts
 as the tree trunk diameter grows. However,
 keep in mind that once the tree has become
 established, it can survive somewhat longer
 periods without water. The soil around large
 trees can be allowed to dry to two inches
 deep before the tree requires watering again.



Urban Forestry



2022 Annual Report



January 31, 2023



Community Trees Planted

Community Trees Planted (Citywide)					
	2022	2022	2022	2022	2022
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	TOTAL
Urban Forestry/Parks	2	87	0	27	116
SpoCanopy	0	100	0	100	200
City Projects	0	92	0	00	92
Seedling Giveaway	0	1000	0	0	1000
TOTAL (trees)	2	261	0	127	1408

Q1: 2 Susie trees planted early in the season.

Q2: 30 trees for Earth Day at Comstock, 24 new trees with PEI/On Track Academy students, 40 with TLC SpoCanopy, 60 with SpoCanopy contract funding, 72 trees at Upriver Park, 20 trees at downtown library, 1,000 seedlings through giveaway event.

Q3: no trees were planted in this quarter due to hot temps.

Q4: 100 SpoCanopy trees – 40 planted by volunteers, 60 planted by a contractor and 20 Susie Forest trees donated along Park Blvd.

Earth Day Tree Planting Event



- 30 Trees planted at Comstock Park
- Assistance from The Lands Council with volunteers and event planning
- Continued reforestation efforts







Tree Symposium



- On-Track Academy and PEI
- Tree Planting demo
- Symposium project displays
- Arts, Craft and activity tables









Tree Seedling Giveaway

- 1,000 Seedlings!
- 500 at Event 500 distributed through the School Dist
- On-Track Academy and PEI
- Thanks to sponsors!





Arbor Day Celebration

- Event returns!
- Lively Event
- Ceremonial tree planting with Girl Scouts
- WSU Master Composters





Pacific Education Institute / On-Track

24 trees planted in Bemiss Neighborhood

 On Track Academy and Pacific Education Institute in NE Spokane

- PEI funded the trees / WA DNR Grant
- + Education program Tree Campus USA!





SpoCanopy Street Tree Plantings

- Partnership with The Lands Council
- Spring and Fall Plantings
- + Spokane Scape at many locations
- 200 trees total planted
 - 80 volunteers , 120 by contractor









Susie Forest Planting



- 20 trees along Park Blvd
- Trees donated by Susie Forest
- Committed to 20 more trees in 2023!
- Numerous individual Susie trees







Fall Leaf Festival

- Event returns! (w/ great weather)
- Lively music
- Coffee and kettle corn vendor
- Various new educational booths, interactive displays, etc.







Engineering Dept Collaboration

- A giant sequoia for engineering staff's giant efforts!
- Often design around trees
- Limit impacts
- Takes input from UF staff, often redesigns
- We appreciate our "tree hugging" city engineers!



UF Crew Work

- Routine pruning
- Removals of dead trees
- Fuels reduction
- Mulching
- Storm Damage response





Field Operations – Arborist Crew

Urban Forestry arborist crew field operations					
	2022	2022	2022	2022	2022
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	TOTAL
Planting	2	87	0	27	116
Pruning	133	62	201	47	443
Removals	23	17	51	16	107
TOTAL (trees)	230	233	277	228	968
*Other (hrs)	77	53	60	224	414

^{*}Other = stump grinding, mulching, pesticide application, nursery care, mowing, weeding, equipment maintenance, safety training, storm cleanup, etc.

Engineering Construction Projects

- 30+ Projects in 2022
 - Interdepartmental billing to Engineering Services
 - Overlay / Chip Seals / Full Reconstructions / Business Districts
 - CSO's / Trails / Projects / School Safety Route projects / Sidewalks / Utilities, etc.

Master Task List for City Construction Projects:

- Project Consultation with Engineering Services
- 2. Public Meetings/Open House
- 3. Field Assessment
- 4. Scope of Work
- 5. Notice to property owners and occupants
- 6. General Pre-Construction Meeting
- 7. Issue Permit
- 8. On-site tree protection Pre-Con meeting
- Notice to Proceed
- 10. Inspection



Becky Phillips, UF Specialist

452 Tree Permits / 2,725 Trees 248 Development Plan Reviews 328 C.O.'s 30+ Engineering Projects

ALL just in 2022!

Street Tree Permits & Tasks

Street & Public Tree Permits	2022	2022	2022	2022	2022	
_	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	TOTAL	
	105	141	140	66	452	

Permitted Tasks	2022	2022	2022	2022	2022	
_	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	TOTAL	
Plant	89	130	202	75	496	
Prune	113	672	441	80	1348	
Remove	59	47	387	19	512	
Root Treat	1	13	118	0	132	
Protect	1	0	278	0	371	
TOTAL	263	862	1426	174	2725	

These figures represent the number of tree tasks performed and inspected through street tree permitting and the corresponding type of work performed.

Plan Review & CO Inspections

Street Tree Permits & Inspections, Development Plan Reviews, Demo Permit Reviews, and CO Inspections are all performed by our Urban Forestry Specialist, Becky Phillips.

Plan Review & Comment	2022	2022	2022	2022	2022	
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	TOTAL	
	71	55	71	50	247	

CO Inspections & Comment	2022	2022	2022	2022	2022	
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	TOTAL	
	87	106	89	46	328	

^{*}CO = Certificate of Occupancy

Demo Permit Review	2022	2022	2022	2022	2022
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	TOTAL
	19	21	29	28	97

Awards

- PEI Community Collaborator of the Year
- Daughters of the American Revolution –
 Conservation Award





Volunteer Hours

Volunteer Hours	2022	2022	2022	2022	2022
Urban Forestry (only)	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	TOTAL
Number of hours	314	663	392	374	1743
Number of Volunteers	28	143	16	96	283

- + UF Committee 500 hours / year average
- We cannot do it alone!
- THANK YOU!











Questions?