

SPOKANE PARK BOARD

Regular Monthly Study Session - 3:00 P.M. – February 9, 2012 – City Hall Conference Room 5A

Notes

1. **Roll Call:** *Jacki Faught*

2. **Presentation:**
 - A. Guy Gifford, Northeast Region Forester, Washington State Department of Natural Resources gave an overview of DNR programs and State grant opportunities. The Landowner Assistance Section's purpose is to assist forest landowners meet their goals and objectives for their land. They offer technical assistance, grants and the Firewise Communities program. Two of the main species of trees found in our local area are Ponderosa Pine, also known as the bull pine or yellow pine, and the Douglas Fir, also known as the Red Fir. Mr. Gifford explained how bark beetles can damage and kill trees and that trees use pitch as their natural defense to these beetles. Healthy trees with plenty of water sunlight and food can better ward off the insects. Mr. Gifford advised that Mistletoe, not the kind that you get at Christmas, is a disease that afflicts our forests. It is not considered a tree killer and is native to the area. Mistletoe spreads very slowly. He spoke about the natural process in the Ponderosa pine forests

3. **Adjournment**
 - A. Next Park Board Study Session will be joint with City Council: March 8, 2012, 3:00 p.m. or as soon as possible thereafter directly following the Regular Park Board meeting, in the Council Briefing Center

Please Note: Agenda is subject to change

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA) INFORMATION: The City of Spokane is committed to providing equal access to its facilities, programs and services for persons with disabilities. The Spokane City Council Chamber in the lower level of Spokane City Hall, 808 W. Spokane Falls Blvd., is

wheelchair accessible and also is equipped with an infrared assistive listening system for persons with hearing loss. Headsets may be checked out (upon presentation of picture I.D.) at the City Cable 5 Production Booth located on the First Floor of the Municipal Building, directly above the Chase Gallery or through the meeting organizer. Individuals requesting reasonable accommodations or further information may call, write, or email Liane Carlson at (509) 625-6703, 808 W. Spokane Falls Blvd, Spokane, WA, 99201; or lcarlson@spokanecity.org. Persons who are deaf or hard of hearing may contact Liane at (509) 625-6703 through the Washington Relay Service at 7-1-1. Please contact us forty-eight (48) hours before the meeting date.

SPOKANE PARK BOARD

Regular Monthly Study Session - 3:37 P.M. – February 9, 2012 – City Hall Conference Room 5A

Notes

1. Members Present: Randy Cameron, President; Jim Santorsola, Ross Kelley, Chris Wright, Susan Traver, Ken Van Voorhis, Andy Dunau, Sam Selinger

Absent Excused: Martha Lou Wheatley-Billeter; Jim Quigley, Vice President; Mike Allen

Staff Present: Leroy Eadie; Mike Aho; Carl Strong; Angel Spell; Taylor Bressler; Garrett Jones; Rebecca Madany; Tony Madunich; Debby Dodson; Jack Busch; Jacki Faught

2. **Presentation:**

- A. Guy Gifford, Northeast Region Forester, Washington State Department of Natural Resources gave an overview of DNR programs and State grant opportunities. The Landowner Assistance Section's purpose is to assist forest landowners meet their goals and objectives for their land. The DNR offers technical assistance, grants and the Firewise Communities program. Two of the main species of trees found in our local area are Ponderosa Pine, also known as bull pine or yellow pine, and Douglas Fir, also known as the Red Fir. Mr. Gifford explained how bark beetles can damage and kill trees and that trees use pitch as their natural defense to these beetles. Healthy trees with plenty of water sunlight and food can better ward off the insects. Mr. Gifford advised that Mistletoe, not the kind that you get at Christmas, is a disease that afflicts our forests. This disease is not considered a tree killer, is native to the area and spreads very slowly. He also spoke about the natural process in the Ponderosa pine forests. Historically naturally occurring low burning fire has been an integral part of keeping our forests healthy. Current fire protection laws prevent this natural process from happening and negatively affected the health of our forests. The lack of slow burning low natural fires creates more fuels and an increased risk of larger fires. DNR offers matching funds grants to thin and prune trees and clean up the slash created from the operation. With these grants the landowner is responsible for 50% of the cost. There is a maximum that the DNR will pay per acre. The landowner's matching portion can be in the form of money or in kind labor. Recently the DNR made these monies available to City and County properties which historically had not been an option. Our Urban Forestry Department has been awarded \$10,000 this year for work in Palisades. The DNR offers Firewise Communities program that is modeled after the Tree City USA program. The Palisades Neighborhood is becoming a Firewise Community and this will include Palisades Park. Firewise Communities can potentially qualify for more grants.

3. **Adjournment** – 4:21 p.m.

- A. Next Park Board Study Session will be joint with City Council: March 8, 2012, 3:30 p.m. directly following the Regular Park Board meeting, in the City Council Briefing Center