



City of Spokane Park Board Urban Forestry Tree Committee Meeting

Tuesday, March 2, 2021, 4:15 p.m.
WebEx Virtual Meeting
Katie Kosanke - Urban Forester

Committee Members:

- X Rick Chase – Chair
- X Jennifer Ogden
- X Matt Ugaldea
- A Kevin Cash
- X Chelsea Updegrove
- A Barb Richey – Alternate

Parks Staff:

Katie Kosanke
Angel Spell

SUMMARY

- Angel Spell presented the information item 'Neighborhood Urban Tree Canopy Analysis' which is an overview of initial results from data collected by Gonzaga University students. The data shows the land cover percentage of urban tree canopy, as well as other land classes, for each Neighborhood and Neighborhood Council District along with ecosystem benefit valuations. At a minimum, the data is expected to inform current and future projects and programs.
- Matt Ugaldea gave an update on the Citizen Advisory Committee and the projects they are working on including a seeding giveaway program with The Lands Council, and a Consumer Awareness piece about hiring qualified arborists for tree risk assessments after the windstorm.
- Katie Kosanke provided an Urban Forestry update which included storm clean-up and restoration efforts, a new part-time Admin Assistant has been assisting with office duties, a chainsaw safety course is being formalized with the Safety Team and provided information about the hillside landslide impacts to trees at Elm and Clarke.
- The Financial Report was not available and will be included in the April agenda.

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 4:16 p.m. by committee chair Rick Chase.

Discussion Items:

1. [Neighborhood Urban Tree Canopy Cover Analysis](#)

Angel presented overview of initial results from data collected by Gonzaga University students for a capstone project. The data includes the land cover percentage of urban tree canopy for each Neighborhood Council District along with ecosystem benefit valuation in the categories such as carbon, air quality, and hydrological (stormwater benefits). At minimum, this data is expected to inform current and future projects and programs such as: 1) Parks & Open Space Master Plan; 2) SpoCanopy partnership tree planting initiative; 3) Master Planting Plan developed by EWU students; and 4) state grants and partnerships with grantees.

Angel explained in putting the data together, students used i-Tree Canopy software, an open source web-based modeling tool created by many partners including US Forest Service. The program includes many robust tools and i-Tree Canopy is just one of the features in the toolbox. The software works by randomizing point data over aerial imagery. Points are classified with different landcover classes, including canopy cover. It then provides an ecosystem benefits summary per each neighborhood. Environmental Programs put the final summary together which provides a great visual. Neighborhoods are outlined in the summary map, and darker shades indicate more canopy cover, as lighter colors show areas with lower canopy cover percentages. District 1 in Northeast Spokane has much lower canopy cover. The summary is broken out by Council Districts then sub-categories within the three Council Districts to provide neighborhood level information. The report also includes corresponding annual benefit values the tree are providing such as improving air quality, carbon sequestration and hydrological/stormwater benefits. Each neighborhood report sheet displays data points and land cover categories, and a report out a summary of benefits provided including a monetary value of provided benefits.

Chairman Rick Chase asked about the canopy cover goal percentage, Angel Spell mentioned City Council adopted 40% Canopy Cover as an aspirational goal. Some neighborhoods exceed this already; however, most are much lower. The tool will assist in tracking progress over the next 10 years. Rick asked if the canopy cover information could be brought to an upcoming Park Board Meeting, and Angel Spell replied she will plan to present to that group soon.

Standing Report Items:

1. [Citizen Advisory Report](#)

Matt Ugaldea shared items discussed during the March Citizen Advisory Committee meeting. New members will soon be appointed from Community Assembly, and both applicants seem to be a great fit for the committee with diverse background and a great interest in urban forestry. Matt mentioned Angel shared the Canopy Cover analysis information at the CAC meeting as well and committee members look forward to seeing where it may go. At their next meeting, the groups will talk about the report in greater detail as well. Katie's monthly report included storm damage clean up and planning for restoration activities. A sub-committee group is finishing up an education program article about making informed decisions about tree removal and the importance of working with a qualified

arborist, as there has been great need for this information after the major storm. The CAC is planning to assist with a free seedling distribution program for the spring with The Lands Council with a massive seedling distribution between Earth Day and Arbor Day.

2. Urban Forestry monthly Update

Katie Kosanke presented a brief monthly update and mentioned focus has been on completing storm damage clean up, and getting the logs sent to the mill. Staff encountered difficulties hiring contractors for this work, as demand is up, and many are not interested in projects which require simple contracts with the City. 25 companies were contacted, and staff finally got two under contracts. Logs will be moved off golf courses first since they open soon, then logs will be removed at parks. Log hauling is expected to be accomplished within a week or two using both contractors. Some revenue is expected for restoration efforts and is an environmentally friendly option, so the carbon is stored in the wood. Hauling to the mill also prevents having to pay to dispose of the debris. Staff will be planning for restoration plantings, and a planting in the Fall at Comstock and Audubon is planned with The Lands Council's Reforest Spokane Day event. Many will be included in the planning process as there has been great interest. Staff will work Parks Planning to discuss opportunities to scale back on the turf in low/no use areas while providing better native-like conditions for native species. The Urban Forestry office has been contacted by many people who are interested in efforts for fundraising, volunteering, and other ways to support staff, which has been a great pleasure. A fundraising campaign will soon be launched.

In the office, there is a new part-time admin assistant helping with the vacant full-time position duties, which is a welcome sight as busy spring quickly approaches. Staff are also working to plan a chainsaw safety course for not only parks, but for public works employees too, as they respond to storm cleanup in their areas and in streets. This training has already been offered on an annual or bi-annual basis; however, the Safety Team would like to have it offered more frequently. Staff are planning to formalize the training to include an educational video for the classroom training portion for efficiency.

At the intersection of Elm/Clarke there were some trees which failed onto active utility lines due to a landslide, as it was determined slope was moving about an inch a day downward. IN addition, two more pines had to be removed due to them being extremely high risk of failure. Engineering will be working to restore the hillside.

Rick asked for clarification about the logs going to the mills and possible revenue. Katie reported some revenue is to be expected, however, each load takes 4.5+ hours to Kettle Falls, WA so there will be significant hauling costs. After reviewing the numbers from the 2017 windstorm, it was determined the funds helped to cover some costs, so there shouldn't be any additional costs for hauling or disposal. Any revenue for restoration efforts is difficult to determine at this time, however, staff will provide that information once it is available. Rick asked about where funds go for replacements. City ordinance states revenue from wood is to go to the UF fund which will be used for restoration efforts and staff will verify that information.

Rick mentioned at the recent Golf Committee meeting, someone had brought up the courses really don't need any more trees, except maybe at Esmerelda on the north and west sides of the course.

Katie replied the plan is to replace trees 2:1 throughout the parks system, with a high number back on the courses. The trees do not have to be in the same spots and they will work closely with Parks

Planning and Golf Staff to plant replacement trees where it is ideal to meet golf and urban forestry goals.

Rick Chase inquired about an in-person event for Earth Day or Arbor Day. Angel Spell replied the events will be much different than the large gathering everyone is accustomed to. It will be a dispersed celebration as it was last year due to Covid-19.

3. Urban Forestry Financial Report

A Financial Report was not available. A financial update will be provided at the regularly scheduled April meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 4:54 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting is March 30, 2021, 4:15 p.m.

Spokane Park Board

Briefing Paper



Committee	Urban Forestry Tree Committee (UFTC)		
Committee meeting date	03/02/2021		
Requester	Angel Spell, Natural Resources	Phone number: 509-363-5493	
Type of agenda item	<input type="radio"/> Consent	<input type="radio"/> Discussion	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Information <input type="radio"/> Action
Type of contract/agreement	<input type="radio"/> New	<input type="radio"/> Renewal/ext.	<input type="radio"/> Lease <input type="radio"/> Amendment/change order <input type="radio"/> Other
City Clerks file (OPR or policy #)	N/A		
Item title: (Use exact language noted on the agenda)	Neighborhood Urban Tree Canopy Cover Analysis		
Begin/end dates	Begins:	Ends:	<input type="checkbox"/> Open ended
Background/history:			
Information item only - overview of initial results from data collected by Gonzaga University students showing the land cover percentage of urban tree canopy for each Neighborhood Council district along with ecosystem benefit valuation in the categories - carbon, air quality, and hydrological. At minimum, this data is expected to inform current and future projects and programs such as: 1) Parks & Open Space Master Plan; 2) SpoCanopy partnership tree planting initiative; 3) Master Planting Plan developed by EWU students; and 4) state grants and partnerships with grantees.			
Motion wording: n/a			
Approvals/signatures outside Parks: <input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No			
If so, who/what department, agency or company:			
Name:		Email address:	Phone:
Distribution:			
Parks – Accounting			
Parks – Pamela Clarke			
Requester:			
Grant Management Department/Name:			
Fiscal impact: <input type="radio"/> Expenditure <input type="radio"/> Revenue			
Amount:		Budget code:	
n/a			
Vendor: <input type="radio"/> Existing vendor <input type="radio"/> New vendor			
Supporting documents:			
<input type="checkbox"/> Quotes/solicitation (RFP, RFQ, RFB)	<input type="checkbox"/> W-9 (for new contractors/consultants/vendors)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Contractor is on the City's A&E Roster - City of Spokane	<input type="checkbox"/> ACH Forms (for new contractors/consultants/vendors)		
<input type="checkbox"/> UBI:	Business license expiration date:	<input type="checkbox"/> Insurance Certificate (min. \$1 million in General Liability)	