



**Special Meeting of the
Citizen Advisory Committee to the
Spokane Urban Forestry Tree Committee
and Park Board Urban Forestry Tree
Committee**

**Joint Field Trip/Meeting to the
Finch Arboretum**

3:00 p.m. Tuesday June 4, 2024

UFTC Committee Members:

- X Kevin Brownlee – Chair
- Nick Sumner (Absent - Excused)
- Kevin Cash (Absent - Excused)
- Kris Neely (Absent - Excused)
- Hannah Kitz – Alternate – (Absent - Excused)

Parks Staff:

- Al Vorderbrueggen
- Angel Spell
- Katie Kosanke
- Amber Ramirez
- Michael Urlacher

UFCAC Committee Members:

- Kris Neely – Chair (Absent - Excused)
- X Tim Kohlhauff
- Beth LaBar (Absent - Excused)
- Guy Gifford (Absent - Excused)
- Toni Sharkey (Absent - Excused)
- Cindy Deffe – (Absent - Excused)
- X Joe Zubaly
- X Matt Stewart
- Ben Kappen (Absent - Excused)
- Justyce Brant (Absent - Excused)
- Paul Lower (Absent – Excused)

Guests:

- Logan Callen

MINUTES

Approval of Minutes UFCAC: – April 2024

Lacking a quorum the minutes were not reviewed by the UFCAC members. The minutes will be reviewed at the next UFCAC meeting.

Ceremonies, Appointments, Announcements UFCAC:

- **Letter of Interest** – Logan Callen, Consideration of appointment (*action*)
Logan Callen expressed his interest to serve on the UFCAC committee in the seat previously filled by Kaitlin Millender. His appointment to the committee was not voted on by UFCAC members due to a lack of a quorum.

Committee and Reports:

- Community Assembly (UFCAC) - None

- Staff Report - Katie provided a brief update about spring planting projects throughout the parks system wrapping up and routine work ongoing.

Updates:

- IRA Grant Update, Amber Ramirez

Amber provided an update on the IRA Grant program including the education and outreach sub-award, moving the bid process forward for contract work, field inspections and new tree inventory software features.

- Finch Arboretum Update, Michael Urlacher

Michael provided an update about Finch staffing and routine work. Staff has been working hard to re-establish planting beds in Corey Glenn and more. He will soon submit for official Arboretum accreditation through the Morton Arboretum Arb Network program. Each year new qualifying items can be accomplished to reach higher steps of accreditation. Michael and Katie are also working to establish a newsletter for Finch and hold workshops series to continue to engage the space.

- Downtown Educational Program Update, Paul Lower

Paul was not in attendance. Katie provided a brief update about the 40 free street trees which were offered to downtown businesses when they committed to resolving irrigation issues, caring for the new tree(s) diligently, and hiring a tree service arborist for the planting as required by ordinance. All trees were claimed quickly, however, there still remains many trees to pick up and plant. A cutoff date for planting has been established as the program was intended to provide assistance for spring plantings, and to encourage the plantings to happen sooner than later.

- Finch Arboretum Willow Update (*informational item*), Katie Kosanke

Katie provided an update about the failing willow. The iconic willow planted in 1946 at Finch Arboretum has been a favorite of the arboretum for climbing and sitting on. With major recent changes in the tree (splitting apart between two stems) the tree is no longer safe to play on, and a fence has been placed around it. Urban Forestry staff met with Parks Planning to discuss possible ideas for the tree including a nature play area and/or an outdoor classroom and event area. It was decided to engage the public and provide a survey about what should be done with the area and determine next steps. After a public survey is conducted, staff will need to discuss funding mechanisms for implementation of future phases. The committee members suggested making a wood keepsake or other items from the tree. Matt Stewart will also be further consulted for ideas as a woodworker himself, and the lead of the local Urban Wood program. Other ideas included an event for fundraising, a “retirement” party for the tree where artists paint or photograph the tree and auction off their artwork. Another suggestion was for a display board to be placed for the community to place photos on featuring the tree over time – as it has been a very popular place for family and wedding photos.

Tour:

- Finch Arboretum burn area Restoration – Susie Forest Expo 50th Anniversary tree planting (*informational item*)

The committee toured the burn site and observed the restoration process. A number of dead trees were removed near trails, but many still stand for wildlife values, in areas of no public use. The area has been seeded with native plant seed which has germinated well. Some weed abatement is expected. The area has been in discussion to use as a tool about forest recovery after a major fire. The Susie Forest has donated funding for new plantings in this area of seedlings as part of the Susie Forest Expo 50th anniversary planting. Michael plans to plant ponderosa, larch, and Douglas fir for a mix of species over several years. Many ideas were talked about for the possibly of

educational workshops, interpretative signs and more where the restoration process can be learned about and viewed. Although fire can be detrimental to a property, restoration efforts can be highly effective and provide encouragement to those whose properties have been devastated by fire.

- Other Program and Partnership Ideas – None.

The next regularly scheduled UFCAC meeting is 3:00 p.m. Tuesday, July 2, 2024.

The next regularly scheduled UFTC meeting is 4:15 p.m. Tuesday, July 2, 2024.



April 3, 2024

Garret Jones
Director of Parks and Recreation
City of Spokane
808 West Spokane Falls Blvd.
Spokane, WA 99201

Dear Mr. Jones,

This letter is intended to showcase my interest in being appointed on the Urban Forestry Citizen Advisory Committee (UFCAC) as a representative from City departments.

Currently, I am an Environmental Analyst in the Environmental Programs Department at the City of Spokane. I manage the greenhouse gas reporting efforts for the City, and our City's trees are an important element in ways to reduce emissions. Prior to achieving my B.S. in Environmental Science and M.S. in Environmental Policy and Management, I attended Spokane Community College's Forestry program where I gained experience with our local tree species and forestry best practices.

In 2020, I also assisted Angel Spell in analyzing the iTree canopy coverage data that was later released in partnership with Gonzaga University. I have also attended a wide variety of tree planting events around the region since the early 2000s.

With climate adaptation and resiliency becoming a larger concern for our region, I would like to be part of the Urban Forestry Citizen Advisory Committee to help ensure our City is successful in achieving the PLANT ordinance goals.

Sincerely,

Logan Callen, MSc (he/him) | Environmental Analyst
City of Spokane | Public Works | Environmental Programs
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