
**URBAN FORESTRY COMMISSION
MEETING AGENDA**

**Nov. 16, 2011
8:00 AM**

Location: City Hall Council Chambers, 408 N Spokane Street

1. **CALL TO ORDER**
2. **ROLL CALL**
3. **CEREMONIES, APPOINTMENTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS**
4. **CONSENT AGENDA**
Minutes for October 19, 2011
5. **CITIZEN COMMENTS**
6. **STAFF COMMENTS**
Forester's Report
7. **OLD BUSINESS**
– Revision of Tree Standards Manual
8. **NEW BUSINESS**
Discussion Item – Good news about a possible tree give away in April.
9. **COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

10. **ADJOURNMENT**

Questions concerning items appearing on this Agenda or requests for accommodation of special needs to participate in the meeting should be addressed to the Urban Forestry Division or Office of the City Clerk, 408 Spokane Street or call 208-773-3511.

**URBAN FORESTRY COMMISSION
MEETING AGENDA**

**Oct. 19, 2011
8:00 AM**

Location: City Hall Council Chambers, 408 N Spokane Street

1. CALL TO ORDER

Called to order 0800

Pledge of Allegiance

2. ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present: Ralph Meyer, Katie Kosanke, Jackie McAvoy, Ray Getchius, Deborah Patterson

Commissioners Absent: Bill Cook (excused), Dave O'Brien

Also present: Brendan Murphy (Urban Forester), Melissa Parker (Recorder)

3. CEREMONIES, APPOINTMENTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

4. CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes for July 20, 2011

Move to consent Minutes of July 20, 2011 by McAvoy, seconded by Patterson: all in favor – motion carried

5. CITIZEN COMMENTS

None

6. STAFF COMMENTS

Forester's Report

Administration

Site Plan Reviews and Inspections

- ❖ Love's Truck Stop, Expressions Dance Studio, Kootenai Prosthetics, Underground Force Manufacturing, Silver Creek II, Phos Chek West Storage Building.

Maintenance

- ❖ Clearance pruning has been performed on approximately twenty locations around town. New trees have been planted at Black Bay, Greenway Park, Singing Hills and at the intersection of Chase and Seltice. Kosanke wanted to state how great it is that maintenance has been able to occur for the health of the trees and for street clearance. Murphy would like to make sure the clearance pruning is done more by

him than the Street Department due to the fact that the street department does not have arborists. The Factory Outlet Mall area is in need of maintenance. The chips from all the pruning from the ARRA grant are being used all throughout the city by the Parks crew. Also, two oak trees are still suffering at Black Bay and one will probably need to be replaced. Meyer questions if budget is sufficient to cover trees that need to be replaced. Murphy stated it is. Singing Hills will have six trees planted, four at the corner of Chase and Seltice, and a couple trees at Karen Streeter Greenway Park and the rest of the monies will go into the arboretum.

Projects

- ❖ Work will begin soon on the development of another arboretum to compliment the arboretum begun by the first Urban Forester of Post Falls, Mr. Del Jaquish. This arboretum will be south of the freeway on 5th Ave, between City Hall and Idaho St. and opposite the existing arboretum which is on the north side of the freeway. The two arboretum's will then be known as the north and south arboretum's respectively. The south arboretum will begin with the planting of some thirty trees. As with the north arboretum, each tree will have an identification tag with the common and botanical name attached to a form at the base of the tree.
- ❖ Panhandle Lake RC & D are considering helping Post Falls with a grant to fund the construction of a sound barrier for the Woodbridge subdivision. The type of barrier is undetermined at this stage but it would include shrub plantings to help beautify the area, which stretches about half a mile west of Pleasant View Rd for another half a mile west to State Line on the north side of Seltice. McAvoy believes this is a good idea. Work could begin as early as within the year.

7. OLD BUSINESS

Discussion Item – Revision of Tree Standards Manual

Murphy wanted to state he didn't want commission members to think a big overhaul was going to occur. He is happy with most of the manual. One change he'd like to see is getting contractor's off the hook for the trees for the three years after...Murphy believes that is a little rough for contractors. Another change he'd like to see is caliper being changed to 1 ¼". Getchius has read over and over again that a smaller tree does have a better survival rate than a larger tree. Also Murphy would like to expand list of street trees. He will be speaking with the local nurseries to get their input on what they think will grow well in our area and ask them to stock more of what we need and less of what we don't. Meyer stated Murphy is trying to address the over planting of certain trees in certain areas. Patterson believes these are good suggestions. Kosanke has a suggestion about street clearance in the manual and the fact that having clearance and visibility is important for safety. Murphy believes it is already in the manual but if it isn't he will look into that.

8. NEW BUSINESS

Discussion Item – Ideas for making Post Falls' Arbor Day a big event

National forest product week in October 16-22, 2011. Idaho Forest Product Commission has an essay contest for K-12. McAvoy believes it would be a good thing to encourage for our students. Also in the information from the Idaho Forest Products Commission it states that the Priest River experimental forest turns 100 years old. McAvoy stated a group, possibly in Bonners Ferry go to the grocery stores, get paper bags and have the students do the art work on those and then the children get a seedling. Meyer believes a ceremonial planting should be done somewhere on public property. Murphy needs to establish sponsorship, see if there is still a tree giveaway. Dave Fair, Director of Parks & Rec, is encouraging commission to make it a big event. We need to draw in the public and have a celebration. Patterson believes there are Arbor Day banners somewhere. Meyer believes the give-away was the big draw and seedlings wouldn't be a big enough draw. McAvoy stated at the fair, while she was in California, they would hand out seedlings and people would come back and talk about how the seedlings were doing from previous years. A good suggestion would be trying to do it at our own fair. Kosanke added it would be a good opportunity to give out care information. Murphy thinks it would be a good idea to ask the nurseries to be involved in the Arbor Day celebration. Murphy thinks it would be good to have the commission members try and get sponsors. Murphy knows of three to four organizations that would be willing to give seedlings. If there were sponsorship available for tree give-away we could give away one tree instead of three. It could be used as a clinic for information. Kosanke has a couple of ideas to make it a big event - there could be a free pancake feed or arts and craft activities, or nature tours, or raffle off a couple trees.

Discussion Item – Articles for public education regarding tree care.

Murphy would like to put a couple of articles in the paper about tree care, such as topping. Murphy believes that articles on tree care would help the public look after their trees. Some street trees on commercial properties have been topped that appear to be public property and are not at all. Citizens start wondering why the City isn't paying attention to their trees even though they are on private property. Meyer asked if Murphy has a program set up yet. Murphy stated he would like to ask the commission if they would like to write some articles for the education of the public. McAvoy believes it is interesting how advertisements are commonly found in the Nickel's Worth. Patterson thinks we should address plantings... most people plant trees too deep. Meyer was just looking at the commissions goals and this is good to continue to follow up on.

9. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Meyer would like to schedule a workshop to talk about the project out south of Corbin. Getchius suggested we call it a forest health experiment. He believes that this could help gather community support. McAvoy suggested the commission really needs to be involved in maintaining the history of this project. Possible date for workshop could be Oct 26 in the afternoon.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting will be November 16, 2011 at 8:00 a.m. There being no further business, Commissioner Getchius moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Kosanke. Motion carried. Time: 8:50 a.m.

Ralph Meyer, Chair

Melissa Parker, Recorder

Memorandum

To: Urban Forestry Commission
Cc: Media, Mayor & Council, City Administrator, City Clerk, Parks & Recreation
From: Brendan Murphy, Urban Forester
Date: 11/16/2011
Re: Forester's Report – November 16, 2011

Education and Training

Urban Forestry staff attended the Community Canopy's Fall workshop which was held at the Finch Arboretum in Spokane. The workshop included good pruning practices and tree species selection. The workshop was attended by approximately 40 professionals in the industry.

An article about the evils of topping trees will be appearing in the Nickle's Wirth soon, due to the fact we have had some bad public examples of it recently.

Maintenance

- ❖ A lot of work is being done to improve the tree rings in the City's parks. Urban Forestry staff is presently working hard with the Parks and Recreation staff to provide proper tree rings for the optimum growth of the trees. This includes making a radial circle of at least six feet around the tree, digging out sod and surrounding the tree with mulch that will help the tree grow in a number of ways. This work is now being done on the trees in the South Arboretum.

Projects

- ❖ The initial plantings of 50 trees in the South Arboretum took place in the last week of October. With the prospect of future funding available, another 25 trees could fit comfortably in the South Arboretum, bringing its total up to 110 (including the 35 existing trees). The North Arboretum has a total of 90 trees, making a total of 200 arboretum trees for Post Falls.