



**URBAN FORESTRY COMMISSION
MEETING AGENDA**

**Dec. 21, 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 November 16, 2011

5. CITIZEN COMMENTS

6. STAFF COMMENTS

Forester's Report

7. OLD BUSINESS

– Revision of Tree Standards Manual

8. NEW BUSINESS

Discussion Item – Raising the bar in 2012

- Increasing our involvement in the community
- Looking for opportunities to promote tree care and the use of green space
- Putting in a little more effort to everything we do this year

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**

**Nov. 16, 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, Bill Cook, Dave O'Brien

Commissioners Absent:

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

3. CEREMONIES, APPOINTMENTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

4. CONSENT AGENDA

Move to consent Minutes of October 19, 2011 by McAvoy, seconded by Patterson: all in favor – motion carried

5. CITIZEN COMMENTS

None

6. STAFF COMMENTS

Forester's Report

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 Worth soon, due to the fact we have had some bad public examples of it recently. Murphy thinks that needs to go out soon because some of the trees that have been topped are on private property but look like public trees.

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. There will be identification labels. Murphy suggests a trail and picnic tables to draw people there. McAvoy stated in the Post Falls Press there was an article and picture of Murphy planting the trees.

7. OLD BUSINESS

Revision of Tree Standards Manual

Chapter 3 Planting – Page 7, point 4...caliper size needs to be reduced to 1 ¼" for residential trees. Point 5 states the contractor who planted the tree is responsible for it for three years. Murphy would like to change it to one year. The problem is the home owners are not caring for the trees and it isn't the fault of the contractor who properly planted the tree. Weed wacking is the main issue with tree death. These changes do not have to be addressed with ordinance. Also, Murphy would like to add 15 new trees to the tree species list. He will speak with nurseries to see if they will be able to provide trees for contractors so every one will be on the same page. Often there isn't much time for the contractor to place an order so they are stuck with what the nurseries actually have in stock. Murphy can discourage the over-planting of a specific tree (e.g. red maple). Commission agrees with caliper size. Commission agrees with the change of three to one year for responsibility. Meyer asks if any trees would be eliminated from the list. At this time Murphy thinks he can discourage over-planting of one species by suggesting other species.

The new suggested species are:

Class I:

Carpinus japonica (Japanese Hornbeam)
Carpinus caroliniana (American Hornbeam)
Chinonthus retusus (Chinese Fringe Tree)
Prunus incisa x P. campanulata ('Okame' Cherry)
Pyrus faurieri ('Westwood' Korean Sun Pear)
Stewartia pseudocamellia (Japanese Stewartia)

Class II:

Eucommia ulmoides (Hardy Rubber Tree)
Phellodendron lavaleii ('Eye Stopper' Cork Tree)
Quercus frainetto ('Forest Green' Hungarian Oak)
Quercus muelenbergii (Chinkipin Oak)
Ulmus propinqua ('Emerald Sunshine' Elm)
Ulmus carpinifolia x parvifolia (Frontier Elm)

Class III:

Taxodium disticum (Bald Cypress)
Ulmus japonica x wilsoniana ('Accolade' Elm)
Ulmus Americana ('Princeton' Elm)

Murphy stated the sweet gum is zone 6, Japanese snow bell are zone issues and may be taken out. Patterson would like to look at the list and agrees we have over-planting issues. She suggested it would be nice to see them at the arboretum so citizens can see how the trees grow and form. Meyer stated to have the commission look at the 15 new species within the next month.

Patterson motion accepted point 1 and 2

Getchius second all in favor to change the manual point of caliper and tree responsibility

Commission will discuss the new species at the next meeting.

8. NEW BUSINESS

Discussion Item – Good news about a possible tree give away in April

Murphy states he had a sponsor come in and inquire about the give away and then took the initiative to contact the nursery that has been providing the trees. That sponsor asked how many trees and what species. The give away has always been in the hand of the sponsors as far and the number and species of trees as the city as always been the host. Murphy will provide a list of suggested tree species. However, the nursery does provide a lot of maples. This sponsor did suggest that if the nursery had the quantity of trees available he would organize the delivery and payment arrangement of the trees. Murphy does want to contact local businesses to see if they would like take part in it. Murphy would like to make this an even bigger event than in the past.

9. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Getchius is a member of the American Tree Farm System and they have a program for the Community Forest...read the standards for the program. The forest does have to be maintained by a certified arborist.

Meyer asked if the commission decide to go with 2 ½ days for Arbor Day.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting will be December 21, 2011 at 8:00 a.m. There being no further business, Commissioner McAvoy moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by O'Brien. Motion carried. Time: 8:40 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: 12/21/2011
Re: Forester's Report – December 21, 2011

Administration

Urban Forestry staff has been working on compiling the accomplishments of the Urban Forestry Division for 2011 and the Tree City USA statistics for another award for Post Falls from the Arbor Day Foundation.

Maintenance

- ❖ Urban Forestry staff has started doing some extensive thinning of Ponderosa pine and Douglas fir on the Centennial Trail west of Spokane St. and 4th Avenue.
- ❖ Thanks to a large donation of mulch from Idaho Veneer, we have placed mulch around all of the trees in the South Arboretum. Next spring we will continue cutting out tree rings for the North and South Arboretums and fill them in with mulch.
- ❖ Identification labels have been made for the trees in the South Arboretum and 17 labels from the North Arboretum have been repaired. The labels will be installed in the spring.