



**URBAN FORESTRY COMMISSION
MEETING AGENDA**

**Jan. 18, 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 December 21, 2011
5. **CITIZEN COMMENTS**
6. **STAFF COMMENTS**
Forester's Report
7. **OLD BUSINESS**
8. **NEW BUSINESS**
- Discussion regarding pros and cons of the American Tree Farm System.
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.

Memorandum

To: Urban Forestry Commission
Cc: Media, Mayor & Council, City Administrator, City Clerk, Parks & Recreation
From: Brendan Murphy, Urban Forester
Date: 01/18/2012
Re: Forester's Report – January 18, 2012

Urban Forestry Division Accomplishments – 2011

Tree City USA – The City of Post Falls is proud to be designated as a Sterling Tree City USA by the National Arbor Day Foundation. This award is given to cities that have achieved a growth award for ten consecutive years. This year will be the fifteenth year Post Falls has been a Tree City USA.

Arbor Day Field Trip - The Urban Forestry Division hosted the annual 5th Grade outdoor education program for approximately 450 students, emphasizing forest ecology and wildlife awareness.

Arbor Day Poster Contest - Urban Forestry staff coordinated the local Arbor Day Poster Contest for 5th Grade students. The contest was generously sponsored by several local businesses that provided Triple Play vouchers, books, and T-shirts for the children.

Tree Inventory – Another 1,210 trees were added to the tree inventory database, bringing the complete public tree inventory to 12, 657 trees, representing an asset value of \$14.7 million.

Volunteers In Pruning – The VIP program continued this year with several volunteers lending their time to work on corrective pruning of our City trees.

Public Education – Urban Forestry and Community Canopy partners presented educational workshops throughout the year, covering such topics as: Proper Pruning, Selecting the Right Tree, Smart Irrigation, Correct Planting, Insects & Diseases, Tree Protection. Urban Forestry Staff also attended the Pacific Northwest ISA training conference, which was hosted in Coeur d'Alene this year.

ARRA Grant – The City of Post Falls was one of four cities in North Idaho to have received a federal grant through the Idaho Department of Lands to improve the health of our urban forest. Grant expenditures for this project totaled \$90,000 and the work, which extended into 2011, included correctional pruning, removal and sign clearance for over 2,000 trees.

Community Development – Plans were approved by City Council for Community Development and Urban Forestry to establish a new tree planting program, whereby developers would have the option of paying the City a flat fee for the trees in a development and have the City do the plantings or contract it out.

Site Plan Reviews – Reviews were submitted and approved for the following sites: Love’s Truck Stop, Burger King, Ground Force Manufacturing, Silver Creek Apartments, Dance Studio, Phos Check Building, Blue Dog RV, Ross Point Water District North Headquarters.

Maintenance – This is by far the largest part of Urban Forestry’s staff work. With a new assistant hired on in April, the Urban Forestry Division has been doing literally truck loads of work. As an example, it takes roughly 12 yards of brush to make 1 yard of mulch and Urban Forestry staff have made approximately 45 yards of mulch from chipped brush. This means we have pruned or removed about 540 yards of brush in half a year. Most of this work involved sign clearance for traffic visibility, the removal of dead trees, and corrective pruning and thinning. We also performed some root collar excavations on several trees in the Black Bay parking lot that revealed some horrible circling roots, as can be seen in the photos below.



New Arboretum – This year also saw the first work on the new arboretum on the south side of the freeway between Idaho St. and City hall. The new arboretum will be known as the south arboretum and has an initial planting of 50 trees. An additional 25 trees will be planted in the spring with grant money. So, with the 35 existing trees, the south arboretum will have 110 trees while the north arboretum has 90 trees, bringing the total to 200 trees for the Post Falls community.

**URBAN FORESTRY COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES**

**Dec. 21, 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

Commissioners Absent: Dave O'Brien (Excused)

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

3. CEREMONIES, APPOINTMENTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

This will be Jackie McAvoy's last meeting. Meyer thanked her for her dedication. She would still like to be involved in many of the programs this commission addresses.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

Move to consent Minutes of November 16, 2011 by McAvoy, seconded by Getchius: all in favor with corrections – motion carried

Item #9 Inspection by certified forester not maintained

5. CITIZEN COMMENTS

None

6. STAFF COMMENTS

Forester's Report

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. This will help with the view to the dam when it is open. Murphy stated they have probably made at least a 60 yard pile of mulch with just their pruning's.

- ❖ Thanks to a large donation of mulch from Idaho Veneer (approximately 100 yards), 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.
- ❖ Murphy will be applying for a grant to plant at least 25 more trees in the arboretum. Murphy wondered if we could plant the trees from the Tree Standards Manual in the arboretum as suggested by Patterson. Murphy states yes and more.
- ❖ Murphy will be bringing a summary of the year to the next commission meeting.

7. OLD BUSINESS

Revision of Tree Standards Manual

Murphy still needs to check with nurseries to see if they can get the trees proposed or willing to get the trees proposed before the trees actually go onto the Tree Standards manual.

The caliper and responsibility to the homeowner/contractors will be modified as agreed upon at the last meeting.

8. NEW BUSINESS

Discussion Item – Raising the bar in 2012

-Increasing our involvement in the community

Murphy wants to find ways to help the community understand what the Urban Forestry division does for the City. Many cities do not have an Urban Forestry division which leads to no certified arborist or maintenance plan for the trees in the community. Murphy wants to engage 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

Meyer commented that former commission member Joe Venishnick passed away last night and wanted to take a moment to say how dedicated he was and there would be a memorial coming up soon.

Meyer asked about the tree give-away to see if anything new has occurred. Murphy hasn't heard anything since last time he commented. They usually found out what trees they were getting in January.

Meyer inquiring about Arbor Day and if the trip was going to be two and one half days or three days. Murphy believes two and one half days should be adequate. Meyer agrees the time frame should work.

Getchius stated if we could get a commitment to proceed, he can start the inspection process for the American Tree Farm System. This is a perfect example for people to see active management of the forest. Meyer asked what the first step would be to get it moving. Getchius stated he would just start the inspection process which entails satisfying the requirements of the Tree Farm System and addressing tree forest health. Meyer suggested maybe within the next month they can address the process formally. Kosanke agrees that we could outline the benefits of the program, financially, commitment for maintenance, etc.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting will be January 21, 2011 at 8:00 a.m. There being no further business, Commissioner McAvoy moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Cook. Motion carried. Time: 8:25 a.m.

Ralph Meyer, Chair

Melissa Parker, Recorder