



Tree Board

~ Meeting Minutes ~



Wednesday, November 19, 2014 • 10:30 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Councilmember Pam Fernald; Aaron Wiseman, Public Works Maintenance Lead; Al Torrico, Senior Planner; Kathleen Brave, Citizen Representative

MEMBERS ABSENT: Sean Clark, Public Works Maintenance Supervisor

STAFF COORDINATOR: Roger Chouinard, Parks Operations Manager

Call to Order: Meeting was called to order at 10:30 a.m.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes dated March 19, 2014 were approved as written.

All members stated they had viewed the open public meetings documents.

Old Business:

- *Tree planting of smaller caliper trees for future development.* - It was determined that this would move to the City now purchasing all trees to Planning Department requirements. Al Torrico added that using smaller caliper trees did decrease costs but would also increase the grow-in periods and wouldn't work in some areas.
- *Future grant application opportunities, tree inventory.* - Agreed to leave this as a placeholder and continue to look for creative ways of funding future tree inventories.
- *Ongoing labor grants are available for removal of invasive plants in the urban forest.* - Roger stated that in 2014 we were awarded a grant that was used to remove invasive plants from an area across from the Maintenance Facility. This grant will continue into 2015 and has an estimated value in crew labor of \$47,000.

New Business

- *Tree City application and Growth Award status.* - Roger reported that the applications were currently being readied for routing and signatures.
- *2015 Arbor Day Event tentatively set for Wednesday, April 22 2105, 10:00 a.m.*
 - Plant ten Douglas Fir trees at Angle Lake Park in upper park. These new trees will replace trees recently lost to bark beetles. Bark beetles attacked trees that were already stressed from the recent construction activities. Trees will be planted by a crew from our Community Forestry group and other volunteers that we recruit in advance of the event.
 - Kathleen Brave asked if youth could be involved. Roger Chouinard added that students from Tyee had helped with the event at McMicken Heights Park in 2012 and added that transportation of students is typically the hardest obstacle to overcome.
 - Aaron Wiseman mentioned perhaps the after school program could be a source of volunteers.

- Possibility of Department of Natural Resources representative will present our 6th Tree City USA and our 4th Tree City Growth Award if we are successful in gaining those certifications.
- Discussed the Washington Native Plant Society. Washington Native Plant Society was given an award through the Community Forestry Council for their work installing native plants and sheet mulching in North SeaTac Park.
- Al Torrico talked about some possible funding for the urban forest from another development. Roger expressed interest. Roger said he had set up a BARS account for all tree related expenses that this money could be placed into for accounting purposes.
- Roger will send out calendar appointments to schedule the next meeting.
- Roger informed the Board that there is a new line item in the budget going forward to track and fund tree related costs.
- Discussed setting up a couple of landscape professionals to meet with the Tree Board to create a suggested street tree and public space tree list and criteria.
- Pam Fernald discussed ways to promote the Tree Board so people know what we do.
- Pam and Kathleen asked about purchasing a banner to promote Arbor Day and Tree City USA. Roger will discuss funding with Kit Ledbetter about banners. There is an inexpensive special event banner source we use for other parks events.
- Roger will get on the City Council agenda to report on annual Tree Board accomplishments.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.