



TREE AND LANDSCAPE COMMITTEE

August 18 , 2015 Meeting Minutes

Committee Members Present: Joe D'Arienzo, Deb Miller, Lisa Moore, Chris Gale, Cora Nisbit
Municipal Staff: Lynne Brandon

Assembly liason: Michelle Putz

Visitor: Linda Speerstra, Mareika Mooney

Hours: Joe - , Deb - 5, Lisa-5, Chris -5, Lynne - 6, Cora - 5, Judd - 11, Michelle - 1,
Bob Nesbitt - 4

Note: Marjorie has moved and resigned so we have two openings. It is advertised

Old Business

1. Update on Local Foods Network Educational Garden Space - Michelle is working on a grant. Will probably have 2 gardens. Working with staff at Baranof Elementary.
2. Centennial - Moved the Metasequoia - it was root pruned last year, so it popped right out with a fork lift. Removed Japanese Maple, ferns and soil from the raised bed to save for later.
3. Seawalk - SEALT (Southeast Alaska Land Trust) people were in town reviewed the work on their property and were happy with it.

New Business

1. Prairie Fire Crabapples - have not been thriving - we are considering moving them. Tri color beech trees are outgrowing the space. Look at replacing with Japanese Maples or another small trees.
2. Lynne's last day is Sept 14. Judd will be the interim replacement for Lynne for the time being. Jeff Cranston will be doing some of the administrative work. He is the park and ballfield maintenance person. The city is not planning to replace Lynne's position. We passed a motion to write a letter supporting her replacement to maintain the funding for the position. Chris made the motion, Deb seconded it and it was passed. We also need to give Michelle a summary statement to read at the assembly. There is an assembly meeting next Tuesday.

Reports

1. Judd - sent a report via email. I have attached it.

Respectfully Submitted by Lisa Moore

Next meeting is September 15th, 2015 at the building at Alice Loop

Hello All,

Very sorry to miss the meeting today, i was looking forward to the venue and the celebration of Lynne's service to the committee, alas the Incident Command System trumps all.

I just wanted to send a brief update from the AK Community Forestry Council, to keep you all tied into what is happening there.

We had an abbreviated business meeting on Thursday night with some routine agenda items and "housekeeping". A majority of the discussion centered on the 2016 Arbor day events since it will mark 50 years of the event taking place in AK, and every one wants to make a big event out of it. As a surprise to all the council members Patricia Joyner (director of community forestry within the division of forestry) announced that they would be able to provide up to \$5,000 with a match of \$1,000 from the council, in the hopes of providing multiple small grants distributed by the council to communities across AK.

There was hopes of leveraging those funds with other agencies such as Society of American Foresters, and American Society of Landscape Architects, to really make an all out blitz on promoting community forestry next arbor day. If you all can think of other organizations to collaborate with, or have leads on interested parties, let me know and hopefully we can make this a big event in Sitka and across the state.

One idea that was floated was reaching 50 communities for the 50th anniversary, where each council member could shepard 3-4 communities through a grant and execution of project, as well as follow up after the event. That dilutes the funds quite a bit but the idea is solid. Be brainstorming on other themes and ideas, at this point the council is open to ideas but we are wanting something solidified by end of next month or so in order to push forward on something that will consume significant time when all is said and done.

My hope is that there might be enough progress made on a new community garden that we could apply for a grant that would get some trees onto that project right from the get go, since I think that is such a tangible way for people to get involved with the urban forest. Regardless of the venue, my proposal is to demonstrate what is called the 7 layer forest; (1) large over story tree, (2)short understory tree, (3)shrub layer, (4)vine layer, (5)ground cover, (6)root zone plants, and (7)mycelium inoculate for mycorrhizal and/or fruiting mushrooms. Not just because I like to plant a lot of things but because I want to show that a forest is not just trees, nor should our concept of community forests be.

That said, it would be great if there are lots of proposals out there for the T&L committee to mull over if and/or when the forestry council grant applications becomes available, so be day dreaming. We also have visions of promoting the council a bit more, so if you ever have an epiphany about a catchy slogan that sums up the urban forest and could be put on a pin, t-shirt, sticker, or hat, please let us know. A inspired logo would also be nice.

As to the second day of our meeting we drove to Soldatna to visit some of the projects that Division of Forestry has helped fund and coordinate in the past several years. They are in the final stages of transforming what in the past was basically a parking lot used by D.O.T. to warehouse road materials into a well used riverside park, and took a brief tour of what works and what doesn't as far as trees go. We should count ourselves lucky that we don't need to protect ALL! of our trees with 8' tall woven wire mesh to keep the moose out.

Also toured a new subdivision and brainstormed with city planners about how to encourage and promote successful landscaping, they had tried some ordinances that they were not happy with but still want to improve the finished look as new subdivisions continue to emerge. And to wrap the day up we looked at the remnants of the funny river fire and some of the fire break policy that is used to protect the urban interface as fires continue to become an increasing phenomena in that region (nearly 40,000 lightning

strikes recorded by sonar in one day this june)

All said it was 6 hours in a car for 5 hours at the various sites but I think it was worth the time of the council to get out and see what the communittees are doing.

As you all can guess it is very sad for me to see Lynne move on, she has guided your committee and our department through more bureaucracy than most people should ever have to navigate in one life, but she smiled the whole way through. On the bright side you all may have found someone to fill that empty seat on the committee. ;-)

See you next meeting.

Jud.