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2 **WCFC Meeting**

3 **September 10, 2014**

4 **Finch Arboretum, Spokane, WA**

5 **3404 W. Woodland Blvd**

6 **Spokane, Washington 99224**
7

8 **Members Attending:** Sheila Gray, Chair; Dave Erickson, Vice Chair; Lisa Ciecko; Brian Cramer; Garth
9 Davis; Cindy Deffe; Terry Flatley; Linden Lampman; Dave Nelson; Sandy Salisbury; David Miller; Kirsten
10 Lints; Jim Freed;

11 **Absent:** Kathy Sheehan; Kathy Wolf; Ara Erickson; Joe Scorcio;

12 **Guests:** Tim Kohlhauf, WSU Extension; Steven McConnell, WSU Extension, Paula Dinius, WSU Extension;
13 Angel Spell, City of Spokane Arborist; Ben Thompson, DNR Urban & Community Forestry; Esther Baker,
14 wife of Stewardship award winner Rich Baker; Rich Baker's son Tobin Baker; Jim Flott, Community
15 Forestry Consultants; Douglas Howie, Dept. of Ecology; Alicia Powell, City of Spokane Dept. of
16 Neighborhoods; Marcia Davis, City of Spokane Stormwater Engineer; Vicki Carter, Spokane Conservation
17 District.

18 **Meeting Convened:** The meeting was called to order by Chair, Sheila Gray. Self-introductions of
19 members and guests followed.

20 Spokane's City Forester, Angel Spell, welcomed the council to Spokane and talked about her role on the
21 NUCFAC Advisory group. Angel asked the group for feedback to bring back to the advisory group, and
22 brief discussions followed about how funding is needed for maintenance of trees in local communities.

23 **Welcome:** Sheila welcomed the council and guests

24 **Program Report:** Program manager, Linden Lampman, mentioned the record-breaking fire season,
25 highlighted the devastation in Pateros specifically, and indicated that Jord Wilson, an arborist for the
26 City of Pateros, will be a Community Tree Management Institute (CTMI) participant this year.

27 The U&CF program is working on CTMI as well as revisions to the program's grant applications
28 (Community Forestry Assistance, Tree Inventory, and Tree planting grants). Overall the program is trying
29 to be more strategic with grants awarded in 2015.

30 Micki is stepping down from the council, her seat is available. Micki is working successfully on the Urban
31 Forest Restoration Project (UFRP) and was the primary author on a new Western Competitive Grant to
32 continue the UFRP in the Green-Duwamish Watershed. Grantees are expected to be announced in
33 November.

1 Ben and Linden briefed council on U&CF Month, with the Governor proclaiming October as Urban &
2 Community Forestry Month for the second consecutive year. Terry asked when the Proclamation for
3 UCF month will be signed. Linden will let the council know as soon as it happens. A kickoff planting event
4 for UCF Month is being planned for Friday October 3rd in Olympia. Ben asked Council members to send in
5 information on local events happening in October, with the hope that a UCF Month calendar of events
6 will be created. Terry mentioned that Tree City USA Growth Award points can be earned for a fall
7 celebration.

8 The Tree Line USA and Tree City USA applications have deadlines coming up in November and
9 December, respectively.

10 The Pacific Northwest Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture is holding their Annual
11 training conference in early October in Vancouver, WA; the conference will feature new tracks for
12 Spanish-speaking arborists and climbing arborists. Linden is heading to the “Partners in Community
13 Forestry” conference in North Carolina this fall.

14 Linden has been communicating with WSU Master Gardener (MG) coordinator Nicole Martini about
15 developing a Tree Steward Certificate program for MG’s or other citizens. Jim Freed mentioned that
16 MG’s get many tree-specific questions and advanced training is welcome and needed—there are over
17 4000 MGs in WA already. Ben discussed the Virginia Tree Stewards Program and how it works, as a
18 potential model for a Washington equivalent program. Lisa mentioned the Tree Ambassador program in
19 Seattle as another potential model. Council members asked questions and discussed possibilities for
20 such a program.

21 Ben discussed the Tree Link newsletter. Sandy Suggested a question to use in the next poll: If you have a
22 tree question, where do you go for an answer? Jim asked for a brief intro to the Tree Link with a sample
23 article to promote the publication to potential subscribers. Ben will craft an email with this information
24 in it and send it to the council. Kirsten expressed a need for an article that addresses the mature size of
25 a tree versus the “10-year” or “30-year” size. The website “Great plant picks” gives both. Kirsten will
26 consider writing an article for Tree Link about this subject(?).

27 **Tree City USA Outreach project report:** Sheila prompted members for reports on their activities related
28 to the Council’s Tree City USA outreach project. Sheila pointed out contact she made with Tenino; Jim
29 said he was working with Northwest Indian College about Tree Campus USA.

30 Ben will forward the TCUSA Outreach packet to new council members Kirsten and David Miller.

31 Kirsten recommended/reminded about the Tree City USA PowerPoint presentation. David N. cited a
32 need for such a presentation to conduct outreach to cities effectively. Ben will develop a short
33 presentation and forward to Council members. Ben and Kirsten had a brief side conversation about an
34 upcoming presentation to the Duvall City Council about tree management.

35 Dave Miller suggested that elected officials benefit from training on a continuing basis since elections
36 force a cycling in and out of new people occupying elected offices. He suggested the AWC conference as
37 a good forum to achieve that. Program staff will follow up to see how they can assist.

38 **Spokane Community College (SCC) Arboriculture Program:** Cindy gave a presentation about SCC’s
39 environmental programs, including forestry and landscape, and then discussed a proposal for an

1 arboriculture/urban forestry degree option. Cindy asked for council input. She reported that her
2 students want to work in the urban landscape, not the traditional forest or greenhouses, and that their
3 interest is more centered on woody plants, rather than herbaceous plants.

4 Council comments, questions, and suggestions:

- 5 • Consider whether the survey and mapping classes should be degree requirements or electives;
6 GIS and technical analysis is increasingly essential to program management.
- 7 • Landscape design is more valuable than landscape installation.
- 8 • Support for two soils classes
- 9 • Should a dendrology course be included? (Dendrology will be covered by spring and fall plants
10 classes).
- 11 • Suggested a different order of courses, placing introduction to biology and soils classes early on,
12 followed by technical skills courses, with classes arranged in back to back semesters where
13 appropriate. In this way knowledge from a prior semester would equip participants for a course
14 following in the next semester.
- 15 • Offer an intro to urban forestry class in the first semester to set the tone for students pursuing
16 the degree.
- 17 • Consider offering pesticide class and plant problems class in reverse order.
- 18 • Will there be classwork related to contracting? (Contracting issues are covered in the estimating
19 and bidding course).
- 20 • Will a CAD class be offered? (Interested students can access CADCAD classes as part of a
21 landscape design degree).
- 22 • Will ArcGIS be included? (GIS will be included; a GIS certificate program from the college is
23 pending).
- 24 • Will there be a capstone class or experiential opportunity? (A non-credit internship is required);
25 students are pressed to find summer work in a related industry. Sheila expressed appreciation
26 for what has been developed to date. Steven McConnell asked about percentages of graduates
27 finding jobs in other degree programs. Cindy asked council to forward to her: comments and job
28 opportunities for students.

29 **Approval of Minutes from June 6 meeting:** Dave E. reminded the council that they needed to approve
30 minutes from the previous meeting. Sandy moved to approve minutes from the June 6 council meeting;
31 Terry seconded. Minutes were unanimously approved.

32 **How do you communicate tree benefits after a storm?** : Tim Kolhauf briefed the council on recent
33 windstorms in the Spokane region and asked the Council for feedback on messaging that other
34 communities may have used in similar situations.

35 The following comments and suggestions were generated:

- 36 • DNR blog articles already exist and can be used as a resource.
- 37 • Storm response resources are available through the Arbor Day Foundation
- 38 • Labor and Industry's website contains information about contracting with companies or
39 individuals.
- 40 • Ben will send a table he drafted that compares "good vs. bad" tree care companies to

- 1 • ISA Certified arborists should be recommended. David Miller pointed out that best.
- 2 • Best management practices should be emphasized.
- 3 • Staff should be available for feedback on private trees.
- 4 • Focus on consequences and drawbacks of tree removal, citing loss of benefits.
- 5 • Promote tree benefits and ecosystem services. using
- 6 • Use a Firewise-type approach, emphasizing that trees themselves aren't the problem; rather
- 7 there are other, larger issues that include trees that should be addressed. Dave E and Cindy
- 8 suggested permitting the
- 9 • Permit drop-off of trees debris, free of charge to residents in designated municipal areas; cities
- 10 can re-use the debris for woodchips in parks, etc.

11 **Award presentation/tree planting – Rich Baker (Esther Baker accepting):** Garth introduced Rich Baker,
12 the Council's next urban forest stewardship award winner, by describing the education and research
13 contributions he has made to Spokane and the arboriculture industry.

14 Garth cited Rich's generosity of his time and expertise to teach others, and his impeccable ethics. .

15 Garth presented the Award to Rich's wife Esther and son Tobin. A photo of Rich signed by the council
16 members was also presented to Esther. The Council planted a Tupelo tree, a favorite of Rich Baker's, in
17 his honor at the Finch Arboretum. Additional Staff from the City of Spokane were on-hand to assist.

18 **Lunch and roundtable (as follows):**

19 Lisa is getting involved with the symposium in Seattle at the Center for Urban Horticulture (CUH). She
20 asked for suggestions on topics.

21 Sandy went to the Pacific Northwest climate science conference. A PHD student presented metrics
22 about vulnerability of trees to climate change by species.

23 Cindy reported that Spokane recently designated Ponderosa Pine as the official City tree.

24 Tim recognized Garth's work to organize a very successful Tree School in Spokane this summer. The
25 workshop attracted 80 participants, which exceeded expectations. There are plans for a similar school
26 next year.

27 Terry said Renton is to receive a Puget Sound Corp crew for structural pruning in November; the City is
28 very appreciative of the opportunity. Renton is also working on new street tree regulations and has
29 recently completed the first of three annual phases of knotweed removal along Cedar River.

30 Brian Cramer is educating the public on storm clean-up and pruning and is talking to homeowners about
31 trees, promoting proactive evaluations and hiring certified arborists. Brian also indicated the Tri-City
32 Mid-Columbia Council participated in a tree planting at Carousel of Dreams as part of urban forestry
33 month. The Council is working on a new logo to update their image and branding.

34 David Miller said he was enjoying Finch Arboretum, "his first time here but it certainly won't be the
35 last."

36 Jim Freed is working with Northwest Indian College with a focus on outreach to all tribes. His work
37 emphasizes native plants as food and medicine as a new initiative. They are also looking at traditional

1 harvest sites and alternatives where traditional sites are no longer available. He mentioned that the US
2 Forest Service is assisting tribes to establish native plant nurseries. Jim recently met with Aaron Everett
3 the state forester to discuss turning urban/suburban retention ponds into native plant habitats.

4 Dave Erickson reported that their downtown paving project is completed with all street trees retained; a
5 victory. He is still working with downtown business district to retain and incorporate trees into the
6 landscape.

7 Sheila said that she is the eyes in her community for trees and encouraged council members to ask
8 questions about tree removals and management where they live.

9 Linden touted the Cedar Creek wood utilization project, saying that is moving forward slowly, but
10 making progress nonetheless.

11 **Stormwater Presentation:** Presented by Douglas Howie. As a Stormwater Engineer at the Department
12 of Ecology (DOE), Doug is responsible for revisions to the stormwater management manual and for
13 stormwater grant projects in Eastern Washington.

14 Douglas indicated there is 66 million dollars available for stormwater retrofit projects. DOE likes trees!
15 DOE encourages cities and counties to design projects that mimic natural conditions. To that end, DOE
16 places requirements on new and re-development projects. Locations of trees are important; big canopy
17 trees overlapping impervious cover are desirable. In support of salmon habitat, DOE recommends
18 protection of soil on disturbed sites. The Soils for Salmon website is a recommended resource. Douglas
19 discussed the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES), which is the permitting system
20 under the Clean Water Act to regulate point-source discharges into water bodies; Municipalities and
21 private property owners connected to municipal systems are subject to different requirements for
22 treating and controlling stormwater runoff into surface water systems. To address the latter, DOE has
23 two stormwater reference manuals: Western and Eastern Washington. Western was last updated in
24 2012, Eastern was completed in 2004. Both need updating. Trees are discussed in both manuals with
25 regard to construction, stormwater, maintenance, and source control. Source control means keeping
26 pollutants and rainfall separated. Flow control is the ability to keep runoff at or below pre-development
27 levels. Flow control credits are given for new and existing trees on development sites.

28 Low impact development (LID) uses infiltration as a key strategy to reduce stormwater runoff. Ideally,
29 65% of a site remains undeveloped (native), and no more than 10 % is impervious. Ideally, runoff from
30 impervious surfaces should be funneled to the undeveloped area where it slowly infiltrates into the
31 ground. This model is compatible with growth management regulations. Tree planting can be used to
32 offset 25% of impervious cover on development sites. This percentage is the same in eastern versus
33 western Washington. DOE is engaged in ongoing LID training for developers and realtors.

34 DOE cannot force tree retention or enforce tree planting, but it does provide options for compliance on
35 the former and is reliant on localities for enforcement of the latter.

36 DOE needs and would welcome standards for tree protection, tree planting, and continuing
37 management and maintenance. Maybe DNR can provide these?

38 **A Stormwater strategy – panel discussion:** A presentation from Spokane Stormwater staff Marcia Davis,
39 Department of Neighborhoods staff Alicia Powell, and City Forester Angel Spell.

1 Marcia Davis indicated that the majority of projects she is involved with in Spokane are redevelopment
2 and retrofit projects. Spokane does not use trees to solve specific problems, but takes more of a big
3 picture approach. Large trees limit overflows in areas where they grow during low or moderate storm
4 events. Marcia cited several projects, built and planned for, that utilize trees in stormwater
5 management.

6 Alicia Powell is charged with planting 10,000 trees in 2 years through a Mayor-initiated project titled
7 Forest Spokane. She described projects, funding sources, and partnerships that are being leveraged to
8 achieve that goal.

9 Angel Spell gave a history and background about how urban forestry and stormwater became better
10 aligned. Stormwater funded a tree inventory which was the resulting action from an initial (and larger)
11 request for a stormwater fee to support urban forestry. The information from the inventory is informing
12 urban forestry's budget and management processes.

13 The panel of speakers answered questions from the council.

14 **Conclusion of formal meeting agenda topics:** Sheila asked the council for suggestions for next steps as a
15 follow-up to this meeting.

16 Suggestions included:

- 17 • Build an advertising campaign to promote preferred stormwater strategies from a U&CF
18 perspective.
- 19 • Find other partners that might be vested stakeholders in pro-tree stormwater strategies.
- 20 • Host a conference similar to the OCT conference on stormwater
- 21 • Participate as speakers at a statewide stormwater conference
- 22 • Create a companion brochure about stormwater & trees, similar to the recently developed
23 TCUSA flyer. working with
- 24 • Work the Association of Washington Cities (AWC) to discuss tree/stormwater strategies;
25 perhaps present information at the annual conference.
- 26 • Offer advice/criticism to DOE on how to better emphasize or incentivize tree plantings.
- 27 • Talk to stormwater managers for cities and counties to get their feedback on enhanced pro-tree
28 approaches to stormwater management. (Sandy and Terry volunteered to reach out to this
29 group of professionals.)

30 Council will plan for next steps, including discussing the need for a working group to tackle the
31 stormwater issue, at the November meeting.

32 Sheila reminded councilors that some term limits are coming to an end; councilors should evaluate
33 whether they wish to extend their term. Council elections are scheduled for the next meeting in
34 November.

35 **Meeting Adjourned 3:30 p.m.**

36

37 **Next meeting: November 13 at SeaTac.**