



TREE AND LANDSCAPE COMMITTEE

February 10, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Members present: Joe, Lisa, Deb, Liz

City Staff: Melissa Henshaw, Michael Colliver

Guest: Craig Warren, Fire Chief

January 2021 Minutes approved

Persons to be heard

Assembly: Rebecca Himschoot

Reports: Lisa-1, Deb -2, Joe -1, Liz-1

Michael Colliver – Budget has been submitted. Pursuing a status quo of the past. Hired a new grounds maintenance specialist. Mia Navarres. Her focus will be on green spaces and athletic complexes. He wants to talk to use in depth about the comprehensive plans for community wide garden spaces.

Working on Memo of Agreement for working with outside groups, such as Pioneers of Alaska. There are handshake agreements. We need to get things written down so we can plan for it.

Met with a group on benches. There is no standard for dedicating benches, replacing, or adding benches. A group wants benches at Harrigan Centennial Hall where the Baranof statue was removed.

Busy with Ice and snow removal. Accomplished a tree removal at Harbor Drive parking lot, just outside of the Cellar plaza. The beech tree was evidently hit by a car. There has not been a regular maintenance program for this area. We should talk about this area at a later date.

Old Business – Fire hall renovation Craig Warren – look at the plans. Questioned the dwarf Sergeant Crabapple, a smaller tree. We will not block windows at the entrance and the chief's office with plantings. He said that there are only two windows that matter. He explained which ones are important. Michael explained that the planting materials are already city property. The only purchase will be bulbs. Tentative plans are March 27 and 28 for work days. Craig will ask for fire hall volunteers. We will have to dig out the top 6" of dirt and weeds to get the horsetails out, add new soil, then plant. The prep work will be the hardest part. We'll take all the help we can get. The city will be using a mini excavator to use for the removal of the old plant material. This will probably be done prior to the weekend of our work. The plants we are going to save will need to be removed first. Any weeds should be removed from the plants so we are not reintroducing weeds back into the beds.

There is a triangle near the flagpole that has a lot of foot traffic that we will address, and also include a hard metal edge between the grass and the garden to keep the grass out of the bed space as well as ground cover out of the grass.

Workshop on Tree Planting and Maintenance – Jasmine let Liz know that there will be workshops on pruning and grafting in Haines and Juneau this spring. We discussed that this kind of workshop is more effective in person than online and is dependent on covid. Joe recommended deferring it until the Covid situation improves, hopefully at the end of summer. Michael said that the Sea Walk has a lot of trees that could use a good pruning. Liz will let Jasmine know.

New Business We are considering changing our membership number from seven to five. This may have to go to the assembly for approval. We have four members now and everyone has to attend to get a quorum. We discussed the down sides of making the change and could not come up with any. We agreed to explore this further. Joe will ask Melissa about the possibility of decreasing our membership requirement and the process for doing it. We had kind words from Rebecca and Michael about the work of our group. Liz welcomed Rebecca and thanked her for being our assembly liaison.

New Chair and vice-chair – we voted Deb for chair and Joe for vice chair – unanimous

Next meeting is Wednesday, March 10 at 5pm via Zoom

Respectfully submitted by
Lisa Moore