



TREE AND LANDSCAPE COMMITTEE

March 10, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Members present: Joe, Lisa, Deb, Liz

City Staff: Melissa Henshaw, Michael Colliver

Guest: Jim Renkert, Alaska Community Forest Council

February 2021 Minutes tweaked and approved

Report of Hours: Lisa-2, Deb -2, Joe -1, Liz-2

Persons to be heard

Jim Renkert – Program Coordinator for Alaska Community Forest Council (ACFC). A life long Alaskan, Jim visited Sitka in 1969 and 1976. He thanked Lisa for joining the council. Sitka has not been designated an Arbor Day Tree City USA since 2017. He is happy to help us with that. We just need to get the application submitted. To qualify, we need an Arbor Day project, a proclamation, and the city needs to spend \$2 per resident on trees and maintenance. Jim offered to send our last application for reference. He recommended attending the Arbor Day Tree City Partners conference –ACFC may be able to help with registration fees for a member of our committee. The next conference is in Louisville KY. Jim also recommended a succession plan for when key people and the committee and city staff move on.

Joe asked Jim about education opportunities through the council. Jim will send on some brochures and other information. He also mentioned webinars. Deb asked specifically for pruning resources.

Michael Colliver – Updates: Snow and ice control, hired a temp attendant position to clean and maintain sites around the city as well as supporting the buildings and grounds team. Custodial operations will be in house. Lake and Lincoln restroom has been vandalized twice.

Met with Victor Littlefield of SEARHC, re the hospital sale – they are looking for beautification around the hospital long term care facility and the green space around the back of the building. Michael recommended that they contact our committee.

Michael had meetings and discussions about comprehensive plans to provide guidance to user groups. He is hoping to get better ADA access, lighting, and drainage for some facilities. He is working on infrastructure plans. He may get two AmeriCorps volunteers to help with making drawings for the plans. Michael is going through audits and tests to get ready for the summer season. Supplies such as lime need to be ordered. Crew will do aeration and some new drainage work also. They may do some minor updates as needed.

Old Business – Fire hall planting beds renovation Tentative plan is Sunday, March 28 at 9 am, weather permitting. The weather report is calling for snow. Conner is going to pull up the plants and put them on trailers. T&L will be helping to remove the weeds before plants are re-planted. Excavation will be simultaneous. Plants will be left on site if practical, otherwise, moved to Kimsham. Michael will have Conner dig the beds beforehand, and we will work on the plants on the Sunday after that. If the ground is frozen, we will have to postpone. If it is snowing, snow removal is the priority. April 4 at 9 am is scheduled for a second workday. Michael will coordinate with Conner. Deb will touch base with the fire chief.

Change of committee membership from 7 to 5 – Joe contacted Sara Peterson to ask her about this. He will follow up with her. We discussed still getting new members. Michaels suggested we contact Sitka Gardeners on Facebook.

New Business – Future projects for 2021 - Joe asked Michael about the city covid protocol for us to do grounds maintenance. The current mandate is social distancing or mask wearing, plus sanitizing tools if shared. This may change for people who have been vaccinated.

Pet Projects – Conner has produced some plans – if there are any we would like to tackle, they are available to us. Beds need to be refreshed. Maybe we can prioritize and make a goal matrix. We could even get some other volunteers to help. Michael said that we could select a tree, a specification for caliper, and location and there are volunteers out there who could do the planting. Need a plan for when the Pioneers of Alaska are no longer doing maintenance on the perennial beds at the bridge approach.

Next meeting is Wednesday, April 14 at 5pm via Zoom

Respectfully submitted by Lisa Moore