



TREE AND LANDSCAPE COMMITTEE

October 14, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Members present: Joe, Lisa, Deb, Liz

City Staff: Melissa Henshaw, Michael Colliver

September Minutes approved

Reports: Lisa-1, Deb -3, Joe -1, Liz-1

Persons to be heard

Michael Colliver – Transitional program with CARES funding. Earlier we were doing FEMA funded Covid cleaning. That has expired, we went from 6 staff to two. Now we have for \$350 K for parks and rec and 150K for other departments.

The goal is to get people to work – now we have 19 transitional staff. Other departments will have additional staff as well. We may get their new hires certified before they start. Picked projects that were cut from the budget, such as painting the exterior and other maintenance of the animal shelter, sandy beach restroom, whale park. There is a long list. All projects have to be done by Dec 30th. The priority is based on people's skill sets. As staff gets more experience, they will be moved as needed. October 30th is an all day weeding project at Keet Goosha Heen. School is out.

There is a potential for planting the seawalk with fireweed as we discussed earlier. There is a cedar tree initiative for Blatchley Middle School. Michael will work with the schools as needed. The classes are growing cedar trees. Public trees need to be 3-4" in diameter, so seedlings would be a problem.

There is a plan to make a switch back trail from Keet Goosha Heen to the ball fields. This would include a planting of maple trees for a transitional space as part of this. They need to get the trail figured out before the trees are planned, but they want to have fall color.

At the high school, more trees are planned to be farther from the building to prevent leaves from getting in the gutters.

Old Business – Firehall Weeding Delayed until spring. The weeds have taken over so much that the beds need a complete renovation – the weeds are so intermixed with the planted materials. We discussed taking this on as a multiple week project and adding ground cover as the weeds are removed.

Some of the ground cover we have could work for that. Michael is interested in planting bulbs. He would like to see us working with the fire hall, and even installing meadow mix on their hillside. We could also use the plant material that we just removed from the SEARCH (Totten) building.

We also discussed involving the fire hall volunteers to help with this. Craig Warren is the new fire chief, and we should approach him with the plan. A couple of years ago, Michael had a volunteer group go through the planting and he worked through Chief Miller. Howie Pitts currently volunteers to mow the grass.

Michael will have Conner look at planning the bed renovation / overhaul.

Classes on Tree Planting and Maintenance – Liz is meeting with Jasmine on Friday to see if the extension service can partner with us on this. We still like the idea of a panel discussion. Liz mentioned some practical hands-on training. We mentioned doing a video with one of us planting a tree and pruning. We have a beautiful tree variegated maple from the rescue. We need a spot to plant it. A spring project. We could also partner with the high school to video and edit the piece.

New Business

New Ideas for plants we rescued - We discussed the Main round-about. There has been discussion that DOT is not going to maintain this and the city would take this over. T&L and city staff could make plan to re-plant this. Kelly Boddy with DOT manages this. The first thing is to find the limitations, and to also get the current paperwork on the site.

Tree City USA - Sitka has not been a tree city since 2016. We need to work on this for next year. It involves having a tree board (we do), spending \$2 per capita (we do), and having an arbor day proclamation (Need this). We will discuss this more at the next meeting.

Urban forest management plan - Done in 2013. May need an update – we will table this until the new year.

Next meeting is Wednesday, November 18 at 5pm via Zoom

Respectfully submitted by

Lisa Moore