



Urban Forestry Board
Wednesday, March 9th, 2015
P.O. Box 39, Sisters, OR 97759

PRESENT:

Board Members:	Jerry Bertagna, David Moyer, Marcus Peck
Public Works Director:	Paul Bertagna
City Forester:	Dan Galecki/Spindrift Forestry
Recording Secretary:	Nicole Abbenhuis
Visitor:	Suzi Lewis

ABSENT: Board Member Pat Burke & City Parks Advisory Board Member David Magaret

I. CALL TO ORDER

Board Member Moyer called the meeting to order at 3:05 P.M.

II. VISITOR COMMUNICATION

N.A.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of February 10th, 2016.

Board Member Moyer motioned to approve the minutes. No corrections needed. All are in favor. Motion carries.

IV. URBAN FORESTRY BOARD DISCUSSION

Budget Discussion 2016/2017

Director Bertagna reports on the budget numbers for the 2016/2017 Budget: \$2,500 for City Forester On-Call services, \$5,200 for Contracted Tree Work, Proposed Inventory North (\$2,600), Proposed Inventory South (\$2,890), for a total budget recommendation to the budget committee of \$13,190.

Board Member Moyer makes a motion to approve. All are in favor. Motion carries.

Tree reports – Forester Galecki

Report for 288 W St. Helens – One individual tree is located in the fenced in area of the yard, but this tree is actually located in the city right-of-way. Minor issues with

pitch, and some other symptoms are present. This tree is not a danger tree. The pitch is old and dried up, there are no signs of disease. This tree appears to be sound. No rot, no bugs, no Blue Stain. This tree is healthy and should be left alone. The home owner pointed out there are other trees in the direct area (city right-of-way) that should be checked. Forester Galecki found several trees with issues in that area and marked them with green paint. There is a tree with a dead top, this tree should be entirely eliminated. There are several dead trees inter-mixed with with live trees. The dead and live trees should be eliminated all-together.

City Forester Galecki is asking the UFB board members to consider leaving one particular dead tree and designate it as a “wildlife” tree. There is bird/animal activity, and even though this tree has a slight lean, it doesn’t pose any real danger. It is relatively protected and will be good for at least 5 – 10 years. The tree was marked with green paint (W).

Director Bertagna states that locals do walk in that area, but they don’t seem to spend any time, they just walk through. This property is set aside for a future park (pocket park), the city has an 80 foot right-of-way here. Board Member Bertagna agrees that the Wildlife tree should stay, but it should be tagged, so people know it is a wildlife tree. Board Member Peck asks if there are any snags. City Forester Galecki confirms there are a few snags, but the tree is somewhat out of the way in the northwest corner. If this tree would fall, it wouldn’t be a problem. This tree can be revisited and monitored each year. PW Crew can make a Wildlife Tree sign, but Board Member Moyer says the Forest Service also has Wildlife tags, since they use them as well.

Board Member Bertagna likes to follow the recommendations in the report. Board Member Moyer motions to accept City Forester Galecki’s recommendations for the right-of-way trees at the St. Helens property, including an annual visit to check on the condition of the wildlife tree. All are in favor. Motion carries.

237 W. Sisters View – Large Ponderosa Pine with lots of large branches. Forester Galecki is concerned about the overall health of this tree.

Board Member Moyer checks in with a visitor that joined the meeting. Suzi Lewis introduced herself. She lives in Tumalo but spends a lot of time in Sisters. She has worked for the Forest Service for 15 years, has an extensive background in environmental education and spoke to Will at the Sisters Ranger Station who told her there is an Urban Forestry Meeting she should go to.

Suzi Lewis mentions that she worked on projects with wildlife trees from a biologist standpoint. She explains that wildlife depends on snags to survive. She will gladly provide information. There is life in dead trees.

Forester Galecki shows some pictures showing the profile of the tree at 237 W. Sisters View. This tree needs to be pruned, at least 2/3 of the tree. There is bug related pitch.

He cannot identify the bugs, but there are wounds, there is an old lightning scar and the foliage is brown in spots and shows "Lion's Tail" (little tiny clumps of needles at the end of the branches). The health of this tree is not good. However, it could last another two or three years. The tree across the street had blue stain, so mountain pine beetles are in the neighborhood. The tree across the street snapped off. This particular tree is a tall tree and very large. There are properties everywhere. This tree is in the traffic right-of-way. Forester Galecki would recommend this tree to be removed. The bowl is sound, but Forester Galecki is suspicious of the Lions Tail look and to put it in context, he would like to keep the Three Creeks tree, but this tree looks worse. Board Member Moyer would like to take a look at the tree and Forester Galecki will go visit the tree after the meeting to do a boring. Board Member Moyer would like a full report on this tree before making a decision.

Board Member Moyer is pointing out there is another tree that has pitch (on St Helens). Forester Galecki will check on this tree. Director Bertagna mentions that this (south) end of town will be part of the proposed inventory that will happen after July 1st 2016. Director Bertagna also mentions there are sections of Black Crater he would like to redo. He would like to ask for Forester Galecki's input on how to work around the trees to be able to keep the "look" of that area of town.

Update on Creekside Park tree: Director Bertagna explains that David Vitelli will remove the big Ponderosa Pine tree and was asked to grind the stump. A 6-ft section of the tree will be dropped off at Public Works Head Quarters. This 6 foot section can be displayed somewhere in town once a decision has been made on where it should go. Board Member Moyer is asking if we can leave a 2-3 foot stump, so a section of the tree can be displayed right there at the park. Director Bertagna is fine with that and likes the idea. Director Bertagna will be out of town when the tree comes down. Recording Secretary Abbenhuis will make sure that David Vitelli is aware of the change of plan. Visitor Suzie Lewis remarks this display is a great way to create a fun learning activity for kids and adults (they can count the rings, etc.).

Wednesday, March 16th, 2016 around 9 AM is the planned day of removal. Recording Secretary Abbenhuis will call or e-mail the board members to confirm the time.

Director Bertagna advises that the Public Works Crew will be working at the campground to plant 50 new trees, 10-12 feet Blue and Green Colorado Spruce. He is asking for permission for the crew to remove some widow-makers and dead branches as well, before opening the campground on May 1st, 2016 with assistance of Forester Galecki, so Conrad can do this with supervision.

Visitor Communication:

Suzi Lewis is drawn to the Ponderosa trees in Sisters. She knows that a lot of big trees have come down. She is thinking about what Sisters would look like 100 years from now. She would like to

propose a community tree planting project using Ponderosa Pine trees. The Forest Service told her that the City probably has a vegetation plan, and to check with the UFB Board to see if her idea would complement the City's existing plans. She would propose to make it a community project and include school kids and families and make it educational and a celebration. It could possibly be arranged to do this during Earth Day or Arbor Day. She is thinking that it may be too late for this year, but it may be something that could work for 2017. She has the skills and enthusiasm to organize a project like this.

Director Bertagna states that we are currently working on an Urban Forestry Master Plan. This is probably what Will from the Forest Service was referring to. Suzie Lewis is thinking about planting small Ponderosa Pine trees, and also use various other types of deciduous trees for color, texture, etc. Getting the community involved just makes it so people care. They care more because they have been involved with planting the trees and got their hands dirty.

Director Bertagna states that this is definitely something that can be talked about once the Master Plan has been completed. In the meantime, we have projects like Arbor Day. The City of Sisters plants lots of trees around town each year on Arbor Day. That can be an opportunity to start with.

Suzi Lewis asks about the proposed tree inventory and who will do this. Forester Galecki replies this will be his job once this has been approved by the City Council. Suzi Lewis asks whether or not Forester Galecki has considered involving students for labor assistance and the learning opportunities for kids or even older students, like forestry college students. Forester Galecki is open to the idea, but he has to be cautious because it may mean he has to adjust his price. He has based his current price on an expedited inventory. However, he is definitely open to ideas. Per Director Bertagna, Recording Secretary Abbenhuis will get Suzi Lewis' contact information to keep her up to date and mail out Agendas for future meetings, etc.

Darcy Reed from the Community Development Department and Recording Secretary Abbenhuis will soon work on the Arbor Day program for 2016 and will contact Suzi Lewis to see if she would like to participate.

Director Bertagna informs Suzi Lewis that the City has a tree nursery with deciduous trees, several varieties, and that they are watered with effluent water. We can add Ponderosa Pine tree seedlings and plant them in pots at the existing tree nursery. Board Member Moyer mentions that we can probably get some seedlings from the Forest Service. Board Member Bertagna mentions that transplanting Ponderosa Pine trees is very difficult, but seedlings in pots will work.

Director Bertagna mentions that in previous meetings the highway trees that are in bad shape have been discussed. He mentions that coming in to town, starting at Ray's Food Place driving towards the old Veteran's Park (east), he noticed that the Ponderosa Pine trees are beginning to look really bad. We need to keep an eye on these trees.

Director Bertagna asks Forester Galecki to check on the two Ponderosa Pine trees on Jefferson Avenue (near Daryl Tewalt's house).

Board Member Moyer is asking if there are any other comments from the board members. There are none.

Board Member Moyer adjourns the meeting at 4 PM.