



Urban Forestry Board
Wednesday, June 10, 2015 – 3:00 P.M.
P.O. Box 39, Sisters, OR 97759

Board Members: Jerry Bertagna, Dave Magaret, David Moyer,
Absent: Marcus Peck
CDD Director: Patrick Davenport
P.W. Staff Member: Paul Bertagna
Recording Secretary: Carol Jenkins

I. CALL TO ORDER

Board Member Moyer called the meeting to order at 3:00 P.M.

II. VISITOR COMMUNICATION

None at this time.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

None at this time.

IV. URBAN FORESTRY BOARD DISCUSSION

- a. Introduction of City Forester Dan Galecki of Spindrift Forestry Consulting, LLC
- b. Discuss Management Plan Scope of Work
- c. Pruning around town (City Parks and Streets) & Campground Maintenance (widow makes, etc).
- d. Hazard (dead) trees at Elementary School and E. Cascade Path, and two (2) trees at Barclay Park.

Board Member Moyer asked Dan Galecki with Spindrift Forestry Consulting to tell the Board Members and staff a little bit about himself at this time.

Mr. Galecki thank the staff and the Urban Forestry Board Members for inviting him and said that he is very happy to be here. He stated that his degree is from Wisconsin and has been living in Bend for about 8-years now. He said that he is familiar with Sisters, and is looking forward to addressing the City's tree problems for concerns, plans, or whatever topics or issues that are coming up here. He said that he wanted to remind the members that he has a colleague that will be helping him and her name is Ciara McCarthy. He said that Ms. McCarthy has her own separate business and will be a sub-contractor of Spindrift and is very happy to have her on board. He said that to keep in lines with what was described in the original RFP, she can be contacted, or he can be contacted in emergencies, danger trees, or hazard tree situations. One of them will come out as described in the RFP and will address the problems or questions in a prompt timely order.

Mr. Galecki stated that in looking at the Agenda and also the draft Management Plan – he and Ms. McCarthy have some ideas and thoughts on how to look at, access, and address the entire City as a whole. He said they could look at larger scopes of trees and how they are involved in the urban environment and the outlook in the next 5-10 years.

The Urban Forestry Board members introduced themselves and gave a brief background of their working careers at this time.

Board Member Moyer asked Mr. Galecki if he wanted to discuss the Scope of Work and the Management Plan at this time.

Mr. Galecki stated that he is open to ideas and there are different avenues that could be pursued, but that really depends on a lot of what the Board and the City staff decide, what there are budgets for, how aggressively or how thorough the City wants to be. He said that he wants to be fairly aggressive and through no matter how to address the different issues, and he can deliver a really good product as far as data and a good idea of what is here in the City of Sisters as far as tree health, number of trees, and what can be done to progress in different directions.

Director Bertagna stated that there is the outline that Board Member Bertagna gave to the Board to look through. This outline encompasses what the City needs and his thought is budget wise and time wise – he can see this project potentially being a phased type project. He said that they can break the City in quadrants, or do the Urban Downtown and then, move out to the residential areas, or some kind of phasing mechanism, bite off chunks, and pick the highest priority and do that first.

Board Member Bertagna discussed his Internet research on the Department of Forestry that has a basic program and that is where he was able to get that outline being discussed. Basically, it would just be filling in the blanks. Prior to that, he stated that he looked at several Urban Forest Management Plans within Oregon, and most of them with big extensive plans are the larger cities. He said that he didn't really find anything for a City this size. He said that the best way is to keep it as simple as possible and some of the recommendations when he showed that outline was a lot of the areas that this addresses can be tiered to existing plans that have already been approved in the City. They have about 3-4 different Management Plans pertaining to Urban Forestry and instead of repeating the same verbiage, and everything is to just tier those plans and make it as simple as possible. From there on the basic Management Plan is to come up with specific detail and how to attack the different areas within town.

Mr. Galecki stated that he agreed and as he mentioned already, he wants to give a lot of information, a lot of data, but it doesn't need to be overwhelming with a lot of extra data and issues, etc. Basically, it boils down to either chunking off different parts of the City, or looking at the whole City as a whole but have priorities. A couple of first impressions and he said that he's already assessed some of the individual trees, but his impression of the whole City is that they could work on priorities and he thinks that safety would be one of the main things. A couple of spin-offs from safety would be trees falling on people in high profile areas, and then, building structures, utilities, and facilities is what he thinks is safety. He said that it is not a good idea to have trees, debris, or things growing into the power lines – those types of issues. He said that

could be looked at as one priority and could do a wide sweep of the City just looking at those issues, or chuck off the City and address those areas first.

Mr. Galecki stated that he has his own opinion, but wants to go with the City's advice because he said it is our City and this is the Urban Forestry Board, but these are two (2) starting blocks to pursue.

Director Bertagna asked Mr. Galecki how he would go about putting the plan together and the steps needed.

Mr. Galecki stated that the first step is always an inventory and a map. He said that he needs to help his work and help facilitate this decision process to help the City – there needs to be an inventory and some kind of a map. Then, they have to agree how detailed or how much money or time the City would like to spend on that. Even the simplest map and the simplest inventory can help progress with the Agenda for tree health and safety, etc. He said that as they go along, they can keep adding to that map and inventory, but they need to get out of the gate and have some kind of start with the map and inventory.

Director Bertagna asked if they can do the inventory off of an ariel or on the ground.

Mr. Galecki stated that he could do it off of an ariel and he said he could bounce some ideas off too, but would take a little bit of time. He said that there are the trees, and then, they need to decide what attributes to collect on the tree. He asked if they need to count every tree – yes or no. He stated he could do that in a quite through process. Once you address the trees, then, you need the heights and diameters. Then, a classification of whether this is a large landmark tree, or is this an ordinary yard tree, or a right-of-way tree and everything in between. Then, looking at the health and safety and is there a problem with the tree. Is there something rotting it out, is something dead, does it need to be pruned, fixed, or something. These are all attributes that need to be looked at. He said that some may or may not be important, but he is suggesting 5-7 attributes, collect them, and then, tally them so that there is some data on that tree – or at the very least a group of trees to expedite this process. Then, show this on a map and with a map there might be trends of an area of how many trees need attention, or an area of these legacy trees that are large and trees that people really like. These will all start showing and popping up on a map and can direct the attention that way.

Board Member Moyer asked Director Bertagna about budget figures and what is being proposed for the budget this next coming year.

Director Bertagna stated that the City does not have any numbers to work off of yet. So, this is the first step, to figure out the scope, and that will give us an idea of what the budget will need to be. Then, staff can go to the City Council with that. At this point, to start the work in the 15-16 budget, it will be a supplemental budget after July 1, 2015 which is fine.

Board Member Bertagna stated that he thinks it's a good idea to look at the different segments where there is the Downtown area (trees within that area) for public safety is definitely number one. Then, the Campgrounds and Parks - spread this out and this will be number two, but it is also number one for public safety because of people camping there. Then, spread out to the outlining areas, maybe a 3rd area and a 4th area and maybe go out even further.

Director Bertagna stated it would be good to look at the public right-of-way trees.

Board Member Bertagna stated yes, and also as you keep going. As far as depending on the budget, and if there was a limited budget then, as a group decide on what is the first priority which is the Downtown area, and next would be the Campground area to keep the Campground open. If there are any hazard trees or public safety hazards – that is where the money goes and then, depending on the budget, expend out from there. But, at least start with one area where there is the most expose to the public starting first.

Director Bertagna stated to start with the Downtown and then the Campground. He said that Mr. Galecki has done a pretty good assessment of the Campground already.

Board Member Bertagna said that if there can't be an inventory on a map – start with the Downtown area that would include the parks and spread out from there.

Director Bertagna asked Mr. Galecki if that gives him enough direction to start piecing some numbers together to do that.

Board Member Bertagna stated that in the Downtown area, Mr. Galecki may have to specify what he considers from what road – Hood Avenue to Adams Avenue – Washington to Adams, Pine to Locust and that should encompass the core, etc.

Board Member Moyer stated that the most critical ones would be Creekside Park and Village Green Parks. Those parks are really the ones that have a lot of trees on them.

A discussion took place regarding the trees around town and if they are City owned, by the Forest Service, the School District, or ODOT's responsibility at this time.

Director Bertagna stated that they will start off with the 1st Phase – Downtown, Washington to Adams including the highways, then, the Parks – Creekside and Village Green specifically. This is to get the inventory and a map.

A discussion took place regarding the East Portal and the possibility of using some of the Forest Service resources as well.

Board Member Moyer stated that if they were going to look on the main highway, that is Forest land on both sides of it going out from Pine Street out – is all Forest Service land.

Mr. Galecki stated that it sounds like it will be chunking off portions of the City. He asked the Board and staff what attributes they want. He asked if they want individual trees, clump trees, or make a large sweep and look for dangerous trees, etc. He wanted to remind them that during the inventory, while he is there or his colleague is there, that it is a good advantage to collect as much data as possible. To revisit an area and collect data over and over again is time consuming, but since they are there, they need to agree on several quick, but useful attributes such as the height, condition, species, characteristics, and a GPS. He gave an example of using GIS and all of the things that will help with this data collection. He asked the Board and staff what they would like to see.

Director Bertagna stated that a GPS and mark the Downtown core because there are not that many of them. They are probably the ones who want to be tracking more than anything because there has been the most construction, disturbance, and stress on them. He stated that on the highways look for potential issues and inventory those.

A discussion took place regarding the trees around the City because there is a combination of native species, etc. and doing GPS on the big ones and anything big enough to cause damage. They discussed the different types and sizes of the trees to be GPS at this time.

Director Bertagna stated that he has budget in the street trees right now and they need to give Mr. Galecki direction on putting together the base map.

Board Member Moyer stated that he would like to see the product and start working from there on it. Then, add or subtract from it and go onto the next Phase. He stated that it is something to start working with, they know what they want, but how to they get there. He asked Director Bertagna if he could write that task up and if he needs any help or has any questions – call a couple of the Board members together and make a quick yes or no, etc.

Mr. Galecki stated that sounds good to him, and fits exactly with what he is trying to share with the group and it's a really good start.

A discussion took place regarding “pruning” around town in the City Parks and Streets, the Campground maintenance (widow makers, etc.), dead trees that need to be removed, bugs ruining the trees, pruning of the Campground, decay on trees, weather causing damage to the trees, etc.

Mr. Galecki stated that a widow maker is some king of debris just sitting in a tree. Some are already broken off and other limbs just holding it, or a very weak branch that is ready to fall off. The tree could be healthy and no need to remove the tree, it just needs maintenance and taking care of the problem(s).

Board Member Bertagna made a motion to take care of the problem with the widow makers (just the debris and anything causing a problem) as soon as possible. *Board Member Moyer* seconded. *Motion carries.*

Director Bertagna stated that he will give the Parks Board and City Council a heads up of what is going to be happening.

A discussion took place regarding the “Hazard (dead) trees at the Elementary School and E. Cascade Path, and two (2) trees at Barclay Park”.

Board Member Moyer stated that he thinks the City needs to send a letter to the School District recommending that they get those trees taken out of there as soon as possible. Also, there is one on the corner of the Administration Building, and there is a white fir sitting on the City right-of-way that is dying.

Mr. Galecki stated that there might be a needle fungus and the dead needles spread to the live needles and this goes on and on. He said what might work is a strong fire hose and blast, and

clean up some of the dead needles with the fungus on there – rake up the needles if there are enough that fall off. Also, Firs do not like overexposed sunlight. He said it's just an idea to think about.

A discussion took place regarding the additional trees and those specific trees that need to be removed, pruning of the different trees around town, and removal of the dead branches, etc.

Director Bertagna gave all of the specific locations of these dead trees that need to be removed, trimmed, or those trees that need to be closely monitored at this time.

Director Bertagna stated that he would put a quote together along with Mr. Galecki and get some bids to get a bulk removal. He stated that a lot of these are in highway areas, road areas, and he does not want his Public Works crew out there doing it. He said that he would go ahead with the removals if it is ok with the Board. He asked that the Board go out and look at these trees and send him back an email – Main and Larch (by Hardtails), Jen's Garden (Larch and Hood), and the highway (visual).

A discussion took place regarding the sizes and the definitions of trees at this time. Mr. Galecki said that on a ponderosa tree – the older it gets the bark gets more fissured and the plates get more wide and is quite pleasing and very characteristic of an older tree. It is still healthy, it may be more rugged, these types of trees are very valuable, and they should be taken care of them. Some of the trees in Creekside Park are 100's of years old which is old growth. It is important to look at the size, the age, and character of the trees, etc.

Board Member Moyer stated that he is concerned and has had several people comment and ask about the amount of clearing that is being done around the trees and in the park. He said it is not good forestry practice. He said that the main reason is through studies that have been done where they went in there and cleaned the ground off. Over a period of 20-years, the trees decreased in growth, they did not get the nutrients they needed. The only way they get the nutrients is to leave some of the grasses and needles – that stuff all decays and that is the way it processes. He said that he doesn't think they need to be cleaning up the grass stuff out in the park as much as is being done – it is not good forestry practice. *He said that if there is any more of it going on he would like to see it stopped until the Board comes up with something.*

Board Member Bertagna asked who is doing it now.

Board Member Moyer stated it is being done by the City.

Director Bertagna stated that in-mate crews are being hired. The reasoning was a couple of different things – to make it look cleaner, because of cigarette butts being thrown out of windows, and visibility for the deer. Those were the three (3) reasons given by his boss, City Manager Gorayeb, and it was his campaign to go through and clean the right-of-way's up 50-ft back on the highways, etc.

Board Member Moyer stated that he can see the reasoning, but not to take out all of the grass and mow it cleaner than a lawn and rake up all the stuff out there.

Ms. Stafford stated that Jim Anderson is also very upset about it because of all of the habitat being eliminated.

Director Bertagna stated that he would pass this along to his boss, City Manager Gorayeb. He asked the Board to send him an email with their recommendations to put in the record. He said that all of the things that he and his crew do is directed by his boss.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Board Member Moyer adjourned the meeting at 4:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Jenkins, Recording Secretary