

Oct. 20, 2009 Tree Commission Meeting Minutes

Present: Brian Allen, Ethan Perry, Judy Gibbs, Christine Penney, Jim Larson, Margi Preus, Kelly Fleissner

Absent: Rick Gitar

Guest: Doug Stevens, President of Skyline Preservation Alliance

Meeting called to order:

Trees in the News

Judy reported on the responsibilities of her position with Green Corps

- 1) help tree commission w/tree ordinance
- 2) Arbor Day events
- 3) EAB readiness—planning a response
- 4) establish citizen tree pruning program
- 5) tree inventory –none done since 1954//citizen program

- working with Friends of the Park; and plans to focus her efforts on trees

- meeting on Oct. 21 at Chester Park of Friends of the Park, 6:30 p.m.; Lester Park

Ethan raised the possibility of T.C. working on a plan for Skyline

EAB- phloem reduction (i.e. cutting trees)

Discussion of EAB: Brian—nobody's buying ash now?

- somebody making furniture out of ash;
- wood chips? size of chips have to be really fine
- how to pay for removal of big trees?

Ethan reports:

Ethan took mandatory EAB training- DNR will help with funding for cities to update tree ordinances to deal with EAB; Ethan will look into this.

DNR has regulations on where firewood can come from for approved vendors, but do private local campgrounds?

Kelly will look into requesting that the local campgrounds request people do not bring in firewood

Ethan reported on meeting with Bob Asleson in city attorney's office; Asleson will keep working on it.

UDC module 2 draft is now out and there will be a public meeting at the end of the month; nothing in it about trees; downtown zoning has 0% landscaping requirement.

Christine took issue with this and Ethan said that if we want to object, we should write a letter outlining our concerns.

Kelly suggests inviting people from Climate Change committee to a T.C. meeting

Jim – update on airport—no update since the meeting happens Wed. after meeting EAW comes out late in January; public period for comment following

- tour didn't give us solid information about what trees, exactly, are going to be impacted.
- Jim will try to find out this information
- the path of least resistance is the shifting of runway; impacts 100 trees on city land
- how much funding does city contribute to the airport? a lot of money per plane?
- costs: Judy will look for article in DNT regarding the above.

Doug Stevens - president of Skyline Parkway Preservation Alliance

- Rotary club is looking for projects and SPP group plans to apply for funding from them
- two overlooks that were clear and have overgrown somewhat – 2nd and 3rd in from 40th Ave. W. (Haines)
- skylineppa.org
- outdoor classroom opportunity – clearing of invasive species (that bamboo stuff, for instance).
- proposal ready to go; need to find out the cost
- now is a good time to make a vegetation plan for Skyline

A motion was made to support the Skyline Parkway Preservation Alliance overlook plan Rotary proposal (2nd & 3rd overlooks west of 40th Ave. W.), as well as to participate in vegetation management plans for additional overlooks. passed unanimously.