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2 **Washington Community Forestry Council Meeting**
3 **October 19, 2016**
4 **Finch Arboretum - Spokane, WA 99224**
5

6 **Members Attending:** Sheila Gray, Chair; Ken Armstrong, Paula Dinius, Terry Flatley, Jheri Ketchum,
7 Linden Lampman, Kirsten Lints, Lisa Ciecko, Cindy Deffe, Angel Spell, David Miller

8 **Members Absent:** Haley Galbraith, Juli Hartwig, Daniel Layton, Kathy Sheehan, Joe Scorcio, Kathy Wolf,

9 **Guests:** Ben Thompson, DNR UCF Specialist; Garth Davis, Forester, Spokane Conservation District and E.
10 Washington UCF Technical Assistant; Tim Kohlhauf, WSU Extension; Guy Gifford, Chairman Spokane
11 Citizens Advisory Board; Ed Lester, Kay Lester

12 **Meeting Convened:** 9:09 a.m.

13 **Welcome:** Chair, Sheila Gray welcomed members. Members introduced themselves around the table.

14 **Agenda Approved:** Discussion of previous day's Urban and Community Forestry Month tree planting
15 event was added to the agenda.

16 **Minutes Approved:** Motion to approve minutes from the June 8, 2016 meeting in Wenatchee, Kirstin
17 Lints, Cindy Deffe, 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

18 **Welcome to Spokane:** Angel Spell welcomed the Council to Spokane and the 65 acre Finch Arboretum.
19 She passed out arboretum brochures, and invited the council to enjoy the beautiful fall weather and visit
20 the grounds.

21 **Tree City USA (TCUSA) tree planting event:** The tree planting event held the previous day (October 18)
22 went well. The event was held to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the TCUSA program, Urban and
23 Community Forestry Month, and storm recovery efforts by the City of Spokane. Participants met in
24 Webster Park, a small neighborhood park which lost a large percentage of significant trees during the
25 fall 2015 windstorm. A total of 40 trees were planted in three different park areas in Spokane with a
26 grant through UCF and with funding assistance from the US Forest Service. State Forester Aaron Everett
27 recognized many of the regions TCUSA communities. Nancy McKerrow attended to plant Susie Trees and
28 bring cookies for planters. Sheila Gray, Angel Spell, Kirsten Lints, Ken Armstrong, Linden Lampman, Garth
29 Davis and Ben Thompson were in attendance.

30 **DNR Urban & Community Forestry Program Report:** Linden recently completed the annual Community
31 Accomplishment Reporting System (CARS) report and it was approved by the US Forest Service. The
32 report shows that over 85% of Washington's population live in communities either currently managing
33 or developing programs to plant, protect and maintain their urban and community trees and forests.

1 Linden was on the Landscape Scale Restoration Grant review team this year; one of 13 reviewers. The
2 competitive grant program is funded through the US Forest Service. All 17 western states, and Pacific
3 Island territories may submit up to three proposals. The grants are worth up to \$300,000. DNR worked
4 with three partners to submit three proposals this year. Grant funding is contingent upon federal budget
5 allotments. We will know by December if we are within the top tier of projects with the potential to be
6 funded. DNR is planning to work with partners again this year to propose projects for the 2017 grant
7 season, although once again, grant funding is not assured. Proposals from years past can be reviewed
8 online at <https://www.forestrygrants.org/westernLSR/>. Funding for the Urban Forest Restoration
9 project will end with this fiscal year, June 30, 2017.

10 DNR UCF requests for proposals through the Community Forestry Assistance and Tree City USA Tree
11 Planting Grants were recently released. Linden encouraged council members to promote the grant
12 opportunity through the organizations which they represent. Angel and Kirsten volunteered to be on the
13 2017 grant review committee.

14 Linden is working with DNRs Department of Aquatics, the WA Stormwater Center, and other partners to
15 submit a request for an effectiveness study to the Department of Ecology. The study would zero in on
16 the how trees mitigate stormwater in urban areas in the Puget Sound. Many of the stormwater models
17 that are currently used are based on data from forested areas and areas from the northeast part of the
18 United States. Western Washington communities are interested in learning about how trees can be used
19 effectively to mitigate stormwater runoff in urban settings, especially in relation to planting trees for
20 stormwater credits. The proposal is due mid-December. Linden invited council participation to review
21 and comment on drafts as they are developed.

22 Terry Flatley told about a study based on western Washington hydrology models in Renton. He
23 suggested contacting the consultant to ask about the project and perhaps integrate some of the
24 information into the proposal. Lisa agreed to review proposal drafts. Paula mentioned that WSU has a
25 stormwater group that might be an additional technical resource.

26 Ben Thompson reported that the Community Tree Management Institute (CTMI) Session two went well.
27 The session focused on technical applications for tree management. Garth Davis is one of two CTMI
28 developers for the last Session at the Oregon Gardens. That session will focus on management issues,
29 and is scheduled for November 8-10.

30 Over the next couple of weeks Ben will be making four different presentations one for the IACC
31 conference in Wenatchee, the last Seminar presentation of this year's workshop series in Wenatchee, a
32 presentation about Tree Risk Management at the Risk Management Services Agency's Member Expo,
33 and a Master Gardener keynote in Leavenworth. Ben and council member Haley Galbraith are part of
34 the planning team for the 2017 Annual Training Conference in Lynnwood through the Pacific Northwest
35 Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture.

36 It is time for communities to start submitting Tree City USA, Tree Line USA, and Tree Campus USA
37 applications. Ben and Garth will review applications. Garth has been assisting Connell and Othello, which
38 are expected to submit applications this year. Ben has been working with Sequim, Sammamish, and
39 Twisp. With up to five new communities, we will be well of 90 Tree Cities in 2016.

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1 **USDA Forest Service Report:** Kathy Sheehan was unable to attend the meeting in person due to budget
2 constraints, but sent a short written update:

- 3 • FY17 funding for Urban & Community Forestry – for both State and Forest Service programs -- is
4 very uncertain. Federal agencies are currently funded through December 9th via a Continuing
5 Resolution (which continues last year's funding levels on a pro-rated basis). Given that we'll soon
6 have a new President and possibly new priorities, the Forest Service is generally not issuing any new
7 grants or starting any new programs, etc.
- 8 • WA DNR completed their annual Urban & Community Forestry report on time earlier this week.
9 Despite receiving reduced funding from the Forest Service in FY16 due to overall reductions in urban
10 forestry funding, Washington State's urban forestry program continues to provide excellent
11 assistance to communities throughout the state.

12
13 **Council Priorities document:** Over the past couple of meetings, a document has been created to advise
14 DNR executive management on council priorities. At the last meeting, it was agreed that each priority
15 should list specific actions that could be taken to advance urban forestry program goals. Lisa led the
16 council in an activity to list actions under three headings including internal agency connections, external
17 agency connections, and policy support.

18 **Action:** Lisa will re-format the document and route revisions to council members by November 1.

19 **Action:** Any additional comments regarding the document should be routed to Lisa by November 15.

20 **Motion** to adopt the draft council priorities document as revised at the October 19, 2016 meeting, to be
21 finalized at the February 2017 meeting. Terry Flatley. Second, Cindy Deffe.

22 **Award presentation:** Cindy introduced Dr. Ed Lester. Ed Lester is a retired orthopedic surgeon with a
23 relentless passion for trees and forests. He and his wife Kay own two tree farms in Washington, which
24 are frequently used as outdoor classrooms to teach students, master gardeners and other forest
25 landowners about forest stewardship. Ed volunteers with the Spokane Master Gardeners to teach
26 classes on tree identification and has designed and led numerous tree walks in Spokane. He is
27 particularly interested in trees that may be the oldest, largest and rarest for their species, so much that
28 it drove him to write a 600-page book about such noteworthy trees in the greater Spokane area.

29 **Spokane Heritage Tree Program:** Tim Kohlhauf gave a short presentation about the Heritage Tree
30 Program in Spokane, a program which was initiated by Dr. Lester. The program was started to increase
31 public awareness of trees, specifically in Spokane's urban forest, and to encourage public participation in
32 the city's trees. Citizens can access information about trees on the program website maintained by
33 heritage council.

34 **Roundtable Reports:** Roundtable reports were attenuated due to time constraints, but the council
35 recognized Ken Armstrong for recently receiving the designation of Board Certified Master Arborist by
36 the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA). The certificate demonstrates a high level of professional
37 knowledge, skill, and expertise.

38 **Master Gardener Online Training Project update:** Paula Dinius and Sheila updated the council on the
39 project. Paula showed the council the presentation format and explained how the program would

1 interface with participants. Modules are still going through a final review process, with voice-over
2 recordings completed following final approval. There are plans for an early summer release.

3 **Avista Utilities Energy Saving Trees Program:** Larry Lee, Avista’s vegetation management program
4 manager, gave a brief presentation to the council about implementation of a pilot program through
5 Arbor Day Foundation. The Energy-Saving Trees program assists property owners, within a utilities
6 service area to select site-specific trees with an online mapping program. Trees can then be strategically
7 planted for the greatest energy- and money-saving benefits. The pilot program will plant up to 100 trees
8 this year. If successful, it will be expanded in subsequent years.

9 **Urban and Community Forestry information sheet:** In preparation for the upcoming legislative session,
10 executive management recommended that the council assist in developing an urban forestry fact sheet
11 to raise the visibility of the program and call attention to the goals we promote. The sheet will be 1-
12 page, and 2-sided. Linden led council members in a brainstorming activity to prioritize information for a
13 fact sheet. The following bullet list was generated.

- 14 • What – informed state legislators and citizens
- 15 • Why – importance of trees in urban areas
 - 16 ○ Tree benefits; shade, energy, health/wellness, aesthetic, air quality, salmon
 - 17 ○ Managing for safety and benefits
- 18 • Community vs. urban – be inclusive of west and east
- 19 • Use a diagram to show UCF context
- 20 • What – include the UCF Mission
- 21 • Emphasize the Evergreen State
- 22 • Puget Sound water quality/stormwater mitigation
 - 23 ○ Avoided cost
- 24 • Use bullets points from TCUSA information sheet
 - 25 ○ #s of communities in TCUSA program or % managing/developing communities
 - 26 ○ \$ spent – cost/benefit
- 27 • Incorporate quotes about the importance of trees in communities
- 28 • Incorporate an ecosystem services tree tag/information

29 **2017 meeting schedule:** Council members agreed to hold three meetings on the following dates and
30 places:

31 February 8, Olympia – location to be determined

32 June 7 or 14, Everett Arboretum

33 October 18, Yakima

34 **Nominations for leadership 2017:**

35 Chair: Lisa Ciecko

36 Vice-Chair: Kirsten Lints

37 **Motion to adjourn:** David Miller, second Terry Flatley. Unanimous.

1 **Meeting Adjourned:** 3:00 p.m.