



URBAN FORESTRY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

January 23, 2025 at 3:00 PM

Council Chambers at City Hall - 1123 W. Lake St. Sandpoint, Idaho

Call to Order

Chair Mose Dunkel called the meeting of the Urban Forestry Commission to order at 3:05 p.m. on Thursday, January 23, 2025 in Council Chambers at City Hall, 1123 W. Lake Street, Sandpoint, Idaho.

Roll Call

PRESENT

Mose Dunkel, Chair

Chase Youngdahl, Vice Chair

Geoff Gregory

Paige Belfry

Preston Andrews

Also present were City Council liaison Kyle Schreiber, staff liaison Erik Bush, and board clerk Samantha Branscome.

Meeting Minutes Approval

1. The minutes from the Commission's December 3, 2024, meeting were approved as presented.

Motion made by Gregory, Seconded by Youngdahl.

Voting Yea: Dunkel, Youngdahl, Gregory, Belfry, Andrews

Old/Unfinished Business - none

New Business

2. Discuss Definition for Heritage Trees in Sandpoint

Chair Dunkel started this discussion by noting that a definition of Heritage Trees has been included in the City's Comprehensive Plan. Staff Liaison Erik Bush shared this definition and other mentions of Heritage Trees in the Comprehensive Plan, as well as presenting some potential attributes to consider in a revised definition. Commissioner Belfry suggested some additional categories for classifications other than Heritage Trees, including Notable Trees, Champion Trees, Veteran Trees, and Ancient Trees. Councilor Schreiber shared City Ordinance 7-15-13 and its mention of Historic and Heritage trees, as defined by the Arboricultural Manual. After further discussion on whether a broad or narrow definition of Heritage Tree is most appropriate, the Commission decided to continue researching this topic and will continue to discuss in a future meeting. City Staff will look into extending an invitation to the City's Arts and Historic Preservation Planner to present on potential Historic Trees in the City.

3. Review and Discuss Arboricultural Manual

Erik Bush presented the current manual to the Commission and noted that the science within the manual is outdated. He started the discussion with a query of whether or not the Commission would like to start from scratch or use the current manual and revise and update it. Belfry and Youngdahl suggested updating the current manual as the best course of action. The Commission spent some time discussing the approved and prohibited tree lists contained in the manual and how to encourage a variety of trees within the City. The Commission will pick up this topic as Old Business at the next meeting, with plans to walk through the manual, chapter by chapter, to make necessary changes.

4. Review Cedar Street 75% Drawings and the Effects on Right of Way Trees

Erik Bush explained the basics of construction plans and walked the Commission through which trees on the construction project are marked for removal or preservation. The Commission reviewed photos of the trees on Google Maps and had a general discussion about which trees to prioritize saving and how to effectively preserve trees. The Commission was asked to provide feedback at a later date on what they would like to see on plans like these and expect to bring this topic up again at the next meeting.


Roundtable

5. Due to the late hour, Chair Dunkel suggested the Commission forego a roundtable discussion and adjourn.

Adjourn

With no further business before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 5:02 p.m.

I presided over this meeting and can confirm that these minutes, prepared by the board clerk, were approved by the Commission during their meeting on February 6, 2025.



Mose Dunkel, Board Chair

Attest: Samantha Branscome, Board Clerk