



URBAN FORESTRY COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

July 30, 2026 at 3:30 PM

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

Call to Order

Commission Chair Mose Dunkel called the special meeting of the Urban Forestry Commission to order at 3:30 p.m. on Thursday, July 30, 2026, in Council Chambers at City Hall, 1123 W. Lake Street Sandpoint, Idaho.

Roll Call

PRESENT

Chase Youngdahl
Mose Dunkel
Geoff Gregory

ABSENT

Preston Andrews
Paige Belfry

Also present were staff liaison Erik Bush, and Public Works Administrative Assistant Sam Chin, serving as board clerk.

Meeting Minutes Approval

1. The minutes from the Commission's June 25, 2026, meeting were approved unanimously as presented.

Motion made by Youngdahl, Seconded by Gregory.
Voting Yea: Youngdahl, Dunkel, Gregory

Old/Unfinished Business

2. Discussion re: FY27 Budget

Mr. Bush briefed the Commission on the FY27 Urban Forestry Budget discussion from the previous meeting. The proposed budget recommendation of \$60,000 would be allocated for hazard tree removal, tree maintenance, consulting services, and a contingency for storm cleanup. Commissioner Youngdahl made a motion to recommend the proposed FY27 Urban Forestry Budget to City Council. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Gregory and approved unanimously by the Commissioners present as follows:

Motion made by Youngdahl, Seconded by Gregory

Voting Yea: Youngdahl, Dunkel, Gregory

3. Council Direction: Private Property Heritage Tree Incentives

The Commission discussed best practices for developing an incentive program to encourage developers and homeowners to preserve heritage trees on private property. The Commission also evaluated potential risks and access routes to specific sites. Information only; no Commission action.

4. Discussion: Voluntary Heritage Tree Program

Mr. Bush presented a draft framework for the Voluntary Heritage Tree Program, where homeowners could choose to designate qualifying trees on private property as heritage trees. The Commissioners present agreed to continue discussion on this item until all Commissioners have had an opportunity to review the draft documents and participate in the discussion. Information only; no Commission action.

New Business

5. Discussion: Regular Meeting Schedule Discussion Day / Time

Commissioners discussed a possible schedule change but ultimately decided to table the discussion until all Commissioners could be present.

General Announcements/Comments

Mr. Bush provided an update on Plan It Geo conducting a tree inventory update that will take place throughout the city. Mr. Bush also gave an update on additional Spongy Moth traps that have been placed by Idaho Department of Lands until late September/early October.

A member of the public commented on right-of-way trees being maintained through either non-profit or city maintenance.

Adjourn

With no further business on the agenda, the meeting was adjourned at 4:45 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 _____, 2026

Mose Dunkel, Board Chair

Attest: Sam Chin, Public Works Admin Asst.