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2 **Washington Community Forestry Council Meeting**  
3 **May 16, 2018**  
4 Finch Arboretum, Spokane, WA  
5

6 **Members Attending:** Angel Spell, Cindy Deffe, Dave Bayard, David Miller, John Bornsworth, Juli Hartwig,  
7 Kirsten Lints, Linden Lampman, Lisa Ciecko, Semra Riddle, Terry Flatley, Kathleen Wolf, Kathy Sheehan  
8 (via Skype)

9 **Members Absent:** Paula Dinius, Ken Armstrong, Peter Dervin

10 **Guests:** Ben Thompson (via skype throughout day), Garth Davis, Leroy Eadie, Kerry Brooks, PhD. EWU,  
11 Fianna Dickson.

12 **Meeting Convened:** 9:05 a.m.

13 **Welcome:** Angel Spell, Council Chair, welcomed members. Members introduced themselves around the  
14 table.

15 Leroy Eadie, City of Spokane Director of Parks & Recreation, welcomed Council members to Spokane  
16 and the Arboretum. With a background in city planning, Mr. Eadie understands that the investments  
17 made in managing urban trees helps make the city a great place to live. The City has a 2:1  
18 removal/replacement policy. Mr. Eadie complimented Angel on improvements to the Finch arboretum  
19 tree collection and grounds implemented under her leadership.

20 **Minutes Approved:** Motion to approve minutes from February 28, 2018, Cindy; 2<sup>nd</sup> Semra. Motion  
21 carried.

22 **Agenda Approved:** Motion to approve agenda, Kirsten; 2<sup>nd</sup> Lisa. Motion carried.

23 **Presentation and Discussion: Social Equity of Street Trees**

24 Kerry Brooks, PhD, Eastern Washington University, Urban and Regional Planning presented his research  
25 on street trees within the pedestrian realm. For the study, street trees were defined as those growing  
26 within twenty feet of a street edge, and may include public and private trees. The premise of the study  
27 was that trees enhance livability and walkability within a community therefore should be equitably  
28 distributed across the landscape, to benefit all citizens. Brooks described the technical approach, data  
29 and tools, used in the study. Outcome of the study was that trees in the Spokane Pedestrian Realm are  
30 inequitably distributed. The study could inform planting plans, strategically targeting areas that would  
31 benefit from increased canopy.

1 Council discussion centered on technical details of the study and how to incorporate public engagement  
2 into planting plans.

3 **DNR Urban & Community Forestry Program Report:**

4 Ben Thompson: Arbor Day and Tree City USA award presentation events attended by council members  
5 and staff including: Commissioner of Public Lands Hilary Franz, Ben, Garth, Linden, Dave B., Kathy S.,  
6 Lisa, Cindy, Terry, Angel; the first of the 2018 UCF Seminar Series “Healthy Trees, Healthy Communities”  
7 was in Poulsbo last week, seven more presentations are offered across the state:

8 **Richland:** Thursday, May 24, 8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

9 **Bellevue:** Thursday, June 7, 8:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

10 **Spokane:** Thursday, August 16, 8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

11 **Vancouver:** Thursday, August 30, 8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

12 **Olympia:** Thursday, September 20, 8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

13 **Mount Vernon:** Wednesday, October 10, 8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

14 **Wenatchee:** Thursday, October 25, 8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

15 Working with a sub-group of council members to develop projects and grants informed by the equity  
16 analysis.

17 Garth Davis: recently spoke to students at Spokane Community College; attended Arbor Day celebration  
18 at Richland in April; working with Ritzville on a reconstruction pruning grant; assisted city of Connell with  
19 a tree guidance document. The Conservation District recently purchased a 50 Acre parcel in Spokane  
20 Valley. Garth is creating a conservation park and demonstration sites on the property.

21 Linden Lampman: Arbor Day events throughout N. Central WA; prompting Urban Forestry Assistance  
22 Grantees for reports; preparing for strategic planning session May 21, 22; Effectiveness Study final  
23 review is June 6; the iTree Hydro project with King Conservation District is ongoing and on track;  
24 expecting funding for two additional Landscape Scale Restoration (LSR) Projects by month’s end; starting  
25 preparations for 2019 LSR proposals; outreach to DNR Region offices to inform about UCF and seek  
26 potential partners for tech. assistance; working with Invasive Species Council on a UF Pest Emergency  
27 Preparedness document to enhance mitigation and rapid response.

28 **USDA Forest Service Report:**

29 Kathy Sheehan: Budget Update

30 The final FY18 budget that was passed by Congress and signed by the President includes a very small  
31 increase for the Urban & Community Forestry (UCF) program relative to last year’s budget; expects  
32 to receive the final FY18 budget amounts for UCF by the end of this month at the latest.

33 Planning Future Topics & Speakers for the [Urban Forest Connections](#) webinars, a monthly series that  
34 usually include presentations about cutting-edge research on urban forestry topics and practical  
35 applications &/or policy implications from that research. Any suggestions for future urban &  
36 community forestry webinar topics can be sent to the “Feedback” link near the bottom of the [Urban  
37 Forest Connections](#) webpage or contact Kathy, ([k.sheehan@fs.fed.us](mailto:k.sheehan@fs.fed.us), 503-808-2351)

38 Review of Forest Service UCF Program is scheduled for October 2018 - Council members have the  
39 opportunity to provide comments, suggestions, recommendations, etc. regarding the FS’s UCF  
40 program, either directly to the review team or through Linden & WDNR.

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1 **Working lunch/network:** Council members submitted program reports ahead of the meeting (trailing).  
2 Sub-groups met according to interest to discuss.

3 Reports submitted:

4 **John Bornsworth – Peninsula Urban Forestry LLC**

- 5 • We're on contract with the City of Port Angeles to evaluate the WA Champion Arbutus  
6 menziesii within the City. The tree is in significant decline. At 88.6 inches diameter, a 140 foot crown  
7 spread and within 12 feet of a major arterial road, City management was prompted with removal by  
8 concerned citizens. We're looking into the feasibility of 1) the lot being donated to the City and 2)  
9 City contracted arborists pruning the tree to mitigate for risk of branch failure. We made an initial  
10 pass at 3d modelling the tree base: <https://skfb.ly/6y6GA>
- 11 • PUF is working with the City of Tumwater on their UFMP update. A public stakeholder survey will  
12 open April 20 (their Arbor Day celebration) and will close two weeks later. If you know of someone  
13 living or working within Tumwater, forward them the link to the survey. The link should be posted to  
14 the following page and Tumwater's Facebook page on the  
15 20th. <http://www.ci.tumwater.wa.us/departments/community-development/trees>
- 16 • We're finishing up the City's UTC assessment this month and can share those results at a later time.

17 **David Bayard – Seattle City Light**

- 18 • Looking at a \$1.5M budget cut for next year. (exasperation)
- 19 • The City of Seattle Urban Forestry Core Team is working hard on an inclusive engagement plan for  
20 our next iteration of the City's Urban Forestry Management Plan. It's a long, messy process – and  
21 we're only getting started.
- 22 • Lots of movement in the City around tree-protection policy and the way the City divides up  
23 responsibility for managing trees. The Mayor has a perspective and a Councilmember does as well,  
24 and both are pushing their agendas. One thing for sure, things are going to change.
- 25 • One of my Arboriculturists is putting together a presentation to discuss our now 4-year experiment  
26 removing 100% of the soil volume on a site (to varying depths – mostly 12-20") and replacing it with  
27 "clean" soil, while retaining all trees on site.

28 **Lisa Ciecko – City of Seattle, Green Seattle Partnership**

- 29 • "Leaf-on" has arrived, so I've been busy preparing for the Green Seattle Partnership's summer 2018  
30 ecological assessment work. The prep work includes coordinating monitoring at our permanent  
31 plots (150 total across the city), determining where we'll do our annual rapid ecological assessment  
32 + mapping (roughly 350 acres of our 2,500 acres), and identifying the best of the best forests to visit  
33 and verify that they are ready to move from active/annual management to long-term stewardship.  
34 New this year, we'll also be doing a seedling survival survey to help understand how many of the  
35 40K+ trees planted annually are out there thriving...and to gain some knowledge on how we can  
36 improve planting practices.

37 **Kathleen Wolf, PhD. – University of Washington**

- 38 • Collaborated with The Nature Conservancy on a brief video titled "**The Power of Trees**"  
39 <http://www.washingtonnature.org/power-of-trees-video/>  
40 New research shows that trees communicate with one another and share nutrients through their  
41 roots! They need each other. In urban areas, trees also help us with health, economic and social  
42 benefits. They are part of our culture. We need them. So, how can we return the favor?

1 This video was made by The Nature Conservancy in partnership with the University of Washington,  
2 University of British Columbia and the Duwamish Tribe.

- 3  
4 • The USDA Forest Service recently published a review of research on urban nature and human  
5 health: **Urban Nature for Human Health and Well-Being**  
6 <https://www.fs.fed.us/inside-fs/linking-urban-nature-human-health-and-well-being>  
7 [https://www.fs.fed.us/sites/default/files/fs\\_media/fs\\_document/urbannatureforhumanhealthandw](https://www.fs.fed.us/sites/default/files/fs_media/fs_document/urbannatureforhumanhealthandwellbeing_508_01_30_18.pdf)  
8 [ellbeing\\_508\\_01\\_30\\_18.pdf](https://www.fs.fed.us/sites/default/files/fs_media/fs_document/urbannatureforhumanhealthandwellbeing_508_01_30_18.pdf)

9 This USDA Forest Service report, released February 2018, summarizes the best available science to  
10 help natural resource professionals, planners, architects, educators, health professionals and  
11 community advocacy groups effectively communicate the health benefits of nature to their  
12 constituents. The report provides an overview of current research in five key areas: pollution and  
13 physical health, active living, mental health, stress reduction, and social health, cohesion, and  
14 resilience.

15 <http://www.vibrantcitieslab.com/resources/urban-nature-for-human-health-and-well-being/>  
16

### 17 **Cindy Deffe – Spokane Community College**

- 18 • Discussion question - How do we recruit young people into the Arboriculture and Landscape  
19 industry? We have so many employers who want to hire our students, but not nearly enough  
20 students to fill the positions.

### 21 **Angel Spell – WRPA and City of Spokane**

- 22 • Save the Date – February 1, 2019 – Inland Tree and Landscape Conference, a new one-day  
23 conference of advanced workshop topics around the general theme of Health, Safety, and  
24 Wellness. Conference location will be Spokane Community College.
- 25 • I have recently accepted a promotion to the position of Assistant Director of Natural Resources  
26 for City of Spokane Parks and Recreation which leaves the Urban Forester position vacant. I am  
27 hopeful that the Civil Service recruitment to fill the vacancy to be released sometime within the  
28 next 2 months. If you know of anyone who may be interested in being the next Urban Forester  
29 for the City of Spokane, please pass along this information and invite them to contact me. Of  
30 course I will share the official recruitment with everyone when it is released. My new position  
31 still includes supervision of the Urban Forestry program and staff as well as new responsibilities  
32 in management of all Parks open space, conservation areas, and soft trails.

33 **Communications: boosting the UCF brand and message** - Fianna Dickson, Communications Manager,  
34 City of Spokane Parks and Recreation

35 Fianna shared information about crafting compelling media messages.

- 36 • Social Media
  - 37 ○ Visual aesthetics are powerful; users of social media are drawn to Instagram and
  - 38 Facebook
  - 39 ○ Info graphics work well to communicate quick facts
  - 40 ○ Videos using smart phones, are relatively easy to produce, and are useful to teach tips
  - 41 and tricks in a minute or less.
  - 42 ○ Story-telling engages the audience
- 43 • Signs and collateral

- 1           ○ Graphic designing for flyers is accessible through on line applications. E.g.
- 2           <https://www.canva.com/>
- 3       • Media and Events
- 4           ○ Add value for reporters – succinct explanation of issues that may be political (e.g. tree
- 5           removal requires 2:1 replacement). Be an available resource
- 6           ○ Anything with a high experience value is more appealing: photo opportunities for
- 7           Instagram, take-home articles (pencils, balloons), participant engagement. Volunteers
- 8           and participants become ambassadors of a program.
- 9           ○ Select a target audience, rather than the “general public.”

## 10   **2018 Seminar Preview: Healthy Trees, Healthy Communities**

11   Ben Thompson (via Skype) provided an overview of content for this year’s seminar presentation. The  
12   seminar will be presented at 8 different locations statewide:

- 13       • May 9, 2018, 8:30-12, Poulsbo, WA
- 14       • May 24, 2018, 8:30-12 - Richland, WA
- 15       • June 7, 2018, 8:00-11:30 - Bellevue, WA
- 16       • August 16, 2018, 8:30-12 - Spokane, WA
- 17       • August 30, 2018, 8:30-12 - Vancouver, WA
- 18       • September 20, 2018, 8:30-12 - Olympia, WA
- 19       • October 10, 2018, 8:30-12 - Mount Vernon, WA
- 20       • October 25, 2018, 8:30-12 - Wenatchee, WA

21   Council members are invited to attend seminars at their convenience.

22   Topics and presentations include:

- 23       • **The WA Pest Watch Invasive Species First Detector Network** - a presentation by staff from the  
24       Invasive Species Council, introducing the pest detector tool and a highlight of species that  
25       currently impact, or threaten impact to local economic resources. Resources and information  
26       available at: [https://invasivespecies.wa.gov/council\\_projects/wapestwatch.shtml](https://invasivespecies.wa.gov/council_projects/wapestwatch.shtml)
- 27       • **Healthy Communities** - health is not simply the absence of illness. There are many social  
28       determinants of health. Healthy community’s contain a broader spectrum of elements that  
29       influence human health, (including green infrastructure).
- 30       • **Fire and Forest Health** – intentional management considers impacts and long range implication  
31       of impacts to a resource and the people who live within the wildland/urban interface; water  
32       retention/holding capacity of soil impacts health of trees positively; a healthy fire regime or  
33       other forms of stand management maintains forest health; overstocked forest stands have  
34       resulted in reduced forest health and increased prevalence of stress related pests; fire safe  
35       zones for landscaping are more important with the increase spread of fire across the landscape.
- 36       • **Forest Health** – trees and people interface across all landscapes; nearby nature and wildland  
37       forests are connected; the forest structure, function, and value paradigm demonstrates that  
38       every forest provides values; values are dependent on how the forest functions; function  
39       determines the level of value attributed to the resource.

1 **Final comments:**

2 Council requested update on available Evergreen Community Act materials that have been developed  
3 (circa 2008). A review of materials may spark ideas on how to connect to Hilary's agenda and interact  
4 with the Commissioner more broadly.

5 **Meeting Adjourned:** Motion to adjourn, Semra; second, David Miller. Meeting adjourned 3:40 p.m.

6 **Next meeting:** 9-12-18, Ellensburg, WA