

**MINUTES**

Park City Municipal Forestry Advisory Board

Thursday, January 4, 2024

10 am

Virtual

**Board Member Attendance**

Present: Mike McComb, Alexandra Ananth (Planning), Lillian Zollinger (Planning), Luke Cartin, Jarren Chamberlain, Becky Gutknecht (Engineering)

 Excused: Heinrich Deters

**Working & Input**

New Business:

* **4807 Legacy Ct, removal of significant vegetation application review.** The Board reviewed the applicant’s plan. Ananth reviewed the Huntsman Estates subdivision for the Board, and stated no concerns with submitted landscape plan. Cartin stated that his concern that the area was ripe for wildland fire. McComb stated his support for the plan’s ignition zones in the plan and WUI concerns taken into account. Gutknecht inquired whether the trees would be removed during the first phase of the project or if the application entailed the entirety of the project. Ananth confirmed the application was for the entirety of the project. Cartin moved to approve the project, Zollinger seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the project.

**City property defensible space assessments**. McComb reviewed the September proposal Deters for updated City property defensible space assessments, last completed in 2015. He stated the timeframe would be springtime, working with several members of the Board.

**Ongoing:**

* Forestry Plan RFP Discussion: McComb reviewed the RFP process for finalization of the City’s Forestry Plan, using Boise’s plan as a template, with information specific to Park City. The timeframe was now, pending Legal review, with an RFP subcommittee to consist of Board members.
* Municipal Code Update: McComb additionally reviewed the proposal to revise municipal code to change the Board to a staff committee, while continuing to encourage public attendance as necessary.
* Board Member Updates/Roundtable: Cartin stated that the biochar kiln demonstration in Deer Valley in December was impressive, having burned 10-12 slash piles with minimal smoke. Representatives from State Fire Marshal, FFSL, Park City Mountain, in addition to Deer Valley Resort and staff members were in attendance. Deer Valley and PCMC IT flew drones around the event for pictures. Cartin reviewed the operation of the kiln, with availability to use the kiln for free throughout the upcoming year, specifically open to Trails and Open Space, as well as Parks. He stated he burned super-clean. Cartin stated that more Federal grant dollars would be available for public tree planting to help increase bio-diversity around town. The goal was to increase internal tree canopy through the years, reducing heat island effect and increase bio-diversity in the event of a wasting disease that impacted some of the prevalent species in the area. Chamberlain looked forward to more plantings in the coming year, and stated that Christmas tree recycling was underway at the North 40 fields, as well as conducting minimal pruning around town to keep branches away from roads. McComb stated there was a good end-of-season brief by the Western Summit County Fuels Committee at the end of November, with a seasonal pause between December and February, with good fuels reduction projects planned in and around the area.

The Board adjourned at 10:18 hours.