

**MINUTES**

Park City Municipal Forestry Advisory Board

Thursday, August 3, 2023

10 am

Marsac East Conference Room

**Board Member Attendance**

Present: Jarren Chamberlain, Cherie Wellmon (Building), Becky Gutknecht (Engineering), Lillian Zollinger (Planning), Heinrich Deters, Mike McComb, Virgil Lund (Planning, attending virtually)

Excused: Luke Cartin, John Robertson

**Working & Input**

Old Business: 1202 Empire Ave – Trees in ROW: McComb restated the application’s intent, with the applicant requesting to plant Aspens in the right-of-way near City stairs. He stated there was a concern for roots interfering with the planned water line and Water potentially having to take down trees during heavy equipment use to repair or access to the water line. McComb motioned to deny the application for those reasons. Gutknecht seconded. The Board unanimously denied the application. Deters confirmed the applicant would be informed by Engineering that it was denied for the trees specifically, not any other project aspects. McComb restated for the Board the applicants’ ability to appeal the denial to the Planning Commission.

New Business: Parcel SSC-A-X. McComb provided an overview of the City project for the Board. Lund and Deters provided details of the plan, and confirmed the project did not entail landscaping or trees. Deters discussed that there was a wetlands component. Gutknecht motioned to approve the project, Zollinger seconded. Deters abstained from the vote, the remainder of the Board unanimously approved the project.

Ongoing:

* Forestry Plan RFP Discussion: The Board discussed the administrative process of developing an RFP/RSOQ to meet the intent of contracting for a Forestry Plan, using some of the content previously drafted and using Boise’s Forestry Plan as a template, containing multi-year goals and objectives, with check-in points. This would include Firewise, Waterwise, WUI considerations and other features such as updated plant lists and ensuring an overarching list was kept updated and in a single location. Wellmon stated she had recently updated the plantings list in an attempt to keep it simple for everyone, and that Building provides that list to homeowners and vendors. The Board further discussed potential modifications to the WUI code to be brought before Council for approval in the coming year, as well as some ongoing fuels reduction projects and mitigation methodology ongoing in the City and County. McComb mentioned there were still some misconceptions regarding methodology, recounting a specific public comment accusing the City of wanting to clear-cut the forest.
* Municipal Code Update Discussion:
  + Membership modification was discussed in the proposed municipal code revision, allowing some flexibility for staff members to represent their respective departments, as well as moving the Board to a staff committee while ensuring transparency and public participation.
  + Plant List: Deters mentioned a member of the public who had offered a historic plant list, and the Board discussed responding with Firewise and Waterwise plantings approved in the land management code.

Board Member Updates/Roundtable: Chamberlain relayed that Parks was surveying tree health, and that most were doing well with some species requiring constant watering in Round Valley. He mentioned an arborist had been hired to recommend ways to improve City tree health along Kearns and the Prospector area, as well as in City Park. Deters inquired about determining how much water was required for a tree, and Chamberlain replied, discussing the positive growth in light of the recent drought years. McComb added that drought conditions should be recovering. Deters discussed the purview of the board once the Forestry Plan is approved, and taking a deep dive to determine best goals, which could run contrary to some people’s perceptions. Wellmon provided the Board her role as Fire Marshal, providing the board with an overview of the WUI code plan reviews and compliance. Related to homeowner wildland structure assessments no longer being conducted by Park City Fire District, McComb discussed some areas of the Park City Fire District developments such as EMS coverage, and some options under consideration by Summit County, with the observation that PCFD seemed to be pulling back from some previous engagements. Deters provided planned mitigation work and discussed some pushback from Daly Canyon residents, which had resulted in delays. McComb relayed concerns that if a wildfire started in that area, those residents would be severely impacted by chimney effect. Wellmon opined that they should be the residents most receptive to wildfire mitigation work. Deters further discussed outreach and noticing with residents throughout the City. Deters additionally requested Forestry Board review of possible irrigation work along the Rail Trail Corridor to support shade tree plantings there.

The Board adjourned at 1046 hours.