

## URBAN AND COMMUNITY FORESTRY COMMITTEE

11/3/16

Attendees: Steve Ludwig, Rob Sproule, Reinee Hildebrandt, Sravya Pamulapati, , Debbie Fruegel, Daniella Pereira, Beth Corrigan, Lydia Scott, Rob Sperl, Stephanie Brown, Bob Benjamin, and Tricia Bethke.

**Absent:** Mike Brunk Matt Hanauer, Todd Degner, Tim Howe, Jill Johnson, Derek Reiking, Scott Gram, Drew Hart

New chairperson discussion; Steve said he is officially stepping down. Council has voted for Rob Sproule to be the chair with Sravya assisting. Mike Brunk did not have ability to do it at this point. Chair should have a voting position on the Council. Beth Corrigan asked for guidelines to be established in the future so the committee could determine who goes into positions in the future. Steve indicated that this was what he wanted to do but did not get it accomplished. Rob Sproule asked the council for guidelines and will bring it up again with them. Beth Corrigan mentioned that there are guidelines set up by Jill Johnson when Mark Duntemann was in leadership several years ago. Rob asked to get a copy of that policy so that he could send them out. Rob is trying to make an attempt to set up the google drive account and put everybody on the account and use documents from it for future reference. Rob told that he and Sravya will look into the options and make a proposal into the committee.

Sravya – Sravya introduced herself as a Graduate Public Service Intern (GPSI) from University of Illinois Springfield. She will be updating the committee paragraph in partner’s page on the IDNR urban and community forestry webpage, she have already updated the committee members list and posted the current addendum action plan. She will also be posting the standing documents, take the meeting minutes and post the approved minutes, send out doodle polls, work with Rob to set up meetings and also send the required links to the committee members for meetings. Steve welcomed Sravya aboard in her new capacity.

IDFC RFP points process and voting results; Rob – Proposals were submitted to the Forestry Development Council. At that point there was still some confusion about the deadline being after the meeting date so the meeting date was re-set. At the last meeting grants were reviewed and voted on at the meeting. There still was confusion due to the deadline being after the meeting. They would revisit those at next meeting. Reinee Hildebrandt reported that there were no additional grant proposals submitted. Currently, internal paperwork is moving forward for internal IDNR approval per personal observation of the staff person doing the paperwork. Steve Ludwig mentioned that he had not gotten a complete list of what was approved. Stephanie Brown stated that all successful proposals got a letter from Bill Gradle and a call from Chris Whittom with the go ahead. Rob will get a summary overview of what was funded. Reinee Hildebrandt – IDNR has the Famous and Historic Tree Arboretum signs funded but not the other two proposals IDNR UCF proposals. The IAA’s proposals were not funded. Reinee Hildebrandt mentioned later in the meeting that the Illinois Arborist Association’s project proposals did not

get funded.

Forest Action Plan is still open for committee comments. Reinee Hildebrandt had again taken a long look at the Urban and Community Forestry sections and has sent forward additional comments overall concerning where urban forestry could be better integrated into the document. It is in the review stages and Paul has plans to take it to the next full council. Steve Ludwig mentioned that Forest Action Plan put together by the IDNR plan. It is a revision update to make everything current. Historically, the Urban Committee had an addendum that listed our input relative to the original Forest Action Plan that is kind of our marching orders that are a part of that plan. They are now integrated into the revision of that plan. The work of the committee was good work and Reinee did an omen's job as well to get all of the addendum information into the action plan but to add to it in big and good ways. The input and reviewed of that is recognized at the Development Council level. They were looking for some input and I think we gave them some really great stuff. It is going to be a better document. It will give us a little more on the marching plans and give us more of a voice on the document outside our circle. He appreciated everyone's great work on that. When that gets released, it will be shared with everyone. Reinee Hildebrandt mentioned Paul is still working on the document and it will be sent out to Reinee, Steve and Rob when it is done.

Forest Summit Steve Ludwig asked Beth Corrigan whether she has submitted or attached a forestry summit proposal to the Council. Beth Corrigan mentioned that Lydia Scott presented the idea of a facilitating a Forest Summit to the council and they were not interested. Beth thinks it's a cool thing for the state and our committee at some point in the future to get all the forestry partners together at all levels in our state. Steve says apparently there was an annual forestry summit where they have got all the partner's and forestry trying to bring everyone together like private, public and urban and growers like an actual summit like annually bring everybody together where they talked about strengths and weaknesses, wows and improvements and communications and all these things and apparently we haven't it done in quite some time and Lydia brought it to the Council and it was not received well. He apologizes and thinks it is not quite received very well. Stephanie told that it is done every five years but it has been more than 10 years now.

Stephanie Brown speaking for the Illinois forestry association, they said they will be interested if it is not costly for them. They do not have financial resources to devote but they are interested in spirit. Steve Ludwig thinks the proposal was exciting when he read it. He thinks of talking about advancing our work plan or stature plan that something is on that should be continue to be on and the council doesn't want to be involved, maybe we put something together and bring all the partnerships and try bring all the groups together. He thinks it is a worthwhile adventure for sure. Lydia Scott mentioned that she got federal funding to administer the Summit and she encouraged others to bring it up to the Council again. She brought it up twice and in conversations with Bill Gradle and has been given no rational for why they are not interested. Lydia Scott got some federal funds from the USDA FS for the state core funding for urban and community forestry due to the state fiscal lockdown. The funding is available through June, 2017.

Strategic plan review (where we are, the revised council action plan, and what to work on next);  
all

This agenda item was postponed until next meeting.

Steve tentatively talked about the potentially running through the work plan today and update on that. He knows it requires more time to discuss and says that we can make a full meeting on that in the next meeting in January and say that we can use access to the addendum, use access to the current work plan, what have been accomplished, what's still on it and where it wants to go from there. These all can be discussed in the next meeting, so that people can review it, bring things forward.

#### MEETING DATES:

Standard: The Thursday before the FDC meeting because we want to have everything fresh, what we have accomplished, what we have talked about. That way our representatives can bring it on to the council right the following week.

Steve mentioned that he has the Forestry Development Power Point from the 2015 Illinois Arborists Association conference that could be shown at our next meeting in an abbreviated version. The Council agreed. Beth Corrigan reinforced that it will be helpful especially if we can get the students from SIU and WIU involved, so they could hear it too since they are new to the committee. We have two student members on the committee now. Steve reiterated that it's a good way to teach them about the council, the committee role, and what council admission is.

#### Next Meeting and agenda:

1/5/16 10:00 AM

#### AGENDA

Forestry Development Power Point  
Strategic Planning

LOCATION: At the arboretum

#### Discussion on Communication Modes:

The committee discussed communication modes for interactive committee work. Sravya suggested the following potential communication modes:

- SKYE for Business
- CISCO JABBER
- SP-WhatsApp

Stephanie Brown stated that the IFA uses GO TO MEETING.

It was decided that a DOODLE POLL with the options could be sent out before next meeting.

## INDIVIDUAL/ORGANIZATION REPORTS:

BOB BENJAMIN – He was representing our group at the WISC. UCF meeting. They were talking about a regional summit and interested in a joint meeting. Indiana is a standing council was a 501C3 and they don't have enough money to operate now so we don't want to go 501C3.

ROB Sproule – He will be attending the meeting next week and will talk about the grants and also try to talk about the forestry summit idea again and try to gauge interest at that point so that we bring on determination how to move on next year.

Rob Sperl – nothing new

Stephanie Brown – We enjoyed participating in Oak awareness month and had record attendance at a radio meeting in Southern Illinois which was an Oak restoration conference and we also enjoyed participating at the Illinois Arborist Association oak conference with special session and that was also well attended and now we are getting ready to enter into our planning phase with new members on the board and planning to participate in Illinois Arborist Association planning retreat coming up first couple of weeks in December.

Beth Corrigan – Morton Arboretum is actively working on management plans and ordinances for her two grants.

Tricia Bethke – They had a great time attending the Illinois Forestry Annual Meeting. They attended the Illinois Arborist Association conference. She will be speaking at the Partners Conference. Beth is speaking at the Society of Municipal Arborist.

Lydia Scott – Chicago Regional Tree Initiative held its annual meeting in conjunction with Openlands 25<sup>th</sup> year celebration. There were 100 people in attendance and 9 awards for outstanding achievement presented. Lydia is speaking at the Society of American Foresters conference.

Daniella Pereira – OPENLANDS celebrated their 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary year with the Chicago Regional Tree Initiative annual meeting. During this 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary year we have offering more tree walks and tree pruning days to get Tree Keepers out. Openlands has had a very successful year. Daniella will be attending the Partners Conference and presenting at the conference. Last weekend she attended a rally for land trust in Minneapolis, MN and presented on urban forestry. Illinois has a lot of land trusts such as OPENLANDS. Think about land trusts and connecting those people to urban forestry.

Daniella was on a development committee for an urban forestry carbon credit registry. There is a registry on how to apply for carbon credits for urban forestry. They have a website about this already at [www.UFregistry.org](http://www.UFregistry.org). By February they will have the finalized plan with it being rolled out by December 2017? They are looking at carbon credits and other ecosystem services. David Nowak will be presenting at the Partners Conference 11/16 in the Lincoln Room.

Openlands has been talking a lot with Chicago alderman about urban forestry practices – ordinances and policies and have concluded that there needs to be a few changes. They are pushing alderman to set up tree boards. They have done research on tree boards and are going to start it at Openlands by pulling in a group of people to start talking about it. Some ordinances are old and need updating. She is hoping to give urban foresters more of a voice so they can get their feelings out there and hopefully get some changes going.

DEBBIE – She is jumping into the USDA FS/DNR Urban and Community Forestry Program working with communities in central and southern Illinois. They are beginning recruitment of communities that have been through EAB and those without EAB and those that have experienced natural and man-made disasters. Trees Forever is wrapping up 15th year anniversary event for buffer strips. They have grants available for riparian buffers for next year. Five from Trees Forever are going to the Partners.

Reinee Hildebrandt – Tree Protection Standards have gone back for committee review and will be ready for public comment shortly. They will be available for public comment by early 2017.

Those include:

Tree Protection Standards Practice IUM 990A Moderately Developed or Open Space areas;  
Tree Protection Standards Practice 990B IUM Highly Developed Areas;  
Tree Protection Standards Practice IUM 984 TREE and Forest Ecosystem Preservation;  
Tree Protection Standards Practice IUM Augering;  
Standard Drawing - Tree Protection

Changes include:

- 1) The protection zone has changed from two foot or three foot from the Critical Root Zone.
- 2) A stronger fencing of wire mesh, wooden snow fence or chain link is being suggested. This change was made based on Tree City USA local forester input. Local foresters indicated that the plastic snow fence does not work and is not honored by the contractors. Chain link is required for historic trees or long term projects. For short term projects or insignificant trees a wood snow fence or wire mesh can be used.
- 3) Call JULIE message has been emphasized more.
- 4) Drawing is updated to show the fence options completely around the tree.
- 5) Trunk Protection has been included.

IDNR is also creating a CARS MAP. The MAP will be posted on the website and the communities can even search by community size. This creates interest and Reinee Hildebrandt thinks it is a networking tool between communities and organizations.

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