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2 **Washington Community Forestry Council Meeting**

3 **May 14, 2019**

4 **Finch Arboretum, 3404 W Woodland Blvd, Spokane, WA**

5 **Members Attending:** Angel Spell, Cindy Deffe, Dave Bayard, David Miller, Juli Hartwig, Kirsten Lints,
6 Linden Lampman, Lisa Ciecko, Paula Dinius, Semra Riddle, Kathleen Wolf

7 **Members Absent:** John Bornsworth, Kathy Sheehan

8 **Guests:** Ben Thompson, Garth Davis, Katie Kosanke, Sandy Letzing

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

10 **Welcome:** Chair welcomed members. Roll was taken.

11 **Agenda Approved:** Motion to approve agenda, with adjustments for guests as needed, Kirsten Lints.
12 Second David Miller.

13 **Minutes Approved:** Motion to approve minutes from February 27, 2019, Lisa Ciecko. Second David
14 Miller. Motion passed. One abstention.

15 **Sandy Letzing, Cascadia Conservation District**

16 UCF Program is preparing to initiate a contract with Cascadia Conservation District for technical
17 assistance in Okanogan, Chelan, and Douglas Counties. Sandy, a newly certified arborist, will deliver
18 technical assistance to communities in these counties. Sandy runs the urban agriculture and cost-share
19 programs at the district and provides technical assistance and conservation planning to landowners.

20 **Budget Update:**

21 Linden provided a brief update on the budget citing the Legislature's authorization of a large amount of
22 funding for forest health. UCF program requested funding for an additional FTE although it is yet unclear
23 if this position is included in the new forest health funding.

24 **Discussion:**

25 Kathy Wolf commented on current agency support for Urban Forestry through Division Manager, Julie
26 Sackett, State Forester George Geisler, and Commissioner Hilary Franz. Kathy is engaged in an agency-
27 wide climate resiliency strategic planning effort as a member of the technical advisory team. She is
28 ensuring that the Commissioner and the team gains a perspective of the importance of urban forestry
29 connections to other agency programs.

30 **Environmental Justice in UCF – Program next steps:**

31 Ben Thompson facilitated a discussion to direct activities that will continue incorporating environmental
32 justice into the UCF grants programs. Approximately \$90,000 is available for grants in 2020.

1 Discussion points:

- 2 • Need for more direct community engagement to increase understanding about tree care and
3 maintenance.
- 4 • Need for seed money for early planning to identify existing community relationships that might
5 be interested in engaging in urban forestry planning and project implementation
- 6 • It would be good to provide examples of fundable projects, in order to guide potential proposals
- 7 • Consider providing a “tool kit” to guide grantees through the proposal process
- 8 • Compensation for community engagement specialists can be a stumbling block, especially if a
9 non-profit has limited resource capacity.

10 Recommendations:

- 11 • Develop an Outreach, Education, and Partnership Grant. Successfully implemented grants would
12 position grantees for follow-up funding to implement projects.
- 13 • Consider hiring a community engagement consultant that, by invitation, could work directly with
14 communities at the neighborhood level.
- 15 • Grants should retain a strong focus on trees and urban forestry since that is our primary
16 mission/objective
- 17 • Consider focusing on specific land uses, schools for example
- 18 • Grant deliverables could include a list of potential future projects and master
19 agreements/MOUs between organizations, among others
- 20 • Add equity and diversity into the UCF Mission and Vision to reflect the diversity we are trying to
21 achieve.

22 **Tour of Finch Arboretum:** City of Spokane staff led the council on a tour of the arboretum.

23 **Network and Working Lunch – UCF program updates and member updates attached.**

24 **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion training session with Dr. Roberta Wilburn and Associates:** Dr. Wilburn
25 led Council members through several activities and discussions to highlight how perceptions can
26 influence programs as they work to be more diverse, equitable, and inclusive. Growing our individual
27 and collective awareness of other cultures is a journey; we are each at a unique level of understanding
28 principles of equity based on our experiences and willingness to learn. Takeaways included:

- 29 • Find commonalities to begin to develop relationships
- 30 • Be authentic and don’t hold back for fear of doing or saying the ‘wrong’ thing
- 31 • Recognize that we all have implicit biases. The challenge is to recognize and understand biases
32 in order to surpass them.
- 33 • Knowledge is key but must factor in diversity (individual), equity (a fair chance for success based
34 on needs), and inclusion.
- 35 • Meeting others “where they are” and understanding their goals and objectives is key to
36 understanding.
- 37 • Measuring progress and growth is important.
- 38 • SMART goals (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Time-Bound) are important to success

39 **Meeting Adjourned:** Motion to adjourn meeting Semra Riddle, Second Cindy Deffe.

40 **Next meeting:** September 11, 2019, Seattle, location TBD