

ACFC Meeting – 3/17/17

Present

Laura Charlton
Stephen Nickel
Jud Kirkness
Steve O'Sullivan
Patrick RYan
Pat Leary
Hans Klausner
Paul Guzenski
Dan Rees
Nan Mundy
Jon Gellings
Nathan Lojewski
Isobel Roy (8:45 arrival)
Ed Leonetti (11:22 arrival)

Absent

Ranya Aboras. (seat open)
Kathy Sheehan
Gino Graziano

8:44am Minutes Approval

Jud moves to Approve, Nan second – Approved

8:45am Treasurers Report

\$11,000 in checking, \$500(standard) in savings
DRAFT budget in progress; books audited by Nathan and Ed. There were several suggestions to make auditing process more efficient in the future. Several donations were received this year.

8:47am Stephen's Report

ACFC Manager position closed last week; no decision yet, but hopefully within 2 weeks.

Presented on Tree Care at Pesticide Conference last Wednesday-60 attendees. There was also a Disease and Pest presentation by UAF Cooperative Extension that brought up a new issue: Black Bud on Blue Spruce. 1st time documented in N. America, but now noticed all over AK. Results in smaller trees from stunted growth. If you find it, cut off the buds, freeze it, and send into the Extension with date and time data on where found and when cut and frozen to aid in life cycle research.

Food Forest and Orchard grant proposals are due next week (3 received so far), and winners announced by 4/4/17

Patricia J. returned as a short-term non-perm employee to work on annual reports and website updates, but will be done on 4/7/17.

A pocket of spruce was killed along Campbell Creek by beetles, and he is working with the M.O.A. to remove the trees before spring.

Campbell Creek project planning is ongoing for summer, and the Chena River restoration. Project will be wrapping up by mid-August.

Upcoming training for Arborists will be announced soon-details to come. Would also like to do a 1-day training on green infrastructure this fall.

Discussion-lack of native-plant nurseries in SE AK; the group could bring up Diana Haase for a seminar. The soil in Fairbanks has been warmer than in Palmer and on the Kenai recently.

9:06am Community Reports

Patrick R. – Reading book on Hidden Life of Trees; insight on communications and microbiology. Took the online Forest Pest course; pretty easy, yet informative. Outdoor Week at the gardens; Mushers out there on past Monday, but no snowshoeing due to low snows. Several gardening courses upcoming for OLE (Outdoor Learning Education). His band was going to play early at McGinleys this evening.

Steve O. – Mobilizing for summer ops. Performed 12 interviews yesterday for summer hires. Planning for Arbor Day festivities with school children. Will be presenting on spring pruning and tree care training for Meadow Lakes community in early April. The Soil and Water Conservation District lost a position within the community. Lots of garbage from under the snow will likely melt out soon, and will pick up. Previously hired an “outlaw gang” for \$8/hr to pick up trash and recyclables. It is best to prune after freezing is done, but before sap runs. Also, a study on hoar frost and branch flex yielded no statistical difference between dormant v non-dormant and frozen v non-frozen oak.

Paul G. – Clients are starting to contact him for spring and summer work, and duties were sporadic this March v last March. He will be at the spring home show @ the AK Airline Center soon. A bit concerned with state of economy at this stage, but won't be as affected as larger companies. He also got in 30-40 days of ice climbing this winter, with no injuries (then knocked on wood).

Jud K. – City received large cuts to Parks and Rec. (P&R). The comprehensive plan was reviewed recently; P&R has low staffing compared to other rural cities. Parks and Grounds is only 2% of overall budget. The Tree and Landscape committee is going well, and volunteers are supplementing the low funding. USFS Resource Advisory Committee is looking for ideas for projects. Community garden group is trying to reorganize. Brewery is moving to a new site, so Ar-beer Day is in limbo currently. 4H is going for an Arbor Day grant, and several groups might go for the Food Forest grant. He is going to do a tree-centric presentation to a community group soon. This is the 1st year of frozen ground in 3 years, and zone 8 plantings are pushing limits. Vendors are stocking “Plant a Tree” brochures.

Hans K. – Kodiak is icy. A large difference will likely occur resulting in berry crop monitoring for bears in the NWR. The community garden got a \$5000 grant for irrigation from the Audubon Society. An experimental farm is looking into replanting forest in timber harvest areas. This would likely be in partnership with an AK Native Corp. The university budget was hit hard, and is cutting off satellite campus in town. The berries are also suffering from deer browsing at low elevations. Discussion on changing winter conditions.

Dan R. – Winter conditions are different in Fairbanks too. The local Arbor Day committee will meet in late April. Fort Wainwright has a new landscape plan being formed. There is a problem with moose predation in the area, which would stifle progress for a food forest grant there.

Nathan L. – Kenai/Sterling fuel break work can't cut during migratory bird window. 7 miles of fuel break were cut since last April. Working with the Borough to provide Firewise education in schools. There is an upcoming Red Card course. There is also an opportunity for youth to join conservation crews in a partnership with the USFS. Discussion on what duties/equipment youth (<18y.o.) can use. SAF tree sale – AK state was dropped from prior nursery based in Canada, but Siberian Larch and White Spruce are available locally. There is a small population of Eastern Larch already growing in

Interior AK. Chugach AK Corp. partnering with New Forest for carbon credits on trees. Lots of carbon allowances were not sold last time they were made available.

Break @ 10:03am – Back @ 10:15am

Laura C. – Went traveling internationally; talked about slopes concreted together, with holes for trees to grow in for several decades.

Pat L. – Tree grafting workshop upcoming on 4/15. Homeless problems in Anchorage parks need to be addressed.

Nan M. – Huge temp fluctuations are probably messing up new growth. Arbor Day tree in Juneau is happening.

Jon G. – New USFS job going well. Tongass New Growth Wood Quality Study RFI ongoing.

Isobel R. – Migratory bird season affecting construction season and thinning projects. Would like a field book and metal binder for field season. Interested in effects of snowmelt products on trees near snow dump lots. Steve O. > Bio-Char could reduce effects of snowmelt products.

10:47am Old Business

Officer Continuity Discussion – Bylaws review

Definition of seat and office needs clarification > seat (A, B, C, etc.); > office (President, Vice Pres., etc.)

Motion to change verbiage: Brought by Dan, second by Isobel to:

In Officer Election and Vacancy: strike final sentence in paragraph; add Chair and vice chair officers shall not serve more than two consecutive terms in the same office. Secretary and Treasurer shall be able to serve more than two consecutive terms in the same office by majority vote.

Change date of Draft to 3/17/17

Motion Amended to include:

In Committees (c) Grant Administration Committee: add the following to the end of the paragraph – Any grant applied for, or received by the council, shall be approved by the council by majority vote.

Vote: Yay – unanimous; Nay – none

11:05am Brochure Discussion

Make multiple brochures or a single one? Nobody is currently administering brochure since Ranya left. Started out for publicity, but the intent may have morphed. Content is not yet finalized. Message: who we are (front), what we do (outreach and grants), and how we do it (funds). Should produce ~1000 on the first run. Need verbiage on Arbor Day grants from the website, but updated yearly for donor changes.

****Action Item**** Jud to contact Gino to coordinate brochure changes. Contact companies prior to using their logos for use in brochures.

11:27am Logo for ACFC and Arbor Day – How to change

The shovel takes up more space than the circle, but the shovel is nice.

Vote to use ACFC along the bottom of Celebrate! Logos

Vote: Yay – unanimous; Nay – none

Donations – Reiterated amounts from donors discussed earlier. Spending \$2500 on Arbor Day grants would leave

~\$8500 in checking account. Did grantees

report on their uses. Budget – See budget

spreadsheet send in email from Hans.

Lunch Adjourn at 11:55am; Reconvene at 1:15pm

Budget discussion continues... Should we cap grant expenses awards?

Motion brought by Ed to move 3 years of PO Box expenses into savings account; no second

Should we segregate checking into 2 different accounts? Should we get a smaller PO Box or look at different options? Should we use t-shirts or stickers for advertising?

1:50pm – Motion brought by Pat L. to pass 2017 budget; Nathan seconds.

Vote: Yay – unanimous; Nay – none

1:55pm – Grant \$ and # of grants discussion

1:59pm – Motion brought by Steve O. to restrict amount to \$200-500, with excess amount to roll over to following year; Jon G. seconds.

Vote: Yay – unanimous; Nay – none

2:00pm – Arbor Day Grant Committee changes

Change logo, award by 5/1. Arbor Day officially 5/15. Send packets by 3/31, and receive applications by 4/21. Receive reports by 6/30. Remove government or nonprofit requirement.

Planting allowed on publicly accessible lands.

Committee – Ranya

removed; Isobel added.

2:25pm – New Business

5/12 Meeting (maybe do an Arbor Day type of project?). 4/13 teleconference. Recruiting for new members – 6 seats up for appointment, applications due 5/3.

2:48 – Waddle Fencing – woven willow with rebar uprights (masked by alder or similar wood). No successes with sprouting Japanese Cherry seeds.

Break at 3:00pm; Reconvene at 3:13pm

Stephen N. – Handouts for nurseries. Brochures and handouts are downloadable. Let him know where they are sent, and how many were.

This room satisfies the ACFC, and would work in the future.

It could benefit the ACFC members to see use of the iTrees software on our Arbor Day trees. Anchorage members told to vote on April 4 – Parks

Bond on the ballot

Adjourn at 3:40pm