

# Alaska Community Forest Council

*Mission: Promoting the benefits of local trees and forests to improve Alaska communities*

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PO Box 241282, Anchorage, Alaska 99524

March 13, 2020, 9:00 am – 4:00 pm  
Atwood Building 550 West 7th Ave, Conference Room 1236  
Teleconference line: 1-800-315-6338  
Access Code: 08465#



## **ACFC winter Meeting Minutes**

Compiled by Josh Hightower

Call to order: 9:11 am

### **A. Introductions**

- a. Council Member Attendees (via teleconference or WebEx)
  - i. Laura Charlton (Vice Chair/Municipal Planner)
  - ii. Meg Burgett (Member-at-Large)
  
- b. Council Member Attendees (in person)
  - i. Dan Rees (Forester)
  - ii. Mitch Michaud (Small Community Service)
  - iii. Elise Huggins (Landscape Architect)
  - iv. Nan Mundy (Chair/Member-at-Large)
  - v. Nathan Lojewski (Treasurer/Horticulture)
  - vi. Paul Guzinski (Industry & Business)
  
- c. State DOF Attendees (in person)
  - i. Jim Renkert (Community Forestry Program Coordinator)
  - ii. Ashley List (Coop. Forestry Programs Manager)
  - iii. Josh Hightower (Community Assistance Forester)
  
- d. Federal Attendees (via teleconference)
  - i. Kathy Sheehan (USDA Urban & Community Forestry Coordinator)
  
- e. Guests
  - i. Tamas Deak

### **B. Any changes or additions to agenda**

- a. Item H: change “Community Recovery” to “Community Canopy”

### **C. Review and Approval of November Minutes**

- a. Elise moves to approve minutes, Mitch seconds
  - i. Motion Passes

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## D. Treasurers Report

- a. Checking account balance: \$14,069.36
  - i. Outstanding check for ACFC logo stickers (Great Originals) for \$697.85
  - ii. Actual checking Account balance: \$13,371.51
- b. Savings account balance: \$1,503.07
- c. \$3,300 available for Arbor Day grants
- d. Approximately \$302.15 available for special projects (\$1,000-\$697.85)
- e. Nathan's term is up in ~2 years (June 2022)– he does not plan to apply for another term
- f. Nathan to begin supplying budget numbers prior to meetings – will be included as agenda items from here on out

## E. Program Reports

1. Federal Kathy Sheehan 9:30 – 10:00
  - a. Kathy had intended to attend this meeting in person – Unfortunately, Forest Service travel was cancelled due to COVID-19
  - b. Forest Service is required to review cooperative forestry programs (including Community Forestry) once every 5 years - The last review was in 2014. Current review was scheduled for 2019, but was cancelled due to government furlough and rescheduled for the week of 3/9/20 – has now been postponed due to COVID-19
  - c. Thank you to Jim for quick responses when new funds for projects that addressed forest health issues in urban & community trees and forests became available on very short notice. Betty Charnon (FS) pulled together a proposal to address *Prunus* spp. and tree mortality caused by the recent spruce beetle outbreak. Two other proposals (Soldotna – wildland fire risk reduction and Chugachmiut – developing a drone-based tool for identifying spruce trees that have been attacked by the spruce beetle but are still green) did not address key urban forestry issues.
2. State Reports
  - a. Jim Renkert 10:00 – 10:15
    - i. Gave presentation on Community Forestry Program -- Powerpoint will be made available to council members
  - b. Ashley List, Division of Forestry – State Forest Action Plan 10:15 – 10:45

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- i. Gave presentation on the State Forest Action Plan -- Powerpoint will be made available upon request to DOF

**F. ACFC Business**      **a.m.**  
10:45 – 12:00

- a. *Prunus padus* and *Prunus virginiana* resolution      5 min
  - i. Jim Renkert – Nothing to report, still waiting on progress from Division of Agriculture. Expecting a response relatively soon
  - ii. *Prunus* ‘hotspots’ include Anchorage, Talkeetna, Fairbanks -- Some isolated occurrences in Juneau (Eagle Beach) and Girdwood (Alyeska Hotel). There are reported mine sites in Chugach National Forest where *padus* has been planted.
  - iii. The Kenai Watershed Forum plans to survey their area to establish distribution of *Prunus padus/virginiana* sometime this summer
- b. ACFC Nominating committee      15 min
  - i. Steven, Mitch, Paul, Pat, and Jeremy have terms expiring in 2020 – all are encouraged to reapply. Applications accepted until the end of April
  - ii. Application materials need to be updated --Josh to work on this and send to council for approval
  - iii. Council/DOF to advertise positions
    - 1. DOF to post announcement on website and distribute press release
    - 2. Meg to get word out to IGAP participants in rural Alaska – Jim will supply verbiage
    - 3. Lisa Moore (who previously served on council) is interested in applying
  - iv. Committee members: Meg, Dan, Elise, Mitch
- c. Elect a new Chair and Vice-Chair      15 min
  - i. Election to take place in May – officers begin terms on July 1
  - ii. Laura is vice chair
- d. Anchorage Community Tree Forum – debrief & next steps      30 min
  - i. Took place on February 21 at BP energy Center



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- ii. Sponsored by Anchorage Botanical Garden and ACFC
- iii. Panel of 11 experts provided information/answered questions from over 80 attendees
- iv. Paul suggested that future events should begin with a brief presentation on the issue to answer basic questions that people may have and develop a shared understanding of the issues
- v. Paul to draft an op-ed for the paper discussing spruce beetle issues – hopes to dispel some of the misinformation floating around the public sphere
- vi. Elise mentioned that birch trees are safe from moose once they reach a height a height of 20' – 22'. The 14' – 15' footers at Begich Middle School were too short. Moose liked them



*Lunch Break 12:00 – 1:15*  
ACFC Business (cont.) p.m.

- e. ACFC Arbor Day Grant administration committee 30 min
  - i. Committee Members: Dan, Paul, Nan, Elise
  - ii. Council considering 5-day extension on grant applications – alternatively, may award money to applicants who meet original deadline and continue to accept applications after the fact
  - iii. Currently only 1 application has been submitted

**G. Guest Presentations**      Tamas Deak 1:30 – 2:30

*Designing Landscapes in the Changing Climate and Urban Forest in Anchorage*

- i. Gave the above presentation. Requests for PowerPoint can be made to Tamas Deak: TDeak@KPBArchitects.com

ACFC Business (cont.) p.m.

- f. Homework Assignment, Arbor Day Foundation, Trees for Alaska – Council member reports 20 min
  - i. Council members echoed DOF staff's concerns that many tree species recommended for planting in specific areas by the Arbor Day Foundation (ADF) are not appropriate

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- ii. Due to the large amount of work that would be required to edit the species list provided by ADF for each zip-code in Alaska, council determined that the best approach would be to identify 10 suitable trees for the three main regions in AK (Southeast, Southcentral, Interior)
- iii. Each list will contain trees that fill a certain functional niche (e.g. screening trees, flowering trees, fruit trees, etc)
- iv. Josh to begin generating this list – will send to council members for review

- g. Website & Facebook? 10 min
  - i. Council feels that it does not have the internet ‘following’ to effectively promote events, grants, etc through its own Facebook, website, etc
  - ii. Will rely on UAF extension and DOF to get the word out through their website/Facebook for the time being
  - iii. Paul to begin reboot of ACFC’s Facebook page

## H. Arbor Day Foundation, Community Canopy Program report 3:00

- a. DOF has been approached by a corporate sponsor (Credit Union 1) that is interested in working on a community replanting project in AK. Hoping to initiate this program in 2021
  - i. Forest Stewardship has \$7,000 to spend on reforestation by late June 2020.
  - ii. An idea DOF is exploring is to use this funding for removal/replacement of invasive Prunus in Southcentral.

### *Concept Proposal*

1. Anchorage homeowners who remove an invasive Prunus tree from their property with a DBH greater than 4” will be given a \$100 voucher for a local nursery to be used for the purchase of a replacement tree
2. Site visits will be performed by Josh to verify that the homeowner accomplished the required actions before the voucher is awarded
3. Jim/Josh/Ashley to develop a draft plan and generate proposal by April teleconference

## I. Plants for Alaska website update

3:15

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- a. Website is proprietary – it will cost money to overhaul/significantly redesign
  - i. Patricia Joyner can make minor edits – She added invasive disclaimers to the *Prunus padus* & *Prunus virginiana* listings
- b. Council is interested in updating and making the site more user-friendly – wants to include links for informational resources (USDA Hardiness Zones map, educational resources, etc)
- c. Council will discuss with UAF Extension about updating and potentially hosting the site



## J. New Business

3:30

1. Brainstorm session – Future grant ideas
  - a. Mitch and Nathan to work with SAF on allowing schools to purchase trees directly from the annual SAF tree sale – this will give teachers an easy way to obtain seedlings and engage students in education about trees/forests

## K. Community/Council Member Reports (3 min/each)

- a. Skipped individual reports due to time constraints

## L. Further Discussion

- a. Skipped due to time constraints

## M. 2020 Work Plan

- a. Very brief discussion on this – basic plan is the same as previous years. Council will approve budget at May meeting

## N. Action Items

- a. *Prunus padus* removal grant
- b. Plants for Alaska website revision
- c. Op-ed for newspapers (Paul)
- d. Follow-up Anchorage Tree Forum
- e. Arbor Day grants

## O. Next Meeting, Monthly teleconference

April 9, 2020, 12:00 – 1:00 pm

## P. Adjourn 4:15

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