

Alaska Community Forest Council

PO Box 241282, Anchorage, Alaska 99524

August 28, 2020 8:30am - 12:30pm

Teleconference line: 1-800-315-6338

Access Code: 08465#



ACFC Summer Meeting Minutes

A. Introductions

Council Member Attendees:

Forester

Municipal Planner

Landscape Architect

Horticulture

Small Community Service

Community Forestry/Beautification

Industry/Business

AK Cooperative Extension Service

Member-at-Large

Member-at-Large

Member-at-Large

Member-at-Large

Dan Rees

Laura Charlton (Vice Chair)

Elise Huggins

Nathan Lojewski (Treasurer)

Mitch Michaud

Lisa Moore

Corey Steffen

Gino Graziano (Secretary)

Patrick Ryan

Susan Rogers

Nancy "Nan" Mundy

Meg Burgett (Chair)

State DOF Attendees

Community Forestry Program Coordinator

Community Assistance Forester

Jim Renkert

Josh Hightower

USFS Attendees

Urban and Community Forestry Program Manager

Kathy Sheehan

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B. Any changes or additions to agenda

- a. AFCF Arbor Day grants -- update
 - Added to old business
- b. Recommended Landscape Trees for Alaska list
 - Added to old business
- c. Discussion on future meeting frequency, preferred communication methods
 - Added to new business

C. Review of May meeting minutes

- a. Mitch motions to approve minutes on the condition that typos are fixed. Elise seconds
 - Nathan calls question
 - None opposed
 - Motion passes

D. Treasurers Report

- a. See report sent by Nathan on 8.27.20
 - Laura motions to approve, Elise seconds
 - None opposed
 - Motion passes

E. Reports & New Business

- a. Council Member Openings, Elect New Vice-Chair
 - Meg suggested that Joe Hart with the BLM recently retired and would be a good candidate for ACFC Seat F, Construction/Right-of-Way
 - Discussion on duties of Vice-Chair position – Laura has occupied this seat for longer than permitted by bylaws
 - Susan motions to nominate Elise as vice chair, remaining officer seats will continue to be served by current occupants
 - Mitch suggests amending motion to create nominating slate for officer positions
 - Nominating slate created – Meg as chair, Elise as vice chair, Nathan as treasurer, Gino as secretary
 - Slate will be forwarded for confirmation at next quarterly meeting in November
 - Discussion on term limits
 - Meg calls for a vote
 - None opposed
 - Motion passes

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b. AGENDA ADDITION – Teleconference meeting frequency, preferred method of communication

- Majority of council members prefer videoconference to teleconference
- Discussion on alternative programs/platforms, Nathan recommends training session to streamline meetings
- Zoom is preferred platform for majority of council members
- DOF to put together training materials
- Discussion on value of monthly teleconferences
- Majority of council members voice interest in continuing informal monthly meetings
- Discussion on whether to cancel July meeting in future years

F. Old Business

a. *Prunus padus* Brochure

- Brochures are finally complete! USFS is printing 20,000 copies. Council members can request pamphlets, but minimum order is 500. DOF will also send ACFC brochures when distributing prunus pamphlets
- DOF to send ACFC brochures to new council members
- Discussion on how best to distribute ACFC brochures to public
 - Home show, state fair, etc. DOF to put together list of distribution opportunities

b. Memorial Tree Planting (Steve O’Sullivan)

- City of Wasilla has selected crab apple tree (2” caliper). Wasilla donating \$200 to project. Tree will be planted in Iditarod Park
- Nan working with Steve’s loved ones on plaque
 - Suggested wording from Nan “Proud father, generous friend, poet, lover of music and old cars, and a fierce advocate for trees.”
 - Discussion plaque design

c. 2020/2021 Work Plan *What is important to accomplish in the next year?*

- This may end up being more of a yearly calendar, as we don’t currently have many projects – there are some historic calendars that we may be able to base this off of
- Discussion on role and purpose of the council
- Council members would like to be better informed about grants, etc in their local communities
- DOF to provide more concise reports in future
- DOF to review MOU and provide guidance to council on how they can advise state program

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- d. Anchorage Tree Forum Round II?
 - No report

- e. AGENDA ADDITION -- ACFC Arbor Day grants
 - Juneau Urban Forestry Partnership completed project and report has been submitted. Receipts sent to Nathan, reimbursement will be sent soon
 - Many applicants have had to postpone plans due to COVID, Council is providing leeway on this
 - Will revisit this issue and get the process for next years grant going in November meeting
 - Goal is to make RFP's available in March

- f. AGENDA ADDITION – Trees for Alaska list
 - Nearly complete, DOF to finalize and distribute

G. Program Reports

- a. Federal
 - State review upcoming – was scheduled for March, rescheduled for Nov 17-19 due to COVID
 - Intended to ensure that programs are successful, accomplishing goals, and getting what they need from Forest Service
 - Another goal is to figure out how we can work together more efficiently, how we can do better, what works/what doesn't, etc.
 - DOF to look for notes from 2015 review
 - Mitch, Elise, Nan volunteer to be on review committee
 - Will provide feedback/guidance to USFS staff
- b. State
 - See written report from Jim

H. Community/Council Member Reports

- a. Nan Mundy
 - Two new DOF grants in Juneau
 - No official Arbor Day celebration, but solid tree planting project from Juneau Urban Forest Partnership
- b. Dan Rees
 - Not present
- c. Laura Charlton
 - Looking for 12-year sticker from Arbor Day Foundation
 - Will send recommended tree species list to DOF

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d. Elise Huggins

- Has been receiving negative feedback on restricting use of *Prunus virginiana*
- MOA parks department is biggest opponent to its ban
- Seed and Tree also unhappy with restrictions
- Anchorage museum having issues with invasive weeds
- Museum would be a good place for classes/educational opportunities
- UAA has cut Northern Design class this year

e. Nathan Lojewski

- Fire crews working on extending sterling fire break. Other crews down in lower 48
- Hired a crew of lower 48 auditors/check cruisers up to gather field data

f. Mitch Michaud

- Kenai Watershed Forum working on prunus survey – they're finding prunus in odd locations, possibly old homestead sites
- Working with Jan Dawe from Project OneTree Alaska on DOF demonstration grant project
- Toured Seward, was asked to look at historic trees; commission looking at doing improvements around these trees, checked about a dozen trees, cored/aged trees, has encouraged them to do a city-wide tree inventory
- Will keep DOF apprised on this

g. Paul Guzinski

- Not present

h. Gino Graziano

- Alaska invasive species workshop October 27-29th – will be virtual, registration coming out soon, and it will probably be free. Info/registration can be found at alaskainvasives.org
- Program will be a bit shorter this year, likely doing half days
- Been working on prunus control studies, is now planting prunus at Fairbanks and palmer experimental farms for future studies

i. Patrick Ryan

- Not present

j. Jeremy Douse

- Not present

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k. Meg Burgett

- Project Learning Tree coordinator is on board, getting settled in
- Spent last Friday at palmer experimental farm looking at area being considered for demonstration forest, 3 acre parcel, public access, SAF, experimental farm, WSCD's supportive of this

l. Lisa Moore

- Doing lots of maintenance in city, removing weeds, etc.
- Looking into doing a beautification project with CARES funds

m. Corey Steffen

- Not present

n. Jan van den Top

- Not present

o. Susan Rogers

- Not present

I. Adjourn 12:30

J. Next Meeting

- September teleconference cancelled
- Next teleconference October 8th 12:00-1:00
- Next quarterly meeting November 13th
- DOF to continue working on Google for Nonprofits account. Will deliver report on this in November
 - Need a domain for registration
 - Nathan recommends looking into DreamHost

K. Placeholder Items

- Anchorage Tree Forum #2
- ACFC Arbor Day grants
- Prunus padus and Prunus virginiana sales ban
 - Division of ag wants this introduced as a bill in the legislature
- Street Trees, Street Planters