

**Draft Minutes  
LORAX Task Force  
Monday, February 27, 2017**

**Meeting held to discuss LORAX Task Force budget recommendation.**

**Next Task Force Meeting: Monday, March 27<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 PM, City Council Chambers**

**Present:**

**Members:** Task Force Chair: Councillor Eppley, Councillor Dibble, Christopher Burke, Sean McCrea, Joanne Mizioch, Flora Tonthat, Barbara Warren, Polly Wilbert

**Observers:** Susan Moulton, Sandi Power/SSNA, Dave Rowand/SAFE

**Councillor Eppley** reviewed a draft of a possible tree budget for discussion purposes (additional trees would be possible from donations and other resources).

Please refer to draft budget discussion document (attached).

**SMcC:** Is planning to use in-house planting staff and resources for tree planting using a backhoe in the coming fiscal year (1 day a week of city tree crew planting), watering on site

**SD:** We don't want to plant between June 15 to middle of September because it's too hot. Need to water twice a week. Juggle planting somehow to April and May and beginning of June when it's not so hot. Spring and fall planting and not summer. Would recommend using tree farms as tree resource (farms that grow trees). Develop a relationship with a bigger farm/nursery. Ship trees directly from farm to Salem.

**DE:** We had space for storage of trees and mulch in past. No place to hold now.

**SD:** Discussion of buying young trees that are trimmed up and cost of planting by large landscape/contractor to have them supply the 2-year warranty for the tree, mulch, loam, and plant all new trees at one time.

**DE:** Initial year trial with in-house crew. Growing pains/possible and we may decide to change course later.

**SD:** Recommends that there be a certified arborist on site for every planting.

**PW:** Cost of watering new trees (more than once a week) needs to be part of the budget.

**Severall:** Diaper (bladder) vs gator bag discussion, cost vs efficacy.

**SD:** Discussed effective watering program for new trees.

**SMcC:** We presently water traffic islands and new trees using seasonal help.

**SP:** Issue of growth of shallow roots from the light watering by gator bags/diapers.

General discussion of trimming, maintenance, and needed budgeting for making sure DPS/trees are fully funded.

Discussion of cost of contracted services vs hiring one additional tree crew member: \$70,000 per year cost to hire vs. \$70,000 contracted services to supplement.

**BW:** Cost of work that's not happening (private vs in-house) Structure flexibility in budget to do one or the other.

**SMcC:** Tree removal budget for this fiscal year is already depleted. Getting bids from tree services to assess cost of using 2-man crews from private contractors.

Discussion of current fiscal year: planting 120 new trees through \$48,000 supplemental tree planting funds.

**SD Moved Motion, Motion/Seconded, PW:** Letter from Task Force to City Council recommending \$75,000 be budgeted in FY 2018 for new trees and \$75,000 additional in supplemental funds for tree maintenance.

The matter carried.

The recommendation letter will be submitted to both the City Council and Mayor.

Tabled the issue of what the tree donation amount will be /SMcC is researching. Next month discuss work w/SD to provide some draft proposals for ordinances for city tree policy. Talk about donation program. Talk about a possible tree bank funded by developers who can't plant trees on their sites.

Adjourned.

Task Force meetings: Fourth Monday of each month/6:30 PM.

**Next meeting: Monday, March 27th**

**Attachment:** Draft Budget Figures for Discussion

