

### Campus Landscape & Tree Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

*February 22, 2017*

**Attendees:** Marlon Sherman, Stephen Sillett, Traci Ferdolage, Mike Fisher, TallChief Comet

#### **1. Introductions for New Committee Members**

- Marlon Sherman was introduced as a new committee member and introductions were made.

#### **2. Review & Approve Meeting Notes from December Meetings**

- Meeting notes were approved as issued.

#### **3. Reports**

- Campus Community Garden Project: TC updated the group and indicated that some initial plantings had been installed but the second phase had not yet been accomplished (upper platform).
- Tree Campus USA Designation: TC updated the group and indicated planning was underway to achieve this designation by the end of 2017.
- G14/15 Parking Lot Replacement Project: Michael provided the group with an overview of the project and shared information concerning how such may affect the existing landscape with a focus on trees which may require removal. The group was supportive of the project and looks forward to receiving more specific information as the design progresses.

#### **4. Discuss Tree Removal Request from Housing**

- TC introduced the topic indicating that Housing requested permission to remove a damaged bull pine tree near Cypress Hall and reminded the group this specific tree is already on the tree maintenance plan and was slated for removal but had previously been judged to be a lower priority. Steve McKenzie then provided background information concerning the tree and the damage that has been observed which caused concern regarding the tree health. The group discussed the issue and supported removal.

#### **5. Discuss Annual Tree Maintenance Plan & Schedule Campus Tour**

- Traci provided an overview regarding the history of tree maintenance on the campus and discussed how, over the past four years, stronger efforts have been pursued to more appropriately manage the campus' urban forest. TC provided in-depth information concerning past practices used to develop the tree maintenance plan and how such has been updated annually and leads to focused efforts with available resources to address the highest priorities. The group agreed that April's meeting will be focused on walking the campus to review issues. TC will update the existing plan with any changes and work with Housing to ensure their proposed updates are also received in advance of the meeting; TC will issue the updated draft plan to the group in advance of the meeting so they have opportunities to review before the site walk.

## **6. Discuss Process to Update Campus Standard Plant List**

- Traci provided background and history as to how the current list was developed and the compelling reasons associated with having such a list. Traci also indicated the list, as it currently stands, had been reviewed by the designated Master Plan Landscape Architect who indicated it was very well developed and, when combined with other information, clearly helps one understand the University's landscape vision while also allowing for creativity in design. TC indicated he had designed a number of small projects in the last few years utilizing the list and each turned out well and blended with current landscape themes. Traci indicated the Committee had previously discussed the value in updating the list as it is currently or taking a different approach by listing vegetation which would not be allowed only; she asked that the Committee discuss the merits of either approach as such direction is necessary so that remaining documents could begin to be updated. Stephen indicated that either approach would be an intensive effort if we are to be comprehensive. Marlon indicated that it appeared a lot of effort had gone into creating the current list and it seemed like we would want to build on that instead of changing course completely. The group agreed overall the current list is working. Traci noted a desire to include plant species which would be used in low-impact development landscape designs as such will become more typical over time. Discussion also included a desire to ensure a clear process for exceptions and also any invasive species which would absolutely not be allowed. The group agreed to update the list currently in place (versus changing direction); Traci suggested this be accomplished one section at a time over the course of the next several meetings. The group agreed with this approach.