

Letter (2.5.2015) from Terry Godbout of Fort Grounds Neighborhood Association:

Dear Mr. Mayor,

As the representative of the Ft. Ground Homeowners Association to the Ad Hoc committee appointed by Council to assist the City on preserving the trees on the banks of the NIC Dike, I urge you to IMMEDIATELY cease work on removing any more trees on the Dike. Gordon Dobler is apparently off again doing whatever he wants, obfuscating the truth at every turn, intimidating fellow workers in City Hall and removing far more trees than projected with zero Public oversight. As I recall the numbers, there were about 1100 trees inventoried by the Arborist, Tim Kasting, who served on our committee. After more than a year of work and tours of the Dike forest, our committee was convinced to agree to a "thinning" of the Dike forest to promote overall tree health. We were told that about 400 trees would be removed leaving well over 700 healthy trees. Based on what Dobler is supervising now, and by a count done yesterday by Dave Olivera of the Spokesman-Review, there are only going to be 330 trees that are spared death by chainsaw. If this is indeed the case, then the members of our committee need to be informed by Mr. Dobler himself. From what I am hearing, our Arborist, Tim Kasting is not involved nor is the City of CDA's Arborist. Even NIC officials are in the dark about what is going on with the trees on their Dike. My neighbors in the Ft. Grounds are outraged about the number of trees being removed and they are about the only people in the community that are aware of what is going on.

Please call an emergency meeting of our committee to find out what is really going to happen to the remaining trees on the Dike.

Below is summary of recent posts that have appeared in the past few days on Huckleberries Online regarding this situation.

Best regards,

Terry Godbout