

## **Tree and Landscape Advisory Committee Meeting**

Thursday, April 15, 2021

10:00 a.m.

305 SW A Street, Bentonville, AR

Zoom Meeting – the public and non-committee members may contact [skerr@bentonvillear.com](mailto:skerr@bentonvillear.com) to request participation via Zoom.

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**Mission Statement:** The City of Bentonville Tree & Landscape Advisory Committee serves as an advisory committee to the City Council and to City Staff working to maintain, improve, renew and protect the urban forest in public rights-of-way, as well as to share information with the public, enhance appreciation of trees, promote proper tree care, and encourage participation in the development of Bentonville’s urban forest.

**Tagline:** Grow with trees.

### **Members**

Gulizar Baggson, 8/11/23

Vacant Position, 11/14/23

Nathan Lembke, Chair,  
7/25/23

David Short, 5/23/23

Jessie Wagner, Vice-Chair,  
8/11/23

Ralph Weber, 12/31/21

### **Ex-Officio City Council**

Holly Hook, 12/31/21

### **Staff**

Shelli Kerr, Comprehensive  
Planning Manager

Danielle Semsrott, Senior  
Planner

Geoff Braga, Urban Forester

Emily Krol, Horticulturalist

### **AGENDA**

**OPEN MEETING - Meeting is being recorded.**

#### **CURRENT BUSINESS**

- 1. Meeting Summary Approval – March 18**
- 2. Tree Canopy Assessment Presentation – PlanIt Geo**
- 3. Tree Preservation – Tyler Overstreet**
- 4. Residential Landscape Award Nomination – 4100 SW Heartwood St**
- 5. Spring Tree Giveaway – Saturday, 8 am to 10 am**

#### **OTHER BUSINESS**

- 6. May meeting time / date change**

#### **ADJOURN MEETING**

# Tree and Landscape Advisory Committee Meeting Summary

Thursday, March 18, 2021

10:00 a.m.

305 SW A Street, Bentonville, AR

Zoom Meeting

## SUMMARY

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### Attendance

Voting Members		Ex Officio	Staff
✓ Gulizar Baggson	✓ Ralph Weber	✓ Holly Hook (City Council)	Danielle Semsrott
✓ Nathan Lembke	Vacant Position		✓ Geoff Braga
✓ David Short			Emily Krol
✓ Jessie Wagner			✓ Shelli Kerr

- 1. Open Meeting.** Shelli called the meeting called to order at 10:02 a.m.
- 2. Meeting Summary Approval.** The committee approved the meeting summary from February 18, 2021.

### CURRENT BUSINESS

- 3. Tree Canopy Assessment.** Shelli reported that the assessment is complete and to expect a report by the end of the month. She read an email from Jeremy Cantor with PlanItGeo sharing preliminary findings. These generally suggest a slight loss in tree canopy across the city. Nathan asked about how the annexed areas impacted the changes in the assessment. Shelli said she would ask Jeremy.
- 4. Spring Tree Giveaway.** Shelli reported that the registration went live at 10 am yesterday and all trees were reserved by 10:05. She received several calls from residents frustrated with how fast registration went. The committee suggested maybe limiting the trees to one per household and considering a lottery approach so that they don't have to get online at a certain time. Everyone can pre-register and we conduct a random selection. Ralph, Gulizar, Jessie and David volunteered to be there the day of the giveaway.
- 5. Roundabout Landscaping at SW Bright Road & SW Gator Blvd.** Danielle will follow-up on this when she returns from maternity leave.
- 6. Grow with Trees Award.** Shelli shared that the program was established in 2015 to recognize both tree preservation and tree planting. She was unable to find details about the program and the committee may want to look into establishing evaluation criteria. The committee felt that the criteria should be focused on preservation and suggested looking to the Arbor Day Foundation as a resource.

Conversation around contractors parking around the mature trees at Thaden School continued. Shelli said they would reach out to the property owner to let them know and ask them to fence the trees that intend to save. Cody George may be a good contact for the Thaden project.

Efforts are needed to promote tree preservation, particularly to the developers and property owners. Jessie asked if possibly the mayor could make this a focus of an upcoming “Coffee with the Mayor” event. Maybe in April once the report is published and after the bond issue vote.

Geoff stressed that the city codes are not placing enough value on the larger, mature trees. He will take a look at the code and see if he can recommend what the replacement ratio should be.

We also need to identify what organizations are offering tree education as part of a long-term effort to preserve, maintain and plant trees.

7. **Residential & Commercial Landscaping of the Month Award.** These will be awarded at the second City Council meeting in May and the first City Council meeting in October. Suggested to post on social media in April.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

8. **Meeting Day and Time Survey.** Danielle will follow up on this in May
9. **Bentonville Parks Conservancy.** They have filled the board member positions but are still looking for volunteers for events, including tree pruning and invasive species removal. Anyone wanting to volunteer for any of the events can reach out to Mary Beth Miller [mbmiller2014@gmail.com](mailto:mbmiller2014@gmail.com).
10. **Tree preservation.** Shelli reported that the planning services manager Tyler Overstreet will be analyzing other municipal tree preservation ordinances as part of his master’s program. He should have a report ready by May.
11. **Other.** Shelli shared the Walton Family Foundation is providing a grant to plant trees in neighborhoods. They are partnering with the city through the Great Neighborhoods Program and already have four neighborhoods interested.

Meeting adjourned at 10:46.

**From:** [Danielle Semsrott](#)  
**To:** [Shelli Kerr](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Online Form Submittal: Landscaping of the Month Award Nomination Form  
**Date:** Monday, April 12, 2021 7:31:24 AM

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First one of the season! Can you please add to the agenda for Thursday? Thank you!

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** noreply@civicplus.com  
**Date:** April 11, 2021 at 11:58:38 AM CDT  
**To:** Danielle Semsrott <DSemsrott@bentonvillear.com>  
**Subject: Online Form Submittal: Landscaping of the Month Award Nomination Form**

## Landscaping of the Month Award Nomination Form

### Instructions

*Please fill out this form to nominate a Bentonville property for a Residential or Commercial Landscaping of the Month Award.*

Date	4/11/2021
Nomination Category	Residential
Nominator's First and Last Name	Archana Palivela
Nominator's Phone Number	7347650509
Nominator's Email Address	apalivel@gmail.com
Address of Nominated Property	4100 sw heartwood st
Is this your property?	Yes
Property Owner's First and Last Name	Archana Palivela
Property Owner's Phone Number	7347650509

Property Owner's Email    apalivel@gmail.com  
Address

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Comments                      *Field not completed.*

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Email not displaying correctly? [View it in your browser.](#)