

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

Thursday, August 19, 2021

10:00 a.m.

305 SW A Street, Bentonville, AR

Zoom Meeting – the public and non-committee members may contact [bbirchfield@bentonvillear.com](mailto:bbirchfield@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

Nathan Lembke, Chair, 7/25/23

David Short, 5/23/23

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

Ralph Weber, 12/31/21

Vacant Position, 11/14/23

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

Holly Hook, 12/31/21

### **Staff**

Shelli Kerr, Comprehensive Planning

Manager

Baylea Birchfield, Planning

Technician

Geoff Braga, Urban Forester

Emily Krol, Horticulturalist

## **AGENDA**

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

### **CURRENT BUSINESS**

- 1. Meeting Summary Approval – July 15, 2021**
- 2. Tree Preservation & Protection Working Group Update**
- 3. Fall Tree Giveaway – October 24**
  - Revise process/policies to reach more people
- 4. Residential Landscaping Award Nominations - September**
  - 4100 SW Heartwood Street – existing nomination
  - 2412 Rita Way – existing nomination
  - 208 NW F Street – new nomination

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

- 5. Vacant T & L committee position**

### **ADJOURN MEETING**

# Tree and Landscape Advisory Committee Meeting Summary

Thursday, July 15, 2021

10:00 a.m.

305 SW A Street, Bentonville, AR

Zoom Meeting

## SUMMARY

### Attendance

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

**Open Meeting.** Shelli called the meeting called to order at 10:02 a.m.

- 1. Meeting Summary Approval.** Staff did not provide the June minutes to the committee. Their approval will be on the August agenda.

### CURRENT BUSINESS

- 2. Fall Tree Giveaway.** The committee clarified that the giveaway is Saturday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>. Shelli asked if there is a desired to revise the registration/giveaway process based on comments from the Spring Giveaway with the reservations closing within minutes. The committee agreed to limit trees to one (1) per household, increase the number of trees available first-come first-served (with that time being later than those that registered), and Shelli will look into a lottery option. Ralph suggested adding information to the website that describes the goal of providing trees to as many properties/households as possible.

Ralph asked if we could get the GIS files for the tree canopy assessment, both for 2013 and 2020. Shelli said she would ask PlanIt Geo.

- 3. Tree Preservation & Protection Working Group.** Led by Tyler Overstreet, they held the first meeting last Thursday. Jessie reported that there are a few more meetings planned to define what is already in place and get consensus on a way forward. Committee members suggested improving the recognition of winners – including signage and social media posts. They discuss how someone may have received an award then two years later the tree dies. Might consider a tiered systems where they get an award for their efforts to preserve and then another award if the tree survives a few years later.
- 4. Residential Landscape Award Nomination.** 1704 NE Chapel Hill Drive was the June winner. Shelli will send out an email with the nominations for July.

- 231 S Main Street
- 4100 SW Heartwood
- SW D Street between SW 2<sup>nd</sup> & SW 3<sup>rd</sup>

- 2412 Rita Way

Ralph asked about the Commercial Landscape Award and Growth with Trees Award. The Committee agrees additional steps need to be taken to get the word out and increase nominations and awareness. Put a photo of the winners in the newspaper. Consider accepting donations for awards and allowing the donors name on the sign. Put a sign up at the tree during construction.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

- 5. New T & L Committee Staff Lead.** Shelli introduced Baylea Birchfield who will become the new staff lead for the committee.
- 6. Vacant T & L Position.** Shelli reported that they have started accepting applications through July 30 for the vacant position and asked members to help spread the word.