

Tree and Landscape Advisory Committee Meeting Summary

Thursday, January 21, 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) | ✓ Danielle Semsrott |
| ✓ Nathan Lembke | Vacant Position | | ✓ Geoff Braga |
| ✓ David Short | | | ✓ Emily Krol |
| ✓ Jessie Wagner | | | ✓ Shelli Kerr |

- 1. Open Meeting.** Danielle called the meeting called to order at 10:02 a.m.
- 2. Introductions.** Committee member introductions. Welcomed Holly Hook, our new [City Council](#) ex-officio member. Welcomed Shelli Kerr, Comprehensive Planning Manager who will facilitate the meetings in February, March, and April and be the POC for the spring tree giveaway while Danielle is on maternity leave.
- 3. Meeting Summary Approval.** David made a motion and Gulizar a second to approve summary from November 19th meeting, all in favor.
- 4. Election of Officers.** David made a motion and Ralph a second to nominate Nathan as Chairman and Jessie as Vice-Chairman, all in favor. Nathan and Jessie accepted.

PROJECT UPDATES

- 1. Updated Tree Canopy Assessment.** Currently in the data gathering phase, PlanIt Geo will report their findings to the Committee first and then to City Council. Anticipated completion end of April.
- 2. [Spring Tree Giveaway](#) – April 17th.** New location at Municipal Complex, went over location, event set up, tree species that have been acknowledged through Greenleaf, moved tree pre-reservation link via SignUpGenius going live on March 17th from 8:00 am to 10:00 am, funded by WFF grant via Bentonville Parks Conservancy. Need to add more tree planting resources to the City website – Danielle will add tree planting video and tree planting guide. More discussion on those that pre-reserve trees, but don't pick up, which causes some to potentially miss out. Not sure the best way to handle that. Advertised in city newsletter, city website, will post to social media. Provide Great Neighborhoods Partnership Program information to tree giveaway attendees. Please send Shelli and email if you plan to volunteer at the event – skerr@bentonvillear.com.

3. **Roundabout Landscaping at SW Bright Road & SW Gator Blvd.** Danielle will reach back out to Fulbright Junior High School and other volunteer groups in an effort to secure maintenance. Emily suggested a fall planting is best. Once maintenance is secured, the T & L Committee feels comfortable funding purchase and initial install of plants.
4. **Grow with Trees Award.** Went over current nominees. When projects are complete, re-evaluate and move forward with recognition. Suggested that in the future to get photos of construction process to show how mature trees are properly preserved during construction. Also mentioned that the act of trying to save mature trees is also deserving of recognition.
5. **Residential & Commercial Landscaping of the Month Awards.** Start fresh with nominees, max number of eight at any given time, second City Council meeting in May to first City Council meeting in October. Danielle will provide list of past award winners and it was agreed that properties may only be awarded once. Communicate award with Great Neighborhoods Partnership Program – Neighborhood Advisory Committee to share within their neighborhoods. Hopefully this will generate interest in different residential areas of Bentonville.

OTHER BUSINESS

1. **Meeting Day and Time Survey.** Danielle went over results, pretty much split 50/50. Will send out another survey to hopefully nail down a day and time that works for everyone.
2. **Neighborhood Tree Planting Program – Informational Item.** This is a program benefit to participating neighborhood partners within the City's Great Neighborhoods Partnership Program, working with Patti Erwin, contractor with the WFF on transitioning the City's tree planting program on public property in residential areas (too many utility conflicts in the ROW) to private residential property. Patti will oversee the program, but the City is assisting with resources.
3. **Bentonville Parks Conservancy – Informational Item.** Seeking one or two additional board members and can always use volunteers. Reach out to Mary Beth Miller if interested – mbmiller2014@gmail.com.
4. **Tree Protection & Preservation Discussion.** Discussed the need to review our current policies and regulations pertaining to tree protection and preservation on commercial property. Shelli will reach out to Geoff for suggestions to enhance our existing tree preservation incentives. When we get to the point of wanting to make major changes to our urban forestry program, will need a motion and a second from the Committee for staff to pursue the research and potentially present the need to City Council.

Current Regulations:

[Article 1300 Tree Preservation and Protection \(ROW\)](#)

[Article 1400 Landscaping, Screening and Buffering](#)

5. **Adjournment.** Danielle adjourned the meeting at 11:07 a.m.