

Tree and Landscape Advisory Committee Meeting

Thursday, October 19, 2023

10:00 a.m.

305 SW A Street, Bentonville, AR

NOTE: In Person Meeting - Bentonville Public Library, 405 N Main St.

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, 12/31/23
Nathan Lembke, 12/31/23
Jessie Wagner, Chair, 12/31/23
Ralph Weber, 12/31/24
Mark Lankford 12/31/25
Mark Bray, 12/31/24
Ashley Harris 12/31/25

Ex-Officio City Council

Holly Hook, 12/31/27

Staff

Geoff Braga, Urban Forester
Emily Krol, Horticulturalist

AGENDA

1. Book & Seed Donation Ceremony

OLD BUSINESS

2. Tree Giveaway

NEW BUSINESS

3. October Landscape Awards

4. Tree preservation update

5. Free Tree Friday *

6. New staff

7. Adjournment

OPEN MEETING - Meeting is being recorded.

Tree and Landscape Advisory Committee Meeting

Thursday, September 21, 2023

10:00 a.m.

305 SW A Street, Bentonville, AR

Zoom Meeting

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Tagline: Grow with trees.

Member Attendance

- ✓ Gulizar Baggson, 12/31/23
- ✗ Nathan Lembke, 12/31/23
- ✓ Jessie Wagner, Chair, 12/31/23
- ✓ Ralph Weber, 12/31/24
- ✓ Mark Lankford 12/31/25
- ✓ Mark Bray, 12/31/24
- ✓ Ashley Harris 12/31/25

Ex-Officio City Council

- ✓ Holly Hook, 12/31/27

Staff

- ✓ Geoff Braga, Urban Forester
- ✗ Emily Krol, Horticulturalist
- ✓ Shelli Kerr, Planning
- ✓ Baylea Birchfield, Planning

SUMMARY

OPEN MEETING - Meeting is being recorded.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Seed Order Update

Shelli reported that staff decided to wait on the seed packets for the landscape award winners until next year. Ralph suggested buying seeds for native plants to donate to the BPL Community Seed Library. Suggestions on where to look for native plant seeds were: Hamilton Native Seed Outpost, Missouri Wildflower Nursery, Seed Savers and Acre Creek. Committee agreed to dedicate \$100 from the budget to purchase seed packets and donate to the library. Suggested to specifically order milkweed.

2. BPL Book Donation

Shelli reported that 7 of the 9 books ordered have arrived and been delivered to the library for intake. She suggested a donation ceremony as part of the October T&L meeting where the committee would meet in-person at the library. Staff will bring badges and coins for members who haven't received theirs.

NEW BUSINESS

3. PawPaw Tree Giveaway

Baylea reported that the sign-up for the Paw Paw giveaway ended Monday with a little over 180 signing up. The 150 winners were randomly selected and have been notified. Winners will pick up trees during the regularly scheduled Fall Tree Giveaway.

4. Tree Giveaway

All trees will be delivered the week of the giveaway. The link goes live tomorrow at 9 am. There are 550 trees total. Pickup is Sat., Oct. 21 from 8 to 10 at the Compost Facility. Walkie talkies will be available that day. Everyone on the call said they would be available to volunteer the day of the giveaway.

5. September Landscape Awards

Shelli will look at the remaining nominations from past months and send out a list of nominations to vote on. She requested votes be submitted by Monday.

6. Tree Preservation Update

Shelli said staff is working on a couple opportunities internally, possibly a Tree Planting Blitz project next year for recent infrastructure projects. She will have a better update at next month's meeting. Ralph suggested that the recommended tree list be separated into native and non-native plants. He will send that list to Shelli.

7. Committee Terms

Holly mentioned that the city is currently advertising for applications to serve on the T&L committee. Shelli said that three positions expire this year (Jessie, Gulizar and Nathan) that warranted the advertisement. Applications will be accepted through the end of the month. Members whose terms expire at the end of the year may email Shelli if they'd like to request reappointment.

Meeting adjourned at 10:20 am.

From: [Baylea Birchfield](#)
To: [Shelli Kerr](#)
Subject: FW: Bentonville Garden Club Arbor Day 2024
Date: Wednesday, September 27, 2023 2:41:18 PM

Are you aware of a "Free Tree Friday"? Helen Lamkin is asking me if we knew about it and if we ever considered it.

From: Helen Lampkin <helenstable55@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 27, 2023 2:06 PM
To: Baylea Birchfield <bbirchfield@bentonvillear.com>
Subject: Fwd: Bentonville Garden Club Arbor Day 2024

Be nourished,

Helen Lampkin

[REDACTED]

Baylea, Below I have highlighted an email from Harold Fisher who is with AR Dept. of Ag in Little Rock. Does this program (Free Tree Friday) sound like something the City would be interested in?

Helen

----- Forwarded message -----

[REDACTED]

I think I understand what you are talking about now. You are referring to our program called Free Tree Fridays. This is a program that is run from the dates of Arkansas Arbor Day to National Arbor Day. Those dates are this year March 18 – April 27th. Communities can put in a request to our agency to have a tree giveaway event to have in their city somewhere where we can giveaway trees to help celebrate Arbor Day. If you would like to have a giveaway event in Bentonville you just have to have a place where the public can come and get usually 3 to 5 species of bare root seedlings to plant on their properties. Please either let me or Kristine Kimbro know if you would like to have an event during those dates. I think that technically we as the Urban & Community Forestry part of the agency are in charge of the state Arbor Day celebration. We work closely with Arkansas Urban Forest Council when it comes to planning the event each year. I am sending this to Kristine as well so you will have her contact information regarding a possible Free Tree Friday event.