

Tree and Landscape January 2025 Meeting Minutes

Reagan Roth	1	Ralph Weber	1
Gulizar Baggson	1	Jeannie McIntire	1
Ashley Harris	1	Mark Lankford	1
Nathan Lembke	1	Holly Hook	1
Tyler Cheek	1	Emily Kroll	1
Taylor Allen	1	Shelli Kerr	1

1. Open Meeting – Ralph Weber opens meeting at 10:00.
 - a. Approval of November Minutes – Ralph Weber raises the point that one edit is needed to the November minutes. In the minutes sent, it states that Ralph Weber motioned to adjourn the meeting, which he is ineligible to do as the Chair. The request is made to staff to review the meeting and make a change to reflect who had made the motion to adjourn. Jeannie McIntire motions to approve the November minutes, conditional on that chance. Gulizar Baggson seconds the motion. All vote in favor.
2. New Business
 - a. Tree Survey Update – Alex Hancock with PlanIT Geo presents to the committee on the status of the tree survey, canopy assessment and ordinances. The specific topic is the proposed updates to Bentonville city ordinances that concern trees and urban landscapes. The presentation includes a review of current ordinances and codes, comparisons with nearby cities and against recommended best practice for tree policy, a timeline of the tree survey and recommendations, and actions going forward to repair the damage to Bentonville’s tree canopy. During the presentation, comment was raised on the prioritization of green space, whether hardscapes and utilities should be centered in the recommendations, and a broader range of city comparisons. Specific suggestions for additional cities to review include Joplin, Springfield, and Tulsa, as these cities are in similar planting zones as Bentonville.
 - b. Neighborhoods Program – Baylea Birchfield presents to the committee on the Great Neighborhoods Program, including projects such as neighborhood block party reservations, neighborhood competitions such as in volunteer hours and community participation, and the loan program for yard supplies that the city has for residents.
 - c. Tree Giveaway – Staff confirms that the location for the Spring Tree Giveaway is the Municipal Complex.
 - d. Educational Events – Proposed educational events are discussed. These events include a guest presentation at the Library on April 5, prior to the tree giveaway. A booth at First Friday on April 4 has been reserved for the Committee to perform outreach ahead of the Tree Giveaway. Other ideas include a fall presentation, possibly in collaboration with Meagan Love with Compton Gardens. Library staff has agreed to display seed packets, with the possibility of adding vegetable and fruit seeds to correspond with the planting season. One suggestion is raised that in these outreach events, some material or activity

is needed to keep children engaged. The Committee requests some materials to give away, planning staff will review the possibilities with the legal staff. For possible speakers, Ralph Weber suggests a professor to speak about tree rings and the tree ring lab at University of Arkansas. Committee members will submit speaker ideas to planning staff, and staff will review the process for reserving speakers with legal. A tentative event schedule of Spring, Summer, and Fall is proposed.

- e. Other business – Staff announces that the book dedication ceremony will take place at the February committee meeting.
3. Adjournment – Ralph Weber calls for motion to adjourn. Reagan Roth motions to adjourn, Mark Lankford seconds the motion. All vote in favor. Meeting is adjourned at 11:21.