

Tree and Landscape April Minutes

Tagline: Grow with trees.

Jessie Wagner	1	Ralph Weber	1
Gulizar Baggson	1	Jeannie McIntire	
Ashley Harris	1	Mark Lankford	
Nathan Lembke		Holly Hook	1
Geoffrey Braga	1	Emily Kroll	
Taylor Allen	1	Shelli Kerr	1

1. Open Meeting

Open Meeting – Gulizar Baggson moves to open the meeting, Ralph Weber seconds, all vote in favor. The committee meeting opens at 10:03.

Approval of March Minutes – Motion to approve minutes, Ashley makes a motion to approve the minutes for March. Ralph Weber seconds. The vote is ‘all in favor’.

2. New Business

Tree Giveaway – Staff discusses that legal has approved the Compton Gardens materials to be handed out and a motion to approve the materials is suggested. It is determined that the committee members will arrive to the giveaway by 7am to tag the trees and prepare for the day. Gulizar Baggson makes a motion to approve the materials, Ashley Harris seconds, and the committee votes all in favor.

Proposal for Native Lawns – Shelli Kerr presents on the proposal for a native lawns ordinance, indicating that further research and development is needed, and that an updated draft will be presented to the committee when it is prepared. Gulizar Baggson raises a question about the impact of POA/HOA restrictions on native lawns, and Shelli Kerr clarifies that the City has no power to control POA/HOA restrictions or requirements. Ashley Harris asks what percentage of Bentonville is under a POA/HOA and Shelli Kerr responds that while downtown Bentonville is largely free of POAs/HOAs, most of the land outside the city center is under those organizations, but that not all of them are currently active. This is why communication with POA/HOA communities and neighborhoods about City ordinances and priorities (such as native lawns) is so important. Shelli Kerr mentions that another role the Tree and Landscape Committee might play is an educational one.

Further clarification is provided that residents with natural landscapes would be eligible for the landscape awards, and that the purpose of the native lawn registration is to provide protection to homeowners who have native lawns against code violation reports, which can target features such as long grass. Ashley Harris proposes that information about native lawns could be given out at First Friday events along with wildflower seed packets, and to let people know that the registration requirement is for homeowner protection and not surveillance.

Seed Packet Donations – Ralph Weber mentions that the intention of the seed packet donations is to partner with the Bentonville library. Shelli Kerr responds that last year the cost to the Tree and Landscape budget was approximately \$100 but that the packets were gone quickly. Ralph Weber

mentions that he noticed that the wildflower packets were in high demand. Gulizar Baggson proposes a new \$1000 budget allocation for seed packet donations, Ralph Weber mentions that this should be prioritized for the fall to match with planting timelines for flowers. Staff will check with the library on logistics and timing for seed packet donations, and if the library is open for book donations as well.

Landscape Awards – Images for both residential landscape award nominations are presented, 310 Huffman Street and 503 NE 2nd Street. The committee debates back and forth on the value of each landscape, paying particular attention to the planted tulips and the presence of mature trees. For the commercial landscape award, Ashley Harris nominates the Best Friends Animal Society due to their incorporation of lights for evening landscaping.

After continuing conversation on the merits of both residential landscapes and the quality they display, the committee votes unanimously for 310 Huffman Street.

Other Business – The bylaws change reflecting the committee's actual meeting time and location is presented to the committee. Ralph Weber motions to approve the change to the bylaws, Gulizar Baggson seconds the motion. All vote in favor. The bylaws will be amended.

Jessie Wagner announces that she will have to resign the committee as she is moving to Rogers. City code requires that members have their primary residence in Bentonville. Gulizar Baggson mentions that her husband will be moving to San Diego, and her time will be split between the two cities though her primary residence should be Bentonville. Staff will check with legal to see if she would also have to resign.

3. Adjournment

Gulizar Baggson motions to adjourn, Jessie Wagner seconds. All vote in favor. Meeting is adjourned at 10:56.