

Tree and Landscape May 2024 Minutes

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

- Open Meeting – Nathan Lembke motions to open meeting, Ashley Harris seconds, meeting is opened at 10:01.
- Approval of Minutes – Gulizar Baggson motions to approve, Jeannie seconds. All in favor.
- Spring Giveaway Recap – Main comment was that the gates took too long to open, leading to traffic congestion. Suggestion was made that next giveaway, city staff should ensure there is a way to open the gates without the timer, so that cars could line up inside the compost facility and that committee members could enter the facility early to set up for the event.
Comment made that while overall the event moved more smoothly without preregistration, there were still delays having to do with recipients not having their cars prepared to load the trees, with some wanting to get out and assist despite being instructed to stay in their cars. Suggestion was made by Ashley Harris that the handout materials should be updated with explicit instructions not to exit your car, and to prepare your trunk while in line. Holly Hook replied that perhaps there should be an area separate from the two lines that people could go to for car preparation where they could then merge back into the main lines once there was sufficient room in their trunks.
Regarding the tree species, Gulizar Baggson suggested that the City should try and have more middle sized trees, as those were the most popular. Ashley Harris suggested that the tree varieties should have two small, two medium, and two large trees and have the size of the saplings clearly listed on the handout materials and on any communications or social media posts leading up to the event.
- Seed Packet Donations – Committee members reaffirm the desire to donate seed packets to the library in the fall alongside educational materials about best practices for planting. Ashley Harris mentions that if any of the seed varieties require over-wintering, the materials should make special mention of that. A potential partnership with the Master Gardeners was mentioned to promote educational efforts about gardening and planting practices.
- Landscape Awards – Following a late submission to the committee for a landscape award where there was no current picture, the committee debated the procedures for considering

nominations and how to maintain a current database of the nominees. For the month of May, Ralph Weber requested a delay in voting until Monday, when votes would be cast via email so that committee members could go in-person to see the nominated houses due to there being no current photos. Staff conceded that this would be possible only for this month due to extenuating circumstances, but that in the future all voting would have to be done by the committee while meeting.

A policy revision was requested by the committee to staff regarding the landscape award procedures, to be presented to the committee in June. This policy should include guidelines on how long to roll-over nominations for consideration, and what a cut-off deadline should be for nominations to be considered at the following committee meeting. Staff will prepare a policy update for the committee.

The committee members commented more generally on the need to raise awareness of the landscape awards within the City, and how the City might incentivize participation. Point raised that legal had previously forbidden 'prizes' for the winners, but that staff would confirm that that prohibition still stood.

- Other Business – It was discussed that in the past the committee had used funds to purchase tulips for the Square, but since that was no longer possible there was an opportunity to pay for tulips for the parks instead. The cost would be the same as the money previously spent on flowering the Square (roughly \$2,000-\$4,000). This would likely be toward Orchard Park, and staff confirmed that the tulips would be visible from the street. Gulizar Baggson raised the possibility of rotating which parks were given the funding, but since each park requires different amount of funding, Jeannie McIntire motioned that the tulip budget be applied to Orchard Park in the City's August bulb order. Nathan Lembke seconded the motion, and the vote was all in favor to allocate the tulip budget to Orchard Park.

Ralph Weber mentions that if a native flora ordinance was passed, the committee should develop an educational handout on the value of native plants.

Staff updated the committee that applications for the open seat on the Tree and Landscape Committee were open and ending the following day. Point raised that the committee needs a new chair, and an election would take place during the June meeting.

- Adjournment – Ralph Weber motions to adjourn the meeting. Gulizar Baggson seconds the motion and all vote in favor. Meeting adjourned at 11:30.