

Tree and Landscape 2024 June Meeting Minutes

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

Open Meeting

- Nathan Lembke motions to open, Gulizar Baggson seconds. Meeting is convened at 10:07.
- Approval of Minutes – Gulizar Baggson makes motion to approve, Jeannie McIntire seconds. Vote is all in favor. May minutes are adopted.

New Business

- Committee chair elections: Nathan Lembke nominates Ralph Weber. Jeannie McIntire nominates Nathan Lembke. Gulizar Baggson, Jeannie McIntire and Nathan Lembke vote in favor of Ralph Weber. Vote decided on simple majority. Ralph Weber is elected the new chair of the Tree and Landscape Committee.
- Landscape Award: Updated policies to the Landscape Award program are suggested, establishing regulations on nomination timelines and voting. Discussion ensues about the timing of the award, voting process, and how the award should be presented. Jeannie McIntire makes a motion to adopt the new policies, Gulizar Baggson seconds. All vote in favor of the new landscape award policies. City Staff will make sure that social media includes links to the nomination form to raise public awareness.
- Storm Response: Shelli Kerr from staff gives an overview of the City's response to storm after effects, including a possible tree canopy assessment that the Committee might assist in the future. No organization has been contracted for the canopy survey as of yet. Geoffery Braga from the Parks Department discusses measures taken to evaluate damages, including the presence of the Urban Forest Strike Team assessing tree damage along parks, trails and soft surfaces. Many trees have been lost and will need replacing. No species in particular has been noted to have fallen more frequently or to have survived. Gulizar Baggson proposes potential survey from citizens about what type of trees came down. Geoff Braga mentions that structural issues with the trees led to failure during the storm as the biggest contributing factor. Another indicator was if there was ground disturbance where the trees were planted. Gulizar Baggson asks if during the canopy survey the species of trees can be included in the data that is collected. On the matter of large stumps, Jeannie McIntire mentions that most people cannot afford to take up the stumps due to cost to private citizens, and that many are removing stumps themselves.

Conversation ensues on the need to replace trees lost during the storm, and potential obstacles such as public unwillingness to replace trees for fear that they would damage property. More consideration of species should be given while decisions on tree planting are

made. Shelli Kerr agrees that after a period of time to allow the public to respond to the storm, more information can be made available on tree species. Nathan Lembke agrees that there is public hesitation about replanting trees, and that this is an opportunity for the Tree and Landscape Committee to educate the public on the importance of an urban canopy and tree preservation, suggesting First Fridays. Jeannie McIntire proposes a paid social media campaign, utilizing Committee funds. Shelli Kerr will work with the Planning Department to coordinate social media approaches as the summer progresses and storm recovery has been accomplished. Gulizar Baggson suggests city staff coordinate with staff in other cities that have suffered significant storm damages, Shelli Kerr concurs.

In light of needs to educate the public, the Committee suggests that more information on what FEMA is doing in the community should be made available online, particularly on the Tree and Landscape Committee page as it relates to tree and waste removal.

Shelli Kerr raises the point that City Council, along with the Arts Committee and the Parks Department, has requested that some of the fallen trees be converted into commemorative art. Many fallen trees have been tagged as potential art candidates but none have been finalized. Nathan Lembke brings up a wooden art installation in another city and will send images to city staff as a possible reference.

- Seed Packets: Project is proceeding as planned, Planning staff is waiting on confirmation from Library staff.
- Other Business: Ralph Weber asks if the native landscape policy is on hold. Shelli Kerr answers that the two priority items, the native landscape policy and the tree preservation policy, have been put on hold due to the storm but would resume once priorities shift in the future.

Adjournment

- Nathan Lembke motions for adjournment, Jeannie McIntire seconds. All vote in favor, meeting is adjourned at 11:05.