

Tree and Landscape 2024 July Meeting Minutes

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

1. Open Meeting

- a. Ralph Weber brings meeting to order at 10:02.
- b. Mark Lankford moves to approve the June minutes, Jeannie McIntire seconds. All vote in favor to approve.

2. New Business

- a. Landscape awards: staff asks when the committee would like to resume the landscape awards following the storm. According to guidelines, the first eligible month would be the September awards, with the committee voting in August. Jeannie McIntire motions to resume the program for September, with votes to be held in the August meeting. Nathan Lembke seconds the motion. All vote in favor to approve. Nominations will be sent out with the August agenda.
- b. Storm response: Shelli Kerr speaks to recovery updates from city staff. The Public Art Advisory Committee is working with the Parks Department on converting some trees to artwork, including setting money aside in the budget for these efforts.
For the Tree Canopy Assessment, the Planning Director has been looking into funding options to perform the assessment. This process will give the Tree and Landscape Committee more information on tree species selection and the replacement process. By the next meeting, there will be more information to share on the canopy assessment process.
Social media outreach on the importance of trees is discussed. The timing of this is discussed, and consensus is that social media outreach should begin in late August to account for tree planting guidelines and build up to the fall tree giveaway. Ralph Weber mentions that in addition to social media, there is an opportunity for an article or insert into the city newsletter. Shelli Kerr confirms that the next newsletter will go out in October, so any submissions would have to be in by September 1. In addition to the content about trees, Ralph Weber suggests that the newsletter include introductory articles on the city's committees.
- c. Seed packet and book donation: Staff presents the list of books requested by the library for donations. Nathan Lembke motions to approve the donation list, Mark Lankford seconds. All vote in favor. \$263 will be allocated from the budget for book purchases, in addition to the \$1,000 for seed packets already approved of by the committee.

3. Other Business

- a. Tree giveaway: After receiving a question from the public, staff raises the question of if nonprofit organizations should be eligible for the fall tree giveaway to support efforts to

repair the city's tree canopy. Shelli Kerr mentions that city staff would first have to confirm with Meagan Love with Compton Gardens if nonprofits were eligible recipients in the language of the grant funding the giveaway. In addition to eligibility, the issue is raised that the Tree and Landscape Committee would have to determine if nonprofits would receive the 'leftover' trees, or be regular recipients, and how to confirm that the nonprofits were actually planting the trees and not distributing them to their members. Staff will check with Meagan Love on eligibility and the possibility of an increased order for the giveaway. Staff will check with Public Works to determine if the Compost Facility is still available for the fall giveaway.

- b. Tree replacement: Shelli Kerr discusses that near SW 8th St there is a median in a public right of way that is planted with trees that may be Bradford Pears. Since the storm, several have fallen apart. Staff has reached out to Public Works and the city is considering options for removal and replacement. Some of the Tree and Landscape budget might be allocated for the replacement costs, pending the results of the city's assessment. Nathan Lembke mentions that this could be an opportunity for public engagement and education.
- c. Attendance: Ralph Weber makes a statement that there are committee attendance requirements in place, and that bylaws mention that absenteeism is cause for removal from the committee. All members should make effort to attend every meeting, preferably in-person.
- d. Bylaws: It is brought up that the bylaws still refer to the old staff department, rather than the correct term of the 'Planning Department'. Jeannie McIntire motions that the bylaws should be updated to reflect the department name accurately, and Mark Lankford seconds. All vote in favor. Bylaws will be updated.
- e. Plan Bentonville: Shelli Kerr presents on Plan Bentonville. This event is following a large public outreach effort by city staff in the spring. The new plan considers where residents will live and work, demonstrated by the Future Land Use Map now in circulation. Public outreach on the FLUM is beginning, focusing on educating the public on place types to increase public engagement and understanding. Full schedule, the FLUM and proposed place types are all available online at planbentonville.com.

4. **Adjournment**

- a. Nathan Lembke motions to adjourn, Mark Lankford seconds. All vote in favor. Meeting is adjourned at 10:43.