

Tree and Landscape 2024 September Notes

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. Open Meeting

Ralph Weber brings meeting to order, 10:03AM. Jeannie McIntire moves to approve the August minutes, Mark Lankford seconds the motion. All vote in favor.

Tyler Cheek (the new urban forester) introduces himself and offers his assistance to the committee.

2. New Business

October Landscape Award – Upon review of the submissions, members cast their votes for the upcoming landscape award, with the winner being the house at 311 NE 2nd St. See table below for vote totals.

Potential updates to the award program were discussed. Ralph Weber would like to abstain from changing the program, raising concerns that if native landscaping is emphasized then some houses in POAs or HOAs that exclude native landscapes could be excluded. Gulizar Baggson mentions that she would like to encourage more native plants and pollinators in the landscape as a part of the Tree and Landscape overarching mission. Ralph Weber mentions that there is difficulty in identifying native plants from afar, and that this could be difficult to judge fairly while the committee members review the submissions. Nathan Lembke mentions that instead of changing the judging criteria, the city could emphasize the reasons for each month's selection in the social media posts about the winners, providing more information about why each property won. In the future, members will be asked to explain why they cast their votes for the winning property so these comments can be shared.

Fall Tree Giveaway – A reminder is issued that the fall tree giveaway is on October 26. The committee members are asked to commit to the volunteer hours for the day. Members confirmed their availability, with Jeannie McIntire and Gulizar Baggson abstaining until more information about their availability is known.

Addressing an earlier request by the committee to donate trees to nonprofits and churches, staff checked with the legal department. Concerns were raised about the impression of equitability, particularly among religious organizations, and that the program was originally conceived as being for individual homeowners.

The suggestion is made that hours for the giveaway be extended to 11AM. With no issue raised by the Compost Facility, the hours will be extended.

In addition to more advertisement on social media, city staff will work on creating a survey for recipients to track which tree species were planted and where they are located. Survey will be linked to on the informational handouts on the day of the giveaway. Staff will also promote the giveaway in the city newsletter.

A proposal for branded clothing (such as t-shirts or high visibility vests) is made by Ralph Weber, to provide volunteers with clothing on the day of the giveaway. Potential design options are discussed, ranging from messaging to plant trees, listing the committee name, and images of a tree canopy and skyline. Staff will determine if this is possible for the giveaway.

Another suggestion is made for there to be sandwich board advertisements for the giveaway at the farmer's market and First Friday events leading up to the event. Staff raises concerns about risks associated with city signs being distributed outside of business hours, but will determine if this is feasible.

Tree Art Project – Conversation following up on the committee's prior idea to have a project (potentially for Arbor Day or Earth Day) in collaboration with the library. Committee members discuss if these projects would be more commemorative of the storm or educational, with Gulizar Baggson mentioning that educational efforts should take precedence. Reagan Roth mentions that wooden materials engraved with messages about trees and the committee could be an option for this project, potentially wooden bookmarks that were available when people checked out books relating to tree or the environment. Staff will initiate conversations with the library about partnership opportunities.

Seed and Book Donation Update – Staff informs the committee that they dropped off the purchased wildflower seeds so that they could be put out as quickly as possible before the library closed for repairs. Committee members mention display difficulties last year, and some members volunteer to go to the library and see how the packets are displayed. Once the library reopens, staff will coordinate with the library staff regarding a book dedication ceremony.

Other Business – Committee members confirm that the next meeting is October 17th, then November 21st, with no meeting in December.

3. Adjournment – Motion to adjourn is made by Gulizar Baggson, seconded by Mark Lankford. All vote in favor. Meeting adjourned at 10:56AM.

Landscape Award Voting Record

211 SW D Street	301 SE Eaton St	311 NE 2nd St	1700 Mystic Ave	2411 Rita Way
0	0	4	2	1