

## Tree and Landscape 2024 November Meeting Minutes

|                 |   |                  |   |
|-----------------|---|------------------|---|
| 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 Creek     | 1 | Emily Kroll      | 1 |
| Taylor Allen    | 1 | Shelli Kerr      |   |

### 1. Open Meeting

- a. Ralph Weber brings meeting to order, 10:02 a.m.
- b. Approval of October Minutes. Mark Lankford motions to approve the minutes, Reagan Roth seconds, all vote in favor.

### 2. New Business

- a. Fall Tree Giveaway – Ralph Weber mentions that it was a great success, opens for discussion. Ashley Harris mentions that some of her neighbors came to the event and had a positive experience.
- b. Upcoming Projects
  - i. Spring Giveaway - **April 12, October 18.** Dates confirmed by the committee. Locations are discussed, with the committee mentioning possibilities including parks, the municipal complex, schools or partner organization locations such as Compton Gardens. The Municipal Complex is the priority location, and city staff will confirm location eligibility.

The matter of ID requirements is brought up. Taylor Allen updates the committee that a Bentonville driver's license is allowable as identification per the grant and city. Discussion ensues on the possibility of changing the ID requirements to allow for driver's licenses. It is brought up that to allow property owners to get trees, utility bills should also be allowed. Jeannie McIntire motions for a vote on allowing a Bentonville driver's license as identification, Mark Lankford seconds the motion. There is a vote, all vote in favor.
  - ii. Outreach and Education – Gulizar Baggson suggests inviting an expert to meet with the committee for a training session and making the event open to the public as an educational event. This might be held a week or two before the giveaway, with a focus on outreach and increasing interest. The event should be open to families, perhaps in an event on the weekends or after work. The idea of a tree workshop is suggested, even if not in partnership with a guest speaker. Potentially supplies or materials can be given away. A 'tree bingo' program is suggested, with a scavenger hunt and small prize given out. Perhaps this could be a partnership with the Parks Department. Another event would be a foraging educational opportunity, the committee suggests Bo Brown who wrote 'Forging the Ozarks', the library partnered with him approximately two years ago. Other potential partnerships are suggested,

including the library, local schools, the Native American History Museum, Compton Gardens and Crystal Bridges.

Engagement should also be done at First Fridays, particularly in April, prior to the Spring Tree Giveaway.

More educational opportunities on native plants, particularly if the city passes the native plants ordinance. The committee would like to see a partnership with the Parks Department on how to display information online about the native species already represented in Bentonville.

- c. Community Engagement Options – Baylea Birchfield with the Great Neighborhoods program will be attending in January to talk about potential partnership opportunities
  - d. Other Business. Ashely Harris announces that she will be resigning, and her last meeting will be January, 2025.
3. Adjournment
- a. Ralph Weber calls for a motion to adjourn. Mark Lankford makes motion to adjourn. Ashley Harris seconds, all vote in favor. Meeting adjourned at 11:12 a.m.