

Tree and Landscape 2025 June Meeting Minutes

Reagan Roth	1	Ralph Weber	1
Gulizar Baggson	1	Jeannie McIntire	1
Helen Lampkin	1	Mark Lankford	1
Nathan Lembke	1	Holly Hook	1
Tyler Cheek		Haley Deatherage	
Taylor Allen	1	Shelli Kerr	

1. Open Meeting – Meeting brought to order, 10:02 a.m.
  - a. Approval of May Minutes – No changes requested. Gulizar Baggson motions to approve, Reagan Roth seconds. All in favor.
  
2. Old Business – Ralph Weber raises the topic of meeting with other T&L committees in Northwest Arkansas to discuss the Tree Giveaways. Staff will look into this and see about opportunities to collaborate.
  
3. New Business
  - a. Tree Canopy Discussion – Discussion ensues regarding the presentation last month by PlanIT Geo regarding the Tree Canopy survey. Things that the Committee wants to have confirmed by the time that the work is done include how often the City should conduct a survey, if the layers will be imported into GIS and to make sure that there is a comprehensive tree planting plan put forth to the city. Once the work is complete, copies of the documents will be distributed to the Committee.
  - b. Fall Tree Giveaway – Previous items of discussion were the idea of limiting trees per car, or requiring an in-person representative to pick up the trees. In the instance that people were upset by how trees were distributed, it is discussed that there were four people in the car with valid IDs, so they received a large amount of trees. The Committee would like to see more trees at the next giveaway, and requests that staff speak with Compton Gardens. Additionally, staff will confirm the location at the Municipal Complex and request more police for traffic control. Nathan Lembke mentions that we should anticipate a high turnout, and that perhaps people should have to keep their information out until they can actually pick up the trees it would speed up the loading process. Reagan Roth suggests that the proposed per-car limit is not in the spirit of the giveaway, as it discourages carpooling and community sentiment. Phrasing was used in advertising the event that it was ‘first come, first serve’ – perhaps should be adjusted to ‘must be present’. Holly Hook mentions that there were some people who live just outside of city limits that do come to get trees, when we are only requiring driver’s license instead of utility bill. Another thing to consider are people who are cycling or walking in, which should be prevented for safety reasons and for keeping line order. Gulizar Baggson suggests that the priority should be getting trees in yards, and that the best solution would be requiring a representative to be present from each address that

is receiving trees. Another thing that is suggested is more advertisement on social media of the number of trees available so that people are able to manage their expectations. Overall the tree giveaway is successful, and there is a lot of satisfaction among people who actually receive the trees. The idea was proposed to open at 7:30 rather than 8, to see if that helps control traffic. Gulizar Baggson motions to start the giveaway at 7:30. Reagan Roth seconds. All vote in favor. Nathan Lembke mentions that there should be volunteers remaining to direct traffic until the timespan of the giveaway is over, even if all the trees have been given away.

- c. Landscape Award – One nomination was submitted for June, 2411 NW Rita Way. All vote in favor. The Committee is encouraged to submit nominations for the coming months.
  - d. Staff Updates – Haley Deatherage gives update on the Parks Department putting in tree rings, working with volunteer groups from high schools, and finishing up work in parks, especially cleaning up after the storm. The Committee mentions discussing with Tyler Cheek on ways to educate the public on diseases or pests that may be impacting their personal trees.
4. Adjournment – Ralph Weber calls for a motion to adjourn. Mark Lankford motions, Reagan Roth seconds. All in favor. Adjourned at 10:50.