

Tree and Landscape 2026 February Meeting Minutes

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

1. Open Meeting – Ralph Weber brings to order, 10:04.
 - a. Approval of January Minutes – Ralph Weber comments that on number 1(b), requesting an edit for readability. Ralph Weber calls for a vote, Mark Lankford Motions. Reagan Roth seconds. All in favor.
 - b. Old Business – Gulizar Baggson discusses the proposed Mini Forest, sent for consideration considered by staff, still being looked into. Ralph mentions that he spoke with Courtney Fitzgeralds at the library and she mentioned that the seeds have not been distributed yet, but that due to germination requirements they should be given away sooner rather than later. As, in the past, it is likely that packets were grabbed by children, the library is putting in place a way to request specific species through a card system at the front desk.
2. New Business
 - a. Spring Tree Giveaway – Location set at municipal complex, starting at 7:30, staff turnover at Compton Gardens means that there is no information yet on the range of tree species. Gulizar Baggson suggests reorganizing trees based on type and utility; Reagan Roth comments that many recipients do not read that educational materials. Nathan Lembke recommends a tree species overview in a library presentation, and potentially having the video recorded and posted online.
 - b. Review of Tree Planting Documents – Ralph Weber requests that the topic may be delayed, or continued to next meeting. Reagan Roth mentions that the tree planting projects laid out are a good roadmap for the committee over the coming years. Gulizar Baggson mentions that she liked the idea of ‘right tree right place’ and how the planting plan emphasizes space types and different utilities. Gulizar Baggson requests timelines and benchmarks for canopy size, percentage of tree cover, and dedicated projects to align with the planting assessments. Reagan Roth requests a project priority list for how the T&L committee could allocate their budget.
Gulizar Baggson asks if there’s any plans to plant within the wooded areas in Slaughterpen. Tyler Cheek mentions that there’s been consideration of this, with some difficulties with invasive species and scope of project. Tyler Cheek mentions that there’s an Eagle Scout project working on invasive species remediation and planting plans, and to track the results.
3. Staff Updates: Parks and Planning – Tyler Cheek suggests that the Committee sponsor speakers and workshops on relevant topics, hosted by the library. Topics could include invasive species,

tree care, tree species selection. Tyler Cheek suggests two separate meetings on invasive species and tree care, so distinguish the topics. Tyler Cheek suggests also an awareness campaign on property owner responsibility for maintaining trees within the right of way. Tyler also mentions that we need to educate the public about common issues and which tree species they frequently impact. The majority of Bentonville's tree canopy is on private property (which is where maintaining coverage and supporting urban canopy coverage).

- a. Ralph Weber mentions that library wants to do something with plants and vertical hydroponic stations. Staff request that Courtney Fitzgerald comes to next month's meeting to lay this out.
4. Adjournment – Ralph Weber ask for a motion to adjourn. Mark Lankford motions, Gulizar Baggson seconds. All vote in favor. Adjourned at 11:08.