

Tree Advisory and Education Board
Minutes April 10, 2023

Attendees: Linda Grandstaff, Matt Krems, David Sangree, Sam Bonvisutto, Patrick Costello, Alex Martin, Rita Stevens

The meeting started at 6:08 pm via Zoom.

The minutes of the February 8, 2023 meeting were approved as submitted, following a motion by David, and second by Rita.

The board discussed a Tree giveaway pilot, to increase private property tree planting. Linda will email Sam with a request to use the Gift a Tree Fund to partially fund the cost of the pilot. Based on the average cost of 3 gallon trees from Woody's, the board plans a 100 tree giveaway, with cost and shipping of approx. \$3,000. The recipients would be select one of three demo time slots which would provide the needed training on proper planting and care. It would be planned around Plant a Tree Day, Sept. 28, and Linda will contact LEAF to see if the container grown trees could be stored in the secured garden area. The board is requesting that a site for 3 new trees to be planted as demos either at Kauffman Park or at Cove Park, where Linda believes there may be space along the parking lot. Another component of the pilot would be a postcard survey followup the following spring to determine survival rate and condition. Sam noted that the Arbor Day (the last Friday of April) tree planting to take place at Lakewood Park on the tree lawn.

Patrick shared that he submitted the Tree City USA Growth award application based on 2022 accomplishments, including the recycling of wood and wood chips, the number of trees planted and the maintenance of the city's trees. The award, if received helps to increase the likelihood that grant request will be approved. Other outreach efforts included a tree related mural, similar to one seen by David. Linda will ask Melissa Garrett about the city's mural program as well as a request by the board to include tree planting promotional information as a part of residents' water bill.

Sam noted during the Forestry Update that contract for stump removal of about 120 stumps is going out to bid, 9 hazardous trees are scheduled for removal, and approx. 200 trees will be planted in equity zones under the County grant. Given the locations, these will be generally smaller trees. The fall planting under an ODNR grant will focus on larger canopy trees. Alex will be the Acting Forester, continuing to fill a dual role as arborist. Current staffing is 4, with Patrick as group leader. the plan would be to add an additional position next year.

The board discussed the grant writing process, which is done by a contract grant writer, Justin McCalley. Rita request an introduction from Sam so the board can discuss additional grants.

The board also discussed a second Most Distinguished Tree Contest with the Lakewood Observer, with residents nominating and voting on nominated trees. Jim O'Brien requested a June/July timeframe. Linda will discuss gift certificates as nominal prizes with Jim.

The meeting ended at 7:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Grandstaff, Chair/Secretary

