

**LIVINGSTON TREE BOARD REGULAR MEETING**  
**Thursday, September 15, 2022**  
**West Room, City-County Complex**

**Attendance**

Present:

Voting members: Laurel Desnick, Sarah Ann Boyle, Elizabeth McNamee, Maira Emperley, Heidi Johnson

Non-voting: Melissa Nootz, Dan Baker

Absent: Tom Shands, Maureen Lighthizer

**Introductions**

**Approval of Minutes** of July 17, 2022 meeting. Sarah made a motion to approve, seconded by Elizabeth. All in favor.

**Reports:** Dan Baker, Parks Foreman, City of Livingston Public Works Department

*Tree inventory*

Due to budget limitations, the currently ongoing tree inventory is limited to south of Park Street. The new inventory is expected to be completed by the end of September, with a report to follow. The County approved and issued technology and equipment for the survey.

*Boulevard tree maintenance responsibility*

Per Melissa, the City Commission improved and clarified regulations several years ago. Homeowners are responsible for the trees in the boulevards at their property. They can be notified about problems, but enforcement is rare. Funding for removing/repairing trees is limited. The City Attorney has suggested in past City Commission meetings that it is the City's discretion to ask for homeowner contributions if the City undertakes work on boulevard trees.

*Tree planting*

The City received a grant that paid for removal and replanting of 35-38 trees, but there is no funding for additional tree removal. The City also planted a dozen trees in public areas and the Public Works crew is caring for those. The total grant was about \$40,000, from the MT Urban & Community Forestry program (part of DNRC). In addition, PCEC's "Livingston Loves Trees" project planted about 70 trees. Roughly 60 were planted on the south side, 7-10 on the northside. Per report from PCEC it appears most are in good condition, but about 10% are showing signs of stress. Demographic shifts in Livingston/Park County present challenges for the future: 20% of residents are new, up to 40% are considering moving out, there are many short-term rentals.

*Parks*

Dan reported that maintaining Livingston's 180 acres of parks and trails with current funding is challenging. He has been careful to deploy allocated funding quickly to assure consistent upkeep

and replacements of small but important projects, such as swings, sprinklers, the splash park, the skate park, and the lagoon dock. Melissa will inquire about other grant funding possibilities.

### **Old Business:**

#### *Park Street trees*

Laurel reports the Parks and Trails Board would like to hear from the Tree Board to discuss trees, planting, and green spaces at entry points to Livingston and along Park Street. The Zoning Board also is discussing the Gateway Overlay Zones in the near future. One goal of our Strategic Plan is to make progress on greening these entrance areas to create pride, mitigate wind and sprawl effects. Consistent funding for this will be challenging. Other groups involved will be the Zoning Board. In part due to the vacancy in the City Manager position, progress will be delayed. In the future the Tree Board will need to coordinate with MT Rail Link, the Chamber of Commerce, and LBID, among other bodies. There will always be competition in the budget with large projects, such as water and sewer upgrades.

Elizabeth made a motion to have Tree Board members attend other meetings to present options on how to work together. Sarah seconded. All in favor.

### **New Business**

#### *New tree list*

Sarah distributed the tree list that she has updated to include information helpful to homeowners, such as hardiness, growth rate, and drought tolerance. Discussion about the current City tree list on the website. It was updated about three years ago. Melissa recommended that this new list be included on the City website.

Laurel made a motion to send an updated tree list to Melissa to take to the Commission, and to have it reviewed by the new City Manager for delegation to staff. Sarah seconded. All in favor.

#### *Windshield survey*

Discussion of the proposed “windshield survey” of trees on the north side of town was tabled until the next meeting, due to time limits.

**New Item for next agenda:** How to establish a Tree District for Livingston

Motion to adjourn: Sarah moved to adjourn, Elizabeth seconded. All approve.

Meeting adjourned at 1:15 pm. Next meeting will be October 20, 2022, 12 noon-1 pm, location to be announced.