

City of Livingston Tree Board
February 16, 2023
Meeting Minutes

Attendance

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

Non-voting: Melissa Nootz

Absent: Tom Shands (unable to connect by zoom) , Maureen Lighthizer (excused), Dan Baker

Approval of Minutes of meeting January 19, 2023. Maira made a motion to approve, seconded by Elizabeth. All in favor.

Old business

Website - Update from Maira

Maira provided a list of items that should be updated on the Tree Board website. Faith Kinnick, the City Administrative Assistant and meeting recorder, made most of the updates as they were discussed. Maira will email the list to Faith due to some items requiring additional resources to update.

The Board will review the Tree Board By-laws at the next meeting to ensure consistency with the City website.

Gateway Overlay/Park St. Project - Update from Melissa

The City Manager is working on planning the Gateway Overlay/Park St. Project. His office will inform the Tree Board when and how we can be involved. He encourages Tree Board members to attend other board and commission meetings to learn about their discussions on the topic. Laurel also encouraged Tree Board members to consider ideas for later discussion and suggested that there might be funding for the project. The arborist who completed the tree inventory for the city will attend the March meeting to discuss the 2022 Tree Inventory and planting procedures.

New Business

Tree Board Retreat, Choteau, March 14-16

The Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation will hold a retreat in Choteau focused on urban forestry issues. They have invited tree boards from around the state to attend two sessions: one on financing and organization, the other on techniques and logistics. There is no City funding for this. Tree Board members may attend at their own expense. Laurel will attend.

Tree Board Education Program, next steps

At past meetings, the Board has agreed to expand community education regarding trees as part of its mission. Some ideas discussed at this meeting include: presentations to the Board by experts in urban forestry; organizing a series of educational sessions for the public; and

increasing information and resources on the Tree Board web page. Tree Board members are encouraged to review resources available from MSU Extension and Montana Urban and Community Forestry, to be discussed at the March meeting.

Funding for tree-related work: Melissa recommended establishing what funds are needed and for what purpose, to be brought to the City in the near future so they can consider it in the 2023 budget. Elizabeth will contact the City Manager to determine how the Tree Board can support the City's fundraising by supplying technical information and identifying additional sources of funding and report at the next meeting.

Arbor Day celebration planning - April 28th, 2023

Melissa will check with Lisa if we applied for and received this year's Arbor Day Grant (\$850). The Board agreed to hold this year's public Arbor Day event on Thursday, April 28, and focus on community education. Location to be determined.

Joe Armbrust presentation on the Livingston Loves Trees Program

Joe Armbrust presented the Livingston Loves Trees Program. Susan Regele and Joe are partners in running Livingston Loves Trees, which is an independent community project. The project is supported by the Park County Environmental Council, which maintains a bank account for the funds that the project raises and provides other support. Joe described the project plans to plant 1000 trees in Livingston over 10 years. He also explained their funding needs and annual schedule.

Water issues in high summer, peak demand, restrictions, Dan to report.

This item has been moved to the next meeting.

Public Comments

None

Board comments

None

Next meeting will be on March 16 at noon.

Adjourn 1:05 PM MST