

Livingston Tree Board Minutes, January 19,2023

Present: Maira Emperley, Tom Shands, Maureen Lighthiser, Melissa Nootz (non-voting) Dan Baker (non-voting), Heidi Johnson, Sarah Ann Boyle, Laurel Desnick

On-line: Elizabeth Yates McNamee (unable to participate fully due to technical difficulties)

Approval of Minutes, Dec. 15, 2022. Moved by Boyle, second by Desnick. Unanimous approval.

Old Business:

Website update: Our Tree Board info is on the City of Livingston website, managed at this time by City Administration. Maira will look over current content, bring recommendations for updates to next meeting. Melissa and Laurel will find out appropriate process for getting technical support to actually make changes, additions, etc.

Gateway Overlay Districts and Park St/Hwy 89 design and renovation. It is duly noted by the City Commission and City Manager that the Tree Board would like to be a partner in these conversations and planning/implementation. The City Commission will be presenting to the public their plans to implement the Livingston Growth Policy on Tuesday February 7 at 5:30. In the Community Room at the Courthouse. Tree Board members encouraged to attend.

New Business:

Joe Armbrust, PCEC/Livingston Loves Trees update. Due to technical difficulties, Joe was not able to present his program and plans. Will try again at February meeting. Thanks Joe for trying!

Tree Board education programs: Intention to educate ourselves and the public on the best practices for selecting, planting and maintaining our urban plantings. Laurel will invite speakers to monthly Tree Board meetings, starting with Kyle, who performed the tree inventory for the City last fall. Will also consider seasonal informational meetings and messaging to the public on planting suggestions. Laurel and Melissa will review with City Manager the most appropriate way to create an educational program.

Funding opportunities: Unclear whether the Tree Board is able to raise funds for projects. Melissa and Laurel will review with City Manager and report back at next meeting.

Public Comments: None

Board Comments:

Maira: interested in the education program, particularly the tree planting guide with section on soils

Tom: interested in ongoing work to plant boulevard trees throughout town, including the north side developments

Maureen: interested in community outreach and education

Melissa: (non voting) has been working to update requirements for HOAs, new developments, so they align with Tree Board priorities for planting, watering, etc.

Dan: (non voting) focus on the existing urban forest, aging, in need of maintenance based on tree inventory

Heidi: working on Governor support for designating April as Native Plant Month, in collaboration with Garden Clubs of America

Sarah: need to begin planning for Arbor Day Celebration, Friday April 28, 2023. Will discuss at next meeting.

Laurel: presented Tree Board Annual Report to City Commission Jan. 17. Meeting with Melissa and City Manager Feb. 2 to discuss Tree Board role, scope and next steps. Intention is to make participation in the Tree Board a meaningful and worthwhile experience.

Meeting adjourned 1 pm.

Next meeting: February 16, 2023 noon