

LIVINGSTON TREE BOARD REGULAR MEETING
Thursday, November 17, 2022
Community Room, City-County Complex

Attendance

Present: **Voting members:** Sarah Ann Boyle, Elizabeth McNamee, Maira Emperley, Heidi Johnson, Tom Shands, Maureen Lighthizer, Laurel Desnick **Non-voting members:** Dan Baker, Melissa Nootz

Approval of Minutes of October 20, 2022 meeting.

Maira Emperley moved to approve, Maureen Lighthizer seconded. All in favor.

Old Business

Update on City tree plantings

Dan Baker assisted in applying for a grant. It will be a small amount, to be matched by the City. It should cover the cost of some maintenance, but will not be enough to do a complete survey of the north side.

Melissa will check with the new City Manager about Tree Board access to documents and funding information.

Facilitate getting tree information to all Tree Board members

Dan reported that a preliminary report on this year's City tree inventory is completed, but not the final report. He will request that Faith Kinnick send the preliminary version of the inventory to Tree Board members. Melissa will follow up on policy and procedures for communications.

Update on October 24 Trails Committee meeting

The meeting date was changed from 10/24 to 11/1 so a few members who were planning to attend did not.

New Business

Annual Report

Laurel led a discussion of the past year's accomplishments, to be compiled for the required submission of the Tree Board's Annual Report to the City Commission.

- Farm to School planted eight trees as part of Arbor Day celebration.
- The tree inventory for the area south of Park Street has been completed.
- The Tree Board appointed three new members.
- Approximately 100 trees have been planted, 30-35 by the City and 63 by the Livingston Loves Trees volunteers, a project of the Park County Environmental Council.
- The Public Works Department also removed about 30 trees, in addition to about 30,000 pounds of problem tree matter from trees in the cemetery.
- The Board submitted an updated recommended tree list for boulevards based on tree survival track records and what is available from reputable local nurseries, with an addition of a list of shrubs appropriate to the local climate.

Laurel, Tom, and Sarah led a discussion of goals for next year.

- Designate trees/shrubs that would be good for wind with clay soil.
- Consider establishing a Livingston Tree District. Tom Shands reported on his research on how a tree district could work for the City of Livingston. Laurel explained the structure and how funding would work.
- Provide guidance to the conservation board for climate change resilience from a tree perspective.
- Outreach and education for the public. Referenced the planting guide.
- Arbor Day celebration
- Gateway overlays
- Ongoing education of the tree board

Explore funding options/opportunities for future tree care and maintenance.

Dan said there is an Arbor Day grant we can apply for in the past that has paid for a couple trees to be planted. To be voted on at the next tree board meeting. The deadline is January 16. The Board will discuss at the December 15 meeting.

Zoning Boards Plans for the Gateway Overlay Districts

Zoning Board's plans to meet to plan for Gateway Overlay districts. Next meeting will be December 14.

Forestry Conference

This week the the Arbor Day Foundation's annual "Partners in Community Forestry" conference was held in Seattle. The Board agreed that it would be beneficial for Tree Board members to attend next year's conference – at least virtually – as many of the topics/issues they are discussing are directly relatable to Livingston. Next year's conference will be held in Washington, D.C. October 16-20, as part of the World Forum on Urban Forests.

Public Comments: There were no public comments.

Board Comments: Tom requested that future Tree Board draft agendas be emailed to Board members at least a week prior to board meetings so that members could suggest agenda items. He will also include Tree Board members in Livingston Loves Trees Zoom meeting emails.

Elizabeth suggested that the goals, objectives, and funding discussed in today's meeting could be included in an update to the Tree Board Strategic Plan.

Motion to adjourn

Maira moved to adjourn, Sarah seconded. All approve. The meeting was adjourned at 1:05 p.m. The next meeting will be December 14, 12 noon-1 pm, location to be announced.