

LIVINGSTON TREE BOARD

REGULAR MEETING December 16, 2021, Zoom

MINUTES

Attendance: Marshall Swearingen, Lisa Harreld, Tom Shands, Maureen Lighthiser, Sarah Boyle

Approval of Minutes: No Minutes to approve.

Old Business:

- **Updated budget recommendation and priorities for 2022** – The Tree Board will be recommending to the city commission its priorities for 2022 including #1) Support new tree establishment in boulevards; #2) develop updated tree management plan in support of tree district(s); and #3) tree planting along Park Street/ Hwy 89. The Board had many ideas of projects and priorities and after discussion was able to narrow the list down to the 3 top priorities. **Marshall made a recommendation to approve the budget recommendation and submit it along with the Strategic Plan. Maureen seconded. All in favor.**
- **Tree City USA renewal application, due by the end of 2021** – Every year the Tree Board applies for the Tree City renewal application. This effort helps to educate the public and promote the importance of trees in Livingston. And every year the Tree Board sponsors and throws an Arbor Day Celebration in conjunction with the grant. In 2022 Arbor Day will be Friday, April 29, 2022. The Livingston Arbor Day Celebration will be held on or near April 29. **Marshall made a motion to approve the Tree City Grant application. Tom seconded. All in favor.**

New Business:

- **Annual report to the commission** – The annual report is an opportunity for the Tree Board to review and document our accomplishments in the past year. The board continues our mission and goals to educate the public and city staff and administration about the importance of trees, planting trees, and the importance of proper care after planting. The board will continue these efforts in 2022 and anticipates renewed energy with the assignment of new commission member as liaison to the board. **Marshall made a motion to approve the annual report to be sent to the commission. Maureen seconded. All in favor.**
- **Recommend 2022 Arbor Day proclamation (for January Commission agenda.)** – **Marshall made a motion to send email to Faith to request the proclamation be added to the agenda for the first commission meeting in January. Lisa seconded. All in favor.**

- **Board comments –**

- **Tom** – Tom commented that there may be additional federal money available in the future that may apply to urban forests. The Build Back Better funding includes money set aside for the urban environment, including trees. We will keep our eyes open for grant opportunities. Tom also commented about the recent tree removals of old large cottonwood trees near the Meyers Landing trail.
- **Sarah** - These may have been trees that were already flagged for removal by Eric Schneider, the city arborist who recently retired.
- **Marshall** - Now that the city doesn't have a city arborist the Board will be available to provide input and advise the city on similar situations. This situation at this trail also highlights the need for a new tree management plan. Sarah and Tom concurred.
- **Tom** – Tom provided some information about the money that PCEC secured through fundraising. They are going to be able to purchase 25-50 trees depending on the size. Trees will be planted in the spring. They are working with Ace Hardware and Cashmans to purchase trees.
- **Marshall** – When planning for the expenses of planting trees, it would be wise to include the costs for tree trunk protection to keep deer and lawnmowers etc. from damaging the trees.

Meeting adjourned at 1:05 pm. Next meeting January 20, 2022, via zoom