

City of Pierre
Arbor Board Minutes
Tuesday, January 28, 2020

The January 2020 meeting of the City of Pierre Arbor Board was held at the City Hall Prairie meeting room. Board Chair Art Smith called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. Those in attendance were: Board Chair Art Smith; and Board Members Adam Kulesa, Rollie Isaacson, Will Hanson and Mark Smith. Also present were Ex-Officio Members: Parks and Recreation Director Tom Farnsworth; Park Superintendent Tom Moore; and Commissioner Vona Johnson.

The last scheduled meeting of the Board was on November 26, 2019. Because there was not a quorum, no official meeting took place. Notes from the discussions held in November 2019 were prepared, and were provided to the Board for review prior to this meeting.

Motion by Adam, second by Rollie to approve the meeting agenda with the addition to “New Business” of a report on the 2020 Arborist Conference by Mark Smith. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. *Bird Feeding at the Arboretum.* Art has been feeding the birds at the Arboretum in January. Mark volunteered to feed the birds in February, and Will volunteered to feed the birds in March. T. Moore noted that two new bird feeders have been built, and will be placed in the same area as the other feeders in the Arboretum.

2. *Arboretum tree/shrub replacements and Arboretum tree sign project.* There was further discussion of these two inter-related projects. Previously, it was determined that a plan needs to be developed to update and improve the Arboretum, to include: replacing species that have died, including those damaged by the flood; updating/replacing the signage around the Arboretum; creating a timetable to replace the ash trees in the Arboretum; creating a new Arboretum map; etc. An ad hoc committee is being organized to put together this plan. Former Board member Dave Kruger is being asked to lead this effort. Park Superintendent Moore and Board member Adam Kulesa will be part of the committee. Paul Beckwith, who helped with the update and layout of the last Arboretum map, which the City printed in 2015, will be asked to provide technical support to the committee. Chairman Smith also asked T. Moore to seek assistance from another volunteer if he so desires, as he will soon meet with the Prairie Potters Master Gardener group. These projects have been added to the Board’s “2020 Plan of Work.” T. Moore reported that 12 ash trees have been removed in the Arboretum, and that there are more out there that need to be removed.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. *Report on curb/gutter tree removal plan.* Moore and Farnsworth reported on the curb and gutter tree removal plan for street work coming up this year. There are 28 trees that will be removed along sections of Pawnee, Missouri and Prospect. Most of the trees are ash and elm. The plan includes a credit available to the property owners that will help defray the cost of replacing the trees that are removed.
2. *Report on new tree plantings for Griffin Park.* Moore and Farnsworth reviewed the plans for the new tree plantings in Griffin Park. This is in the area of the repaired sink hole at the west end of the park. They provided a drawing of the work to be done. The tree planting will probably be a fall project, as there is a lot of work that needs to be done before the trees can be planted: irrigation system repair and replacement; replacement of the shelter; repair of river erosion in the area; replacement of soil; hydro-seeding grass, etc.
3. *Report on new tree/shrub plantings at Griffin Park storm shelter site.* Moore and Farnsworth reviewed the plans for the plantings around the new storm shelter at the east end of Griffin Park. They provided a drawing of the work to be done. The plan is for this work to be started in the spring.
4. *Review Draft of the 2020 Plan of Work.* . The draft of the 2020 Plan of Work for the Board was presented. This is a draft that everyone should review. More discussion with any needed changes can happen at future meetings. A copy for review is attached to these minutes
5. *Report on 2020 State Arborists Conference.* Mark Smith attended the South Dakota Arborist Conference in Sioux Falls on January 15th & 16th. He reported on the conference. Of interest were two presentations dealing with EAB. The information on EAB provided at the conference confirms the continued validity of the city's EAB materials, including the 2013 Pierre South Dakota Emerald Ash Borer Preparedness and Response Plan, and the 2019 EAB Fact Sheet.

There being no further business, Chair Art Smith adjourned the meeting at 1:00 pm.

Next Meeting: Noon, Tuesday, February 25th , City Hall Prairie Room

Respectfully Submitted,



Mark Smith, Arbor Board Secretary

City of Pierre Arbor Board

2020 Draft Plan of Work

January

Welcome new board members, if any
Election of officers if needed
Review the draft Plan of Work for the year
Initiate Grant Ideas and any new projects
(Revised Arboretum map) (tree signs)
(pollinator garden)

February

Finalize the Annual Plan of Work
Finalize new project ideas
Select date/site for Arbor Day Program/s
Order replacement trees/shrubs for Arboretum
Remove 28 curb and gutter trees

March

Set Arboretum Work Day for April
Review Arboretum map/new tree sign plan
Finalize Arbor Day Plan/Program
Finalize educational program

April

Conduct Arbor Day Program
Conduct Arboretum Work Day
(Remove tree protectors, pruning)
Print new Arboretum map
Install new Arboretum tree signs
Press release on new map/signs
Dog park committee plants buffer trees

May

Plant 24 trees in Griffin Park sink hole area
Plant trees/shrubs at Storm shelter site

June

July

Plan Arboretum Work Day

August

Conduct Arboretum Work Day
(Install tree protectors)

September

Plan community tour
Discuss fall tree planting, if any

October

Begin Bird Feeding
Conduct Arboretum Tour
Compile TCUSA Support Documentation
Report on any DE trees to be removed

November

Review board member terms/vacancies

December

No board meeting – Merry Christmas
Director files TCUSA recertification