

City of Pierre
Arbor Board Minutes
Tuesday, February 23, 2021

The February 2021 meeting of the City of Pierre Arbor Board was held at the City Hall Training room. Board Chair Art Smith called the meeting to order at 12:08 pm. Those in attendance were: Board Chair Art Smith; and Board Members Adam Kulesa, Rollie Isaacson, Tony Dorschner and Mark Smith. Also present were Ex-Officio Members: Urban & Community Forestry Coordinator Rachel Ormseth; Parks and Recreation Director Tom Farnsworth; and Park Superintendent Tom Moore.

The Board voted to approve the minutes of the January 26, 2021, meeting as presented. The Board voted to approve the proposed meeting agenda, as printed, with the addition of discussion of replacement of Board members under “New Business.”

OLD BUSINESS:

1. *Tree Grant for Dog Park Trees.* The City’s grant application for a grant from the state forestry office for new tree plantings at the dog park site is currently moving through the Department’s fiscal office. The grant request is for \$2500, and involves 29 new trees. Farnsworth also reported on the dog park group’s additional fund raising efforts. He also noted that he is forwarding to that group information on other grant opportunities.
2. *Don Trimble Memorial Tree – Steamboat Park.* The tree species has been determined – Burr Oak. The tree has been ordered. Once it has arrived, probably in late spring, a planting date will be set.
3. *Curb and Gutter tree removal completed.* Thirty-two trees have been removed as part of this year’s city curb and gutter replacement project. Chairman Smith reports that, in his private capacity, he is contacting the homeowners affected by this tree removal program to talk about possible replacement trees.
4. *Review draft 2021 Plan of Work.* The draft of the 2021 Plan of Work for the Board was discussed. Everyone should review the document. If changes or additions need to be made, they should be brought up at the March Board meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

5. *Tree Inventory records of parks.* Moore presented a survey of trees on city property, categorized by tree species, and by location. This is a work in progress. In the draft that was distributed, there are 107 ash trees (so far). This reminds the Board that a plan for removal of these trees will need to be

developed. Moore will get together with Rachel to determine whether there is an inventory software program that can be used to help with this project.

6. *Arbor Day tree planting.* Although no Arbor Day tree planting event is required for the Tree City USA recertification, it would definitely be a positive move if an Arbor Day tree planting could be arranged. A suggestion was made that perhaps the tree planting at the dog park site would be a good Arbor Day event. Tree planting training could be included as part of the program.

Another Arbor Day tradition is the annual Isaak Walton League program of handing out trees to 2nd graders. Rachel will contact the schools to see whether an in-person program will be allowed this year. If so, Chairman Smith and Rachel will work on getting a tree species selected and ordered. They will also contact Will Hanson to update him on the project.

7. *Board Member replacement.* Will Hanson's term on the Board is over. The Board thanks him for his work while on the Board, especially his work with the Isaak Walton League program of handing out trees to 2nd graders. Hopefully, he will continue being a part of that program.

There is a person interested in becoming a member of the Arbor Board. Farnsworth will contact him; hopefully, he can start on the Board in time for the next meeting.

8. *Dialogue.* Moore reported on work that has been done at the Arboretum. Additional bird feeders and bird houses are being added at the Arboretum as he and his staff have the time and materials available. The plants on the wedding arbor have been cut back so that the arbor can be painted. The shed at the Arboretum will be repaired. Moore ordered replacement trees for the Arboretum.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by Chair Art Smith at 12:56 pm.

Next Meeting: Noon, Tuesday, March 23rd, City Hall Training Room

Respectfully Submitted:



Mark Smith, Arbor Board Secretary