

COMMUNITY FORESTRY ADVISORY BOARD

November 12, 2019

Members Present: Lachel Bradley-Williams, Emily Casper, Jessica Gieseke, Scott Hofeling, Kendall Weyers

Members Absent: Eric North & Mary Sweeney

Staff Present: Chris Myers, Lorri Grueber, Adam Klingenberg, Kaylyn Neverve, & Janet Ball

Call to Order: Lachel called the meeting to order at 4:05 pm, recognized the Open Meeting Act posted on the wall. Motion to approve minutes from October meeting made by Emily, Second by Jessica Gieseke and approved unanimously.

Guests present: Erin Chambers, a grad student, joined us again.

Public comments: No public comments.

Old Business: We plan to allow two hours for our December 10th meeting. Lorri stated that Nicole Fleck-Tooze has been asked to facilitate the planning portion of the meeting. Food will be provided so Lorri asked for a commitment for attendance to know how much food will be needed. Lachel, Emily, Kaylyn, Jessica, Kendall, Adam, Lorri, Chris Erin and Janet all plan to attend. Janet will ask for attendance verification when the minutes and agenda for December are sent out.

Public Outreach: Lachel reported that the Arbor Day Foundation secured a spring sponsorship of \$12,000.00. Lachel will meet with Mary and Maggie, from the Parks Foundation and they will all meet with Doug Dittman, owner of the Hub Café and discuss sponsorship of the Arbor Day event. Jessica will talk to “The Wild Woods” band to see if they would be interested in playing for the event and will check on costs to hire them.

Curt Eden has talked to Jessica about Earth Day. They will not be using the Jayne Snyder Trail Center this year, their event will be held at UNL Innovation Campus. Lorri suggested inviting Curt to our January 14, 2020 meeting to meet CFAB and say what he wants from us. Emily voiced concern that Earth Day celebrations and Arbor Day celebrations should be kept separate. Our mission is to promote trees and all things associated with them. Jessica also voiced her concern that she would like to see the Arbor Day celebration be kept as a free event so all can attend. She does not want us to have vendors that sell things and make people feel guilty for not buying their products. Janet voiced her concern about alcoholic beverages and hopes they will not be allowed at our “family event”.

Emily asked if we (CFAB members) are supposed to prep for the December meeting. Lorri asked them to read the board book and City ordinances. Janet will e-mail those to all.

Staff Reports: Lorri stated that Adam is off probation and is official! Tom Wheeler is midway thru probation. Tom and Adam passed the TRAQ (Tree Risk Assessment Qualification). Lorri has had that designation for seven years. Now all three are qualified to assess trees. Lorri discussed the issues with private hazardous tree complaints and some of the things they encounter and the time each takes. She is working with the City Law Department about referring the neighbors to a Mediation Center to help arrive at a solution. Lorri stated that she currently has 107 private property complaints in BeeHive. Lorri also stated that Josh Rowell was promoted to Arborist II and Rob Tewes was hired and started on Halloween as an Arborist I. Forestry still has two seasonal positions to fill but is trying to wait until spring to hire for those positions.

Adam stated that the Edenton North development has had all Ash removed and the stump grinding has been done. The area on R Street between N. 22 to N 27th has had door hangers left at each home. The Ash on R Street have been removed. Discussion took place regarding replanting trees and how it should be a requirement. Emily suggested changing the design standard ordinance to require street trees. Currently people can choose to not replace the tree.

Jessica asked if Urban Development has been talked to about funding for Ash removals on private property. Lorri replied yes, they (UD) have discussed it with them and were told that they had enough money to remove five Ash trees, but no more money than that.

Lachel reminded us that we must be the voice to educate people of the value of trees. Emily suggested hang tags be left on houses on R between 21st and 27th to let them know they can get a free tree at our Arbor Day event.

Adjourn: Motion to adjourn by Emily, second by Kendall. Meeting adjourned at 5:02 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Ball
Forestry

Next meeting December 10, 2019 (please allow two hours)