

COMMUNITY FORESTRY ADVISORY BOARD

March 20, 2020

Members Present: Jessica Gieseke, Vice Chair; Mary Sweeney, Kendall Weyers and Scott Hofeling
Members Absent: Emily Deeker, Eric North and Lachel Bradley-Williams, Chair
Staff Present: Lynn Johnson, Lorri Grueber, Adam Klingenberg, Kaylyn Nerverve, Janet Ball, Tom Wheeler and Chris Myers
Staff Absent:

Call to Order: Vice Chairperson, Jessica Gieseke called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm, recognized the Open Meeting Act posted on the wall. Motion to approve minutes from the February meeting made by Mary, and second by Kendall; voted and approved unanimously.

Guests present: Erin Chambers, Josh Almond and Casey Sprunk, all students of Eric North, were in attendance along with Tim Rinne, with the Hawley Holly-Hamlet Neighborhood, grow your own food program.

Public comments: no public comments.

Old Business: The letter Kendal wrote and brought last month was edited, signed and delivered to the Mayor last month at a City Council meeting.

New Business: Arbor Day event, Kaylyn met regarding the Beyond the School Bell Tree-A-Thon ~~Re-Tree-A-Thon~~ to plant 101 trees on Arbor Day. She is helping to determine planting locations. This must be decided by next Thursday. Planting will take place near schools and recreation sites. Both middle and elementary schools will be helping plant and all trees will be planted on Arbor Day either before or after school. McPhee School hopes to plant on the Capital Grounds and the Mayor hopes to join them. Parks and Recreation ~~Forestry~~ staff will auger the holes. Trees will be one and one-quarter inch, most are deciduous. Lorri will contact Lincoln Electric System regarding their involvement with the program.

Arbor Day at Union Plaza: Mary reports that she has met with Doug Dittman at the Hub Café and their event planner. Bryan Health will also be contacted for sponsorship. She is asking \$2,000 from LPF and if it isn't all used the extra money will go to tree support for the future. Next is to lock down information for the special permit by Friday. We need to provide a map, number of volunteers, and expected attendance to get the permit. Parking might be an issue. Since the event is during the work week we will not be able to use the Surety parking garage, Lynn will check with Director.

Jessica asked if we will be blocking off N 21st Street from O to P to deliver and set up equipment. Lorri will check on this. Lorri stated that she has confirmed that Nebraska 811 (Diggers) will be in attendance along with the Nebraska Forest Service. Lincoln Electric will bring and display their high voltage truck.

She has talked to Tim and he has agreed to do tours of Holly-Hawley Hamlet. He said: "Anything to teach people how to grow their own food." It was also noted that Alders Gate Church has received grants to update their campus and will give tours of it. UNL Forestry Club will be there.

Jessica will contact Nebraska Game and Parks to get information on their City-wide nature challenge. Lorri discussed Urban Wood Network, Jessica has been in touch with them.

Mary voiced her concerns with the Covid 19 pandemic and what happens if Arbor Day events are cancelled? Lynn stated that the City has no policy as of yet. Things change daily and if the Health Department communicates that events need to be cancelled, we will have to cancel it. Jessica suggested an alternative fall date and also suggested checking with the band to see if they will be available this fall.

Lynn shared a flyer to announce the tree give away. Trees will be provided by The Arbor Day Foundation. Lorri asked if we want to invite the Sowers Club to join us for Arbor Day. It was decided yes, but ask them to not bring the small bare root trees that they usually give away.

Staff Reports: Lynn announced that an intern will be hired to coordinate our volunteer projects. They will work with the Board. He would like to have someone that has been through the green space and forestry class. The position will start with a few hours each week and go full time this summer. Josh, with Forestry Club at UNL will pass the word to see if anyone will be interested in that position.

Motion to adjourn made by Scott, seconded by Mary, meeting adjourned at 4:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Ball
Office Specialist

Next meeting April 14, 2020