

COMMUNITY FORESTRY ADVISORY BOARD

June 9, 2020

Members Present: Jessica Gieseke, Vice Chair; Mary Sweeney, Kendall Weyers Emily Deeker and Scott Hofeling
Members Absent: Eric North and Lachel Bradley-Williams, Chair
Staff Present: Lynn Johnson, Lorri Grueber, Adam Klingenberg, Kaylyn Neverve, Janet Ball, and Chris Myers, via Zoom
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 March meeting made by Emily, and second by Scott; voted and approved unanimously.

Guests present: Erin Chambers, via Zoom

Public comments: no public comments.

Old Business: The letter Kendal wrote was sent to the Mayor. Lynn stated that the Mayors budget was released on June 15th. The forestry budget will stay the same as will the EAB funding. Jessica asked if CFAB members had seen the proposed budget, Lynn replied, no, not until the Mayor puts her proposed budget together, then the boards may comment on it.

New Business: Arbor Day event

The event was cancelled. Discussion was held to determine if it could be held this fall. Lynn is concerned about planning a public event for a sizeable group. Mary suggested a "drive by" event with a scavenger hunt to identify tree species in a specific park. Mary thought Allengate Church could be given direction for companies to do their own Arbor Day event with educational flyers and ideas.

Beyond the Bells gave away trees to other areas since school and community centers were closed. Lynn suggested October 23rd (Friday) or October 24th (Saturday) to consider an event. Committees could meet via Zoom. Mary suggested a contest to see who could "rake" up the highest pile of leaves.

The Arbor Day committee consist of: Eric, Jessica, Mary, Lachel and Lorri. Lynn suggested a tree distribution site at Union Plaza and said a walking trip between Trago and Union Plaza to identify trees would be fun. Mary suggested staying in their cars. UNL Horticulture club gave plants away and had a great turn out, according to Erin. She suggested handing out the trees that Arbor Day had donated for the cancelled event. Mary asked if they could still apply to the Parks Foundation for a grant to which Lynn responded yes. Lynn suggested that the event be held in Antelope Park (home of a State Champion White Oak!). Jessica asked if everyone was ok with moving to Antelope and the reply was yes. There are at least six (6) species of trees to be given away with a total of 400 trees all in three gallon containers from the Arbor Day Foundation. Jessica suggested choosing a species every 30 minutes to give away and the last 30 minutes of the event would be a "grab bag" of whatever is left. Fed X will still sponsor the event. This was tabled to discuss in July at our next meeting.

Staff Reports: STORM CLEAN-UP! Lorri reports that as of Friday we had 549 request. On Friday two of our district staff helped with clean up and the South Street LTU shop also helped. NE District staff picked up limbs in the Meadowlane area and the SE District Staff picked up the Briarwood area. South Street LTU was assigned the country club area. Different citizens helped staff clean up. Saturday forestry had two crews or six staff that spent five hours each in the Meadowlane area picking up debris from the storm.

Kendall asked about a private Hackberry tree that is ready to fall and wanted to have it removed. Lorri stated that since it is private we cannot. If the tree fails and lands in the street, forestry can clear the street but all limbs and debris will be left on the property owners land. We will not haul it away.

Lynn stated that the Federal Government has declared trees under powerlines are the property owner's responsibility to maintain. Lynn also stated that the planning department will update the plan for 2020 and will ask to meet with a sub-committee regarding trees.

Kaylyn stated that 80 trees were planted on Arbor Day by Parks staff.

Lynn said that Eric's term on the board is expiring in August and Eric has told Lynn he would not want to be reappointed. So his position will be open along with Emily's and Scott's so please keep it in mind if you know anyone that might be interested in replacing them. Erin said her application has been submitted.

Motion to adjourn made by Scott, seconded by Mary, meeting adjourned at 5:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Ball
Office Specialist

Next meeting April 14, 2020