

Community Forestry Advisory Board Quarterly Meeting Minutes

Location: Parks & Recreation Administration Office, 3131 O Street, Third Floor

Date: Tuesday, December 12, 2023

Time: 4:00 p.m.

Attendees: Members Present: Erin Chambers, Jessica Gieseke, Brian Munk, Ann Powers, Pete Smith, Mark Wilson
Members Absent: Lachel Bradley-Williams
Staff Members Present: Maggie Stuckey-Ross, Lorri Grueber, Michael Fallon, Chris Myers, Kaylyn Neverve, J.J. Yost, Pam Hoffman
Members of the public present: Kendall Weyers; Stephanie Rouse, Lincoln/Lancaster County Planning Department; M.C. Raterman, Lincoln/Lancaster County Planning Department.

Agenda items

1. **Call to Order:** Erin Chambers called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m. and recognized the Open Meetings Act posted on the wall.
2. **Roll Call:** Roll Call was taken. Quorum was present.
3. **Minutes from the September 12, 2023 meeting were approved.** Motion made by Pete Smith and seconded by Brian Munk.
4. **Introduction of New Member:** Ann Powers has joined the CFAB Board. Ann is a Lecturer for the School of Natural Resources at UNL and teaches classes in Urban Forestry. She also does recruiting and outreach for the program Regional and Community Forestry.
5. **Public Comments:** None
6. **Committee Reports**
 - a. **Outreach/Education/Events**
 - i. **October Tree Plantings & Giveaway:** Planted about 300 trees in October, just with volunteers. Tree Giveaway - Gave away about 300 trees in Air Park. 50 extra trees were available, and they were given away later on.
 - ii. **Arbor Day 2024:** City is partnering with LPS and the Arbor Day Foundation to get a Tree Campus USA Designation.
 - iii. **Kahoa Park Planting:** Working with LPS to do a tree planting at Kahoa Park and will correspond with new playground install.
 - iv. **Tree Giveaway** – Plan to do another tree giveaway in Fall of 2024.
 - b. **Policy/Regulation Board Development**

- i. **Notes from October & November meetings** – Discussing and reviewing policy on illegal removal of City Trees. LPD is supposed to issue tickets. Looking to see if fines can be put in place and see if Forestry can be given permission to write citations. Trying to schedule a meeting in January to get a recommendation put together and forward it to Maggie Stuckey-Ross and the Mayor. A draft letter would be done for the January meeting so the entire CFAB members have the opportunity to offer edits and vote on a final draft.

- 7. **Presentation of Draft Historic Preservation Design Guideline and Discussion – Stephanie Rouse, Planner, Lincoln/Lancaster Planning Department** – The Local Preservation Program: consists of 101 properties in 13 districts. Homes range from the 1880’s to 1940’s. The current language talks about not removing significant trees. Looking for recommendations on how to preserve significant trees in these districts. Some guidelines are site specific. Pete Smith suggested a root protection zone for any alterations made to these homes or landscapes in order to protect the tree. A calculation to use for figuring the root protection zone is 1 foot of radial diameter for every inch of diameter of the tree. Erin Chambers suggested a list of species that are considered invasive and recommendations that they not be planted or not allowed to be planted. Jessica Gieseke suggested having a do-not-plant list and a recommended not to plant list. Ann Powers suggested making a list of protected tree species by class size, because not all protected trees are large trees.
- 8. **Nominations for 2024 Board Chair and Vice-Chair.** Lachel Bradley-Williams was nominated as Board Chair and Pete Smith was nominated as Vice-Chair. Jessica Gieseke made a motion to approve the nominations and Erin Chambers seconded the nominations. Motion approved by roll call of members.

9. **Election of Board Chair and Vice Chair.**

10. **Staff Reports**

- a. **Director’s Report** – Significant Beehive is coming through soon. Gearing up for budget season. Budget goals on the chart hand out, are goals we are measured by as a department and several goals on that list are for forestry.
- b. **Community Forestry** – Forestry is focusing on pruning right now. Acquiring a new chipper truck, but it is still about a year out for the build to be completed. EAB removal crews are working. Some contractor’s work is being done. Crews are staying very busy. There is an Arborist I position open.
- c. **State Urban Forest Resilience (SUFR) Grant** – the final 150 trees are in the ground as of last week and we are moving on to the 2 year maintenance period.

- 11. **Adjourn:** Meeting adjourned at 5:03 p.m. Motion made by Pete Smith and seconded by Mark Wilson.

Minutes prepared by Pam Hoffman, Office Specialist.

Next Board meeting will be a Special Meeting held on January 9, 2024. Next Quarterly Board Meeting to be held on March 12, 2024.