

Community Forestry Advisory Board Quarterly Meeting Minutes

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

Date: Tuesday, June 11, 2024

Time: 4:00 p.m.

Attendees: Members Present: Erin Chambers, Brian Munk, Ann Powers, Pete Smith
Members Absent: Lachel Bradley-Williams, Jessica Gieseke, Mark Wilson
Staff Members Present: Maggie Stuckey-Ross, Chris Myers, Adam Klingenberg, Kaylyn Nerverve, Mike Comstock, Pam Hoffman
Members of the public present: Kendall Weyers, Molly Phemister – Southern Heights Food Forest

Agenda items

1. **Call to Order:** Pete Smith called the meeting to order at 4:00 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 January 9, 2024 meeting were approved.** Motion made by Erin Chambers to approve the minutes and seconded by Brian Munk. Unanimously approved.
4. **Public Comment:** Molly Phemister with Southern Heights Food Forest was present. She announced they will be merging with the Big Garden Omaha Network. Molly worked with Southeast District Supervisor Shawn Quinn to remove some trees that were illegally planted by a citizen near 33rd & Sheridan in the park. The trees were moved to the Food Forest for the summer and will be planted elsewhere sometime this fall.
5. **Committee Reports:**
 - a. **Outreach/Education/Events:** Arbor Day Lincoln synopsis – Erin Chambers & Kaylyn Nerverve. The ticket system used for tree distribution had some hiccups because people were worried, they wouldn't get the right tree so they would get the tree right away and then leave for home. There was a rain delay, but the event was still heavily attended (around 1,000 people).
 - b. **Policy/Regulation/Board Development:** Had a meeting with Chris Myers and Adam Klingenberg. What is the status of planting efforts for the \$75,000 that is allocated? Chris Myers – There is no master plan for contractual planting at this time. The early spring/fall EAB plantings but will not necessarily be planted in the right-of-way.
 - i. **Questions generated at the May Policy Committee Meeting:**

- What is LPR/Forestry's plan for moving forward with master/management plan? Received Maggie's response that the RFP can be reviewed at or before the July 9 Policy Committee Meeting.
- The Policy Committee presented a list of ideas to get the city back on track in regards to its 1-to-1 replanting policy. Which recommendation(s) does LPR/Forestry intend to pursue this calendar year?
- To understand how street trees are replaced in Lincoln, we would like a full accounting of all street tree plantings over the past five years (we already received tree counts, as shown on the cart in the attached assessment report), and the source(s) of funding used (EAB Capital, 2-for-trees, forestry budget, other general fund, grants, etc.).
- To make recommendations for improving the street tree voucher program, we need to understand its funding and the mechanics of implementation...Please provide a written account on this program (how it functions, costs, and successes) by our September board meeting.
- Now that EAB death curve appears to be ramping up, how does the city intend to respond? Are there any adjustments that need to be made to the EAB plan? If not, why not?
- What are the criteria for deciding a tree must be removed? How are removals prioritized each year?
- If any adjacent homeowner may request that the city remove a street tree, what is the procedure for a citizen to challenge a tree condemnation. How are decisions made by forestry appealed?

6. Staff Reports: Director's Report: Maggie Stuckey Ross reported that the Mayor is excited about the level of investment for street trees. The CIP for street trees is \$596,000. EAB funding is \$366,000. Budget presentation is tomorrow.

EAB Response and Recover Crews are doing a good job getting EAB treatments done. Stumps are on target, now below 500 stumps left.

City Forester – overview of first month – Chris Myers: Have hired three new people: two arborist 2's, 1 laborer, and 1 seasonal.

Tree Planting Projects – Successful Spring plantings events. 254 trees at 10 different parks. Golf received 30 additional trees. Did some hand digging for holes the last 3 events. Planted tree replacements for the SUFR grant. Thanks to Kendall for assistance. Held some Arbor Care workshops. Thank you to Pete Smith for help with these. Looking at Waterford Park for next year, near Robinson School.

7. Adjourn: Meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m. Motion made by Brian Munk. Seconded by Erin Chambers.

Next Board meeting will be September 10, 2024.