

Tree and Landscape Advisory Committee Meeting

Thursday, March 18, 2021

10:00 a.m.

305 SW A Street, Bentonville, AR

Zoom Meeting – the public and non-committee members may contact skerr@bentonvillear.com to request participation via Zoom.

Mission Statement

The City of Bentonville Tree & Landscape Advisory Committee serves as an advisory committee to the City Council and to City Staff working to maintain, improve, renew and protect the urban forest in public rights-of-way, as well as to share information with the public, enhance appreciation of trees, promote proper tree care, and encourage participation in the development of Bentonville’s urban forest.

Tagline

Grow with trees.

AGENDA

Members

Gulizar Baggson, 8/11/23
Vacant Position, 11/14/23
Nathan Lembke, Chair,
7/25/23
David Short, 5/23/23
Jessie Wagner, Vice-
Chair, 8/11/23
Ralph Weber, 12/31/21

Ex-Officio City Council

Holly Hook, 12/31/21

Staff

Shelli Kerr,
Comprehensive Planning
Manager
Danielle Semsrott, Senior
Planner
Geoff Braga, Urban
Forester
Emily Krol,
Horticulturalist

OPEN MEETING

Meeting is being recorded.

CURRENT BUSINESS

1. Meeting Summary Approval – February 18
2. Tree Canopy Assessment – PlanIt Geo
 - Mapping is complete
 - Report by the end of the month
3. Spring Tree Giveaway – April 17th from 8:00 am to 10:00 am
 - Municipal Complex; drive-thru
 - Pre-registration went live Wednesday
 - <http://www.bentonvillear.com/837/Spring-Tree-Giveaway>
 - Funded by BPC via grant from WFF
 - Shelli Kerr, Comprehensive Planning Manager will be POC from the City in Danielle’s absence, skerr@bentonvillear.com
4. Roundabout Landscaping at SW Bright Road & SW Gator Blvd – No update

5. Grow with Trees Award

- The T & L Committee established the Grow with Trees Award in July 2015 to recognize those in the community that have made a direct impact on increasing and/or preserving Bentonville's tree canopy, which can be achieved in many different ways.
- Thaden School when complete
- Osage Park when complete, saved mature Washington Hawthorne trees – Danielle will get details
- Crystal Flats when complete, went above and beyond landscaping requirements

6. Residential & Commercial Landscaping of the Month Award

- Second City Council meeting in May – first City Council meeting in October

7. Tree Preservation

- Researching other municipalities

OTHER BUSINESS

1. Meeting Day and Time Survey

- Danielle will follow up on this in May

2. Bentonville Parks Conservancy

- Seeking one or two additional board members
- Monthly meetings and quarterly volunteer events – tree pruning, invasive species removal
- Reach out to Mary Beth Miller mbmiller2014@gmail.com

ADJOURN MEETING

Tree and Landscape Advisory Committee Meeting Summary

Thursday, February 18, 2021

10:00 a.m.

305 SW A Street, Bentonville, AR

Zoom Meeting

SUMMARY

Attendance

Voting Members		Ex Officio	Staff
Gulizar Baggson	✓ Ralph Weber	✓ Holly Hook (City Council)	Danielle Semsrott
✓ Nathan Lembke	Vacant Position		✓ Geoff Braga
✓ David Short			✓ Emily Krol
✓ Jessie Wagner			✓ Shelli Kerr

- 1. Open Meeting.** Shelli called the meeting called to order at 10:02 a.m.
- 2. Meeting Summary Approval.** The committee approved the meeting summary from January 21, 2021.

CURRENT BUSINESS

- 3. Tree Canopy Assessment.** The Tree Canopy Assessment is a being prepared by PlanIt Geo. The project is a partnership between T & L Committee and the Walton Family Foundation. They are in the data gathering phase and anticipate completion by end of April. Ralph asked if the report would be ready by then and Shelli thought that it would.
- 4. Spring Tree Giveaway.** The giveaway is a drive-through event on April 17th from 8:00 am to 10:00 am at the Municipal Complex. Pre-registration goes live on March 17th at <http://www.bentonvillear.com/837/Spring-Tree-Giveaway>. The list of trees was provided in the agenda. It is funded by the Bentonville Parks Conservancy via a grant from Walton Family Foundation. Shelli Kerr, Comprehensive Planning Manager will be point of contact from the City in Danielle's absence.
- 5. Roundabout Landscaping at SW Bright Road & SW Gator Blvd.** Danielle had shared in a previous email that Fulbright is interested in adopting maintenance at the roundabout. If planting in the fall they would adopt in 2022. David mentioned that a plan should be in place for watering over the summer when school isn't in session. Emily stated that a schedule has been loosely discussed with them and that drought tolerant plants are part of the plan to avoid the need for too much watering. Nathan suggested being sure that proper safety measures are included in an agreement and that an adult will be present during scheduled maintenance times. Emily suggested providing reflective vests.
- 6. Grow with Trees Award.** Several developments might be considered for the award when complete, including Thaden School, Osage Park, and Crystal Flats. Ralph asked about when Thaden would be complete. Jessie suggested likely 2023. David said that they could be recognized before completion and Shelli suggested maybe when individual phases are complete.

Jessie commented that Thaden School is hiring a horticulturalist. Geoff requested clarification on the purpose of this award. It's his understanding that it was designed for development that goes above and beyond to preserve trees, particularly during construction. He recently drove by Thaden and found that there were no preservation measures in place. Shelli said she would look into it and provide more details. Some of these may be better for the Commercial Landscaping Award. They also wanted to see more developments and landscaping projects to be considered for the award.

- 7. Residential & Commercial Landscaping of the Month Award.** These will be awarded at the second City Council meeting in May and the first City Council meeting in October. Suggested to post on social media in April. Emily suggested asking the Parks Department's new PR person to post on their pages.

OTHER BUSINESS

- 8. Meeting Day and Time Survey.** Danielle will follow up on this in May
- 9. Bentonville Parks Conservancy.** They are looking for one or two more board members. They meet monthly and have quarterly volunteer events, including tree pruning and invasive species removal. Anyone wanting to serve on the board or volunteer for any of the events can reach out to Mary Beth Miller mbmiller2014@gmail.com.
- 10. Tree preservation.** Jessie asked about the status of improving the incentives for tree preservation and researching other cities. Nathan pointed out there is a link to Bentonville's regulations in the meeting summary from January. Shelli said she will work on this and be prepared to share findings at the March meeting.
- 11. Other.** Nathan and Ralph said they can volunteer for the Tree Giveaway. Emily will not be there due to maternity leave. David thanked the city for continuing to provide electric service during the winter weather event.

Meeting adjourned at 10:30.