

CITY OF COTTAGE GROVE
URBAN FORESTRY COMMITTEE
Minutes of the Regular Meeting
February 28, 2024

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Newman called the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Recording Secretary Tina MacDonald called the roll. The following were:

Present:	Chair Reilly Newman, Paul Higgins, Debra Bartlett, Mark McCaffery
Online:	
Absent:	Jimmy Schaper,
Staff Present:	City Planner Eric Mongan, Assistant City Planner Leni Crow, Public Works and Development Director Faye Stewart, City Arborist Chris Senters, Recording Secretary-Tina MacDonald
Guest:	Justin Tidrick – Urban Forestry Committee applicant

1. **ITEMS TO BE ADDED**

None.

2. **MINUTES**

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Debra moved to approve, Jimmy seconded. November 20, 2023 minutes – Approved 6-0.

3. **OLD BUSINESS**

None

4. **NEW BUSINESS**

- (a) This year's Arbor Day discussion – Faye Stewart discussed meeting with Bruce Kelsh with Earth Justice. They offered to donate 2 trees in Susan Johnson's name. There was discussion about planting them in Coiner Park on April 6th. Debra is going to discuss with Susan's family and the church about the date. Eric is going to coordinate with Bruce.

Arbor Day event was discussed. There is an amount allocated for tree planting. The committee also discussed replacing some of the street trees that were lost in the storm. Faye talked about his conversations with the state and street tree maintenance.

Focusing on the replanting of those lost seems most important. Coiner Park specifically was discussed as to what trees would be appropriate there. Middlefield Golf Course, the city parks, etc. and the number of trees lost were significant.

As far as an event, the planting and a ceremonial tree planting might not be appropriate to do in Coiner Park to stay in line with our Urban Forest Management Plan and the parks aspect. The street trees seem to be where the focus should be. Chris Senters is aware of specific places where we could focus, let's say plant 8 trees in a ceremony. Could we partner with the school district? What about Bohemia Park? The location could be perfect. Discussion will continue between now and next month's meeting. The date is finalized as April 6th, the first Saturday of Arbor Month.

Susan Johnson's planting is tentatively set for later in April, actually on Arbor Day.

- (b) Voting for Chair and Vice Chair – Chair Newman is taking a step back from the leadership role. Susan is going to be travelling, Mark is hesitant to take on the responsibilities with his work load, and Paul is away often. Chair Newman moved to move this item to the next meeting. Debra seconded the motion. All in favor.
- (c) The committee discussed moving the date and time of the monthly meetings. The time of day that the committee traditionally meets is not conducive to public input. The third Wednesday at 4:30 was agreed upon. Paul moved and Debra seconded. All in favor.

The committee had conversation about social presence and public outreach as a committee. Eric talked about the committee having its own page, maybe a parks page?

5. **INFORMATION REPORT FROM STAFF**

Eric spoke about the Growth and the 30th Tree City USA awards.

City Planner Mongan stepped out.

Faye shared an emergency report about the ice storm and its impacts with the committee. He spoke about Chris dealing with the public and the criticism he has received regarding removing trees. Chair Newman asked about the contractor protocol for removing trees. Chris shared that he assessed each tree and approved its removal. Not one tree was removed without his approval. He also has a map and addresses with areas to focus on.

Chair Newman thanked all involved with the cleanup from the storm.

Faye spoke about emergency response, specifically about fuel, waste and water issues, as well as being able to run the warming shelters and 911 issues with cell phone service down. The City is looking to the future as far as backup generators to alleviate the

communication issues. More preparedness would be to the City's benefit, particularly looking forward to an emergency event in the future.

6. **AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

Urban Forestry Committee applicant Justin Tidrick was introduced and spoke about his interest and excitement in being involved on the committee.

7. **COMMITTEE COMMENTS**

None

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 4:58 p.m.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

Tina MacDonald, Recording Secretary

Reilly Newman, Chair