



TREE AND LANDSCAPE COMMITTEE

April 14, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Members present: Joe, Lisa, Deb, Liz

City Staff: Melissa Henshaw, Michael Colliver

March 2021 Minutes tweaked and approved

Persons to be heard

Old Business – Fire hall planting beds renovation Plans are delayed because of weather. The new date is tentatively May 2. Discussed removing any weeds from existing plants that will be replanted. The T&L committee is planning to spend time every weekend in May to work on this project. We are also hoping for volunteers from the firehall to help with this project. We are planning to keep a steady eye on this project through the summer. The city is planning two layers of landscape fabric to try to prevent new weeds.

Change of committee membership from 7 to 5 – Joe discussed this with Melissa, who said this is fine. We should put out a call for new members on the garden site on Facebook (Sitka Gardens) to see if we can get new members. Lisa mentioned that when the committee started in 2001, the membership was five. With a membership of five, the quorum is three, not four. Right now we have four members, and with a committee of seven, all four must attend to have a quorum.

Tree City - Deb looked at renewing our tree city status, and it was more complicated than she expected. The application expires this month, so we should plan to apply next year.

Brochures - We reviewed the brochures that Jim Renkert sent. We will review these next meeting and decide where to distribute the brochures.

New Projects – Michael and Conner would like to tackle some new projects. Conner will be working on a data base on what the city has to plant and where we need plants. This will help in planning for future TLC projects.

Michael Colliver – Update: They have been working on the work order database. A number of trees blew down this winter and most have been removed. One tree blew across the Sea Walk. There is a committee of users of lower Mohler and they are working on planning improvements. Maintenance rotations are still working on snow removal, as well as getting athletic fields ready for spring. Crews are working on ruts, tripping hazards and low spots along the Crescent Park strip using D1, then compost / seed mix, then hydroseeding. The east Mohler playground has been re-opened. The CARES crew worked on this. West Mohler playground was opened last year. There are drainage issues at the Kimsham complex. Crews are peeling back sod to work on improving drainage. There is a clay layer that is impeding drainage. The sod cannot be composted because it has a mesh layer that will not biodegrade. The crew is doing some special projects, including improvements for track and field (long jump pit). There is a program the department is using to help track resources, budget, and planning. This program also works to support the Master Plan. Received several compliments regarding the Old Sitka Cemetery, improved by a CARES project.

There was an issue with the loss of compost and mulch with the removal of the cell phone tower at Kimsham. There is enough to support the planned Firehall? project, but about a dump truck of compost was contaminated and lost.

Update on local composter – There is an electric 120 V composter in town. They are looking for a site. Kimsham does not work because it is three phases ?. Now they are looking at the recycle center. There will need to be a MOU for the electricity used. There is also a potential problem with bear and rodent activity. This composter does not work for city operations because of the volume of material the city generates. This is the one currently located at Smith St.

Spring Cleanup is April 24 – May 2. Brochures are on the city website. Track and Field are doing their fund raiser to collect trash around the city. They are working with 30 AmeriCorps volunteers around the Path of Hope and maybe will do some painting. There is another volunteer organization of 16 people that will help.

Next meeting is Wednesday, May 12 at 5pm. We will be looking at having an in person meeting. The library is closed on Monday and Tuesday, but would be available for meetings. HCH is also set up for meetings.

Respectfully submitted by Lisa Moore