

MURRAY CITY POWER
Shade Tree & Beautification Commission
Murray City, Utah
February 5, 2024

Minutes of the Murray City Power Shade Tree & Beautification Commission meeting held on February 5th at Murray City Power located at 153 West 4800 South, Murray, Utah.

Shade Tree & Beautification Commission

Darin Bird
Jan Evans
Geneal Nelson (excused)
Judith Payne

Department Staff

Matt Erkelens, Forestry Supervisor
Bruce Holyoak, Park Superintendent
Barbara Ishino, MCP Staff

Darin called the meeting to order at 8:07 am. He then asked if there were any changes or corrections to the minutes. There were none. Judith made a motion to approve the November minutes. Jan seconded the motion.

Arbor Day Thursday, May 2nd

Matt reported that the poster paper was dropped off last week to all schools. He also reported that the theme for 2024 is Trees are Terrific in Murray and Beyond. Judith thought it was an excellent theme and the others agreed.

The completed posters will be picked up on March 4th. Jan asked if the schools were supportive, and Matt confirmed that they were.

The posters will be judged on Monday, March 11th at 5:00 pm at the Power Department. The area may still be under construction, call Matt so he can let you in.

As a reminder Arbor Day was moved to a Thursday instead of a Friday because schools are closed on that Friday.

- **Educational Sessions** Judith will contact Cathy Singer from the Nature Center to see how many educational sessions we should have. Matt said that we base that number on how many classes attend. Judith thought there were about the same amount each year due to limited transportation (2 buses). She mentioned that Parkside Elementary walks to the event. Matt will plan for 10 sessions for now. Judith estimated there would be approximately 175 students. She also added that more classes are always better as the student's attention is better in a smaller class size.

- Judith will also reach out to Cathy and ask her to attend the April Shade Tree and Beautification Commission meeting.
- **Poetry** Matt asked about whether we wanted to have students read poetry again. Judith will ask Cathy to arrange it.
- Darin will reach out to the State Forester, Jamie Barnes to have her put the event on her calendar. He will also reach out to DNR for educational sessions. Barbara reported she has been unable to reach DNR for the fishing portion. As a result, she contacted Sportsman's Warehouse in 2022 and they participated. In 2023, there wasn't a fishing portion as she was unable to contact either.

Darin is unable to attend the April meeting. Bruce is unable to help judge posters. Bruce will send someone if needed.

Judith wanted to clarify that the Commission will be at the event at between 10:45 am to 11:00 am and then be at the amphitheater at noon for the program with sessions following. Matt said that was correct.

Bruce reported that Murray City Park was dedicated on Arbor Day in 1924 and would be having a Centennial celebration on June 15th.

Darin suggested that instead of an "honorary tree person", the Commission choose to plant a tree in the arboretum in honor of the 100-year celebration. He also suggested that the mayor speak about Murray Park's Centennial during the Arbor Day celebration.

The Commission loved the idea.

Darin asked if Arbor Day would be their last event, kind of a "swan song". Judith said that it would make sense as Arbor Day has always been a favorite event.

Future of the Shade Tree and Beautification Commission

Darin wondered about the future of the Commission. Matt wasn't sure how it would work but thought that there would still be a Commission. Bruce said that it may be under the direction of the Parks Department.

Judith said that she would be happy to volunteer at Arbor Day even if she isn't on the Commission.

Jan said that it would be sad not to be there.

Darin suggested Carina Dibb as a replacement. She is on the ball and has attended the Arbor Day program in the past. Darin would be happy to unofficially talk with her.

Judith suggested Annette Warburton, who is responsible, and loves to work in her yard. She would be a good, contributing member.

Jan's brother, Robert, who has worked in nurseries is also an option.

Tree Lighting 2023

The Commission was so impressed with the 2023 Tree Lighting Ceremony. Judith mentioned the nice crowd in attendance. Jan thought it was so beautiful. Darin reported that the mayor wanted the tree to stay up until after the State of the City address.

Judith noted that it was festive and that it will only grow as word gets out. She loved the addition of the hot chocolate.

Jan thanked Barbara for all her hard work.

Judith thanked Matt for doing such a great job with the lights. Barbara concurred that Matt (and his team) did a fabulous job putting up the trees all while the eyes of city hall employees looked on. It was so much work, and they did a fabulous job.

It was a stressful time figuring out how to put the trees up and also to make sure the lights all came on at the same time. Because of its unique design, forestry had to cut poles and remanufacture parts of the trees.

Darin was curious when the trees we come down. Matt said that it may happen today but would be dependent on the weather.

Jan said that is so difficult and dangerous to put up and down that it might be nice to figure out a way it could stay up all year long. Maybe after December it could be used for different holidays, Valentines, Easter, St. Patrick's Day. She reiterated that time, labor, and safety would all be reasons to keep it up year-round.

With no further business to come before the Commission, Darin moved to adjourn the meeting. All agreed. The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 am.

Minutes recorded and transcribed by Barbara Ishino. The Commission will meet again on Monday, March 11th at 5:00 pm to judge the Arbor Day Poster Contest.

The next in person meeting will be on Monday, April 1st, 2024, at 8:00 am in the Murray City Power office located at 153 West 4800 South.