

MURRAY CITY POWER
Shade Tree & Beautification Commission
Murray City, Utah
October 8, 2024

Minutes of the Murray City Power Shade Tree & Beautification Commission meeting held on October 8, 2024, at Murray City Power located at 153 West 4800 South, Murray, Utah.

Shade Tree & Beautification Commission

Jann Cox, District #2

Marshall Smith, District #4

Alex Motro, District #5

Department Staff

Matt Erkelens, Forestry Supervisor

Bruce Holyoak, Park Superintendent, excused

Marshall called the meeting to order at 9:10 am. He asked if there were any changes or corrections to the August minutes. There were none. Jann made a motion to approve the minutes and Alex seconded it. The minutes were approved.

Jim and Jean Hendrickson Beautification Award Recap

Marshall asked how the Beautification Award presentation went at the September council meeting. Jan said that thanks to Matt they looked good.

Marshall also agreed that they appreciate all Matt does.

Matt told them that one of the winners wanted another plaque to give to their landscapers, so he sent them a PDF and directions to get a plaque made. He also told the Commission that the District #4 winner didn't attend so the plaque was dropped off and they were happy to receive it.

Marshall went around to see the signs in the winner's yards. Jan mentioned that the winner on Winchester still had their sign up. Alex said that District #5's sign was also up.

Matt asked how the award presentation could be better.

Jann felt that the pictures were great.

Marshall would like to see all the winners go up together and have their photo taken. Jann suggested they stay up in the front until all winners are presented. She also suggested getting permission from the winners to use their images for advertising the award.

The Commission decided it might be good to:

- Announce the winners in the Murray Journal
- Post winners in the council room for others to see.

- Run the presentation on the TV inside city hall.
- Add to the Mayor's Monthly Newsletter with a link to the slide show (make sure no names are included for privacy reasons).
- Salt Lake Tribune
- Deseret News
- Ask the Chamber of Commerce to make a Facebook post. (They could just share Murray City Power's post).
- Include it on a Sunday morning real estate show.

Marshall got contact information from Jann so that he could attend a Murray City Chamber meeting and explain the Beautification Awards as a way of promoting it.

Discussion was held as to what day to judge the yards for next year. It was decided they would judge the yards on Monday, June 23rd and that nominations be accepted until Tuesday, June 10th. They would then drive through their areas and have a list of nominations by Thursday, June 19th so that Matt can compile a driving list.

Marshall asked how the community knows they can nominate a yard for the award. He was told that the following is what is currently done:

- Facebook/Instagram
- The Murray Journal
- PowerLines Newsletter, which is inside the utility bill.
- The mayor's newsletter

If there is money, Alex suggested a leaflet be sent out or given to kids or attendees of the Arbor Day Celebration. It was also suggested that the Beautification Award be announced at the Arbor Day program.

The Commission currently receives about 12 nominations from the community.

Tree Lighting Ceremony

Saturday, December 7th

6:00 pm

City Hall

Santa will arrive via fire truck.

The mayor will give a welcome.

There will be a countdown.

Then the Christmas lights will come on.

Children will line up to go and see Santa and will receive a treat.

Hillcrest Jr. High students will perform.

Miss Murray and Little Miss Murray will be there.

The Murray Youth Community Council will provide hot chocolate and sponsor a new toy drive.

Matt would like the Commission to:

Come at 5:00 or 5:30 pm that day.

Help keep the Santa line moving along.

Help prepare the Santa gifts.

It was decided that they would meet at 7:00 am on Tuesday, November 5th, prior to the regularly scheduled meeting to prepare the Santa gifts.

Because the hot chocolate is only allowed outside Marshall wondered how to let the public know that there is no food or drink inside of city hall. He was told that forestry personnel stay outside of the doors to remind people and that signs are also posted at the door. There was some discussion about maybe having candy canes instead of hot chocolate or even to have the hot chocolate available after the Santa line.

Jann was there last year and noted how impressive the light display was. She wondered about the public going inside to see the tree. The public was allowed to enter the building last year but were asked to use the North door. This seemed to upset people, so the plan is to reroute the line so the public can use the South door.

Marshall asked if there would be food trucks. Matt told him that wasn't in the plan this year.

Because the Commission would be monitoring the line, Marshall wondered about having an official looking shirt, jacket, hat, or hoodie.

Matt has already met with Josh from facilities to go over the plans and the route for the Santa line. It is anticipated that the Forestry Division will start putting up trees and decorations at city hall the week of Halloween with a completion date of November 15th.

There was talk of doing a time lapse while the tree is being put up. Jann suggested broadcasting it on the TV inside city hall. Unfortunately, the Christmas tree inside city hall will likely be covering up the TV.

Arbor Day

Marshall asked if Arbor Day was advertised a lot with the kids and Matt said that it was. Marshall would love to see more trees planted, especially at schools.

For context Matt told the Commission that the State of Utah used to hold the Arbor Day Poster and Coloring contest and chose the theme. When they stopped a few years ago, Murray City decided to continue and now chooses its own theme for the posters.

Matt got online and came up with the following suggestions:

- Healthy Trees, Healthy Me
- Trees Root our Community
- Trees are Terrific and Energy Wise
- Trees Plant a Cooler Future

Marshall suggested: Make Murray Tree Beautiful

Matt said that: Trees are Treemendous was a theme once.

Alex liked Healthy Trees, Healthy Me, OR Trees Plant a Cooler Future.

The Commission asked Barbara to send them a list of the past year's themes and decided to table the discussion until the November meeting.

Finalize the 2025 Shade Tree and Beautification Commission Schedule

After looking over the proposed calendar a few changes were made. Alex made a motion to approve the calendar and Jann seconded it.

Unfinished Business

Alex asked Matt about the sidewalk codes. It was decided to table the discussion until the February meeting.

Alex did report that the other cities he researched were less specific about clearances and ordinances. Marshall felt like few cities concern themselves with parking strip codes.

Matt will meet with the attorney's office prior to the February meeting to get some guidance.

With no other business to come before the Commission, Marshall adjourned the meeting at 10:13 am. Minutes recorded and transcribed by Barbara Ishino.

The next regularly scheduled Shade Tree & Beautification Commission meeting will be held Tuesday, November 5th at 9:00 am at the Murray City Power Office. **The Commission will come at 7:00 am prior to the meeting to help prepare the Santa gifts.**