

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

Minutes of the Murray City Power Shade Tree & Beautification Commission meeting held on November 5, 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 9:24 am. He asked if there were any changes or corrections to the October minutes. There were none. Jann made a motion to approve the minutes and Alex seconded it. The minutes were approved.

The Commission was given a copy of the approved 2025 Shade Tree Commission dates.

Tree Lighting Ceremony

Matt reported that Santa would come via Murray City's fire engine. Mayor Hales and Santa would light all the trees. Miss Murray and Little Miss Murray will be there. The children will line up to see Santa entering on the east side of city hall.

Matt and Barbara met with Josh from city hall, and they changed the route from last year so more children could be inside and out of the cold.

The event starts at 6:00 pm and should end around 8:30 pm. Jann asked if there would be any clean up and was told there shouldn't be any clean up needed.

Marshall asked Matt what the Commission's responsibilities were for the Tree Lighting Ceremony. Matt told them that they should come to city hall between 5:00-5:30 pm. They should greet people and keep the line moving.

Matt handed out shirts for the Commission to wear at the Tree Lighting.

Matt also told them that there would be hot chocolate and a toy drive sponsored by the Murray Youth Council. If the toys aren't picked up, he may need the Commission's help to move those at the end of the event. Jann asked where the toys would be collected for donation and was told that last year they were on the south side near the tree.

The Commission wondered if there would be “No Hot Chocolate” signs near the entrances to city hall and if garbage cans would be placed outside of the entrances. Matt told them that there would be both signs and garbage cans.

Marshall wondered if Matt would be there in case there were any questions or to help if the Commission needed assistance. Matt told him that he would be there and that other Forestry Division personnel would be there as well.

Marshall asked about if there would be heaters outside on the plaza. Currently there isn’t any plan to have heaters at the event.

Marshall asked about how the event would be advertised. He was told that there were flyers printed and given to all Murray elementary school students. It is also advertised on Facebook, Instagram, the Murray Journal, the Mayor’s email message, and in the PowerLines newsletter.

The Commission met before the meeting and packaged most of the Santa candy.

Marshall asked for additional flyers to give out. Barbara will get him those after the meeting.

Marshall thought that the Tree Lighting Ceremony would be a good place to advertise the Jim and Jean Hendrickson Beautification Awards. He thought putting up posters at the event would increase awareness.

Arbor Day Poster Contest Theme

Marshall asked if anyone had any ideas for the theme for 2025. He felt that the “Trees are Terrific” part was overdone.

Matt explained that the State of Utah came up with those in years past. They no longer sponsor the contest, so the Commission could choose whatever theme they want to.

The Commission discussed many ideas. Some of those were:

Healthy Trees, Healthy Murray

Home is Where the Habitat Is

Every Leaf Counts

Standing Tall for a Healthier Murray

Trees Plant a Cooler Future

They decided they wanted to have the name “Murray” in the theme. They chose, “Plant Trees Today for a Cooler Murray”.

Marshall would love for schools to partner with Tree Utah or Murray City to get a tree. The schools could then hold an Arbor Day program where they plant the tree on the school grounds.

Alex asked what the typical grow time for parking strip trees is. Matt said the trees they currently plant are between 4-5 years old. It takes an additional 10 years before the tree is mature.

Alex suggested that prior to the 2034 Olympics there be an emphasis on getting trees planted to help improve air quality and that the poster contest themes are focused on the Olympics, "planting the seed" so to speak.

Old Business

Marshall asked if there was any other business to discuss. They talked about revisiting the ordinances, which they will do at the February meeting. Matt will meet with the Attorney's Office prior to that meeting.

With no other business to come before the Commission, Alex made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Jann seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 10:06 am. Minutes recorded and transcribed by Barbara Ishino.

The next regularly scheduled Shade Tree & Beautification Commission meeting will be held Tuesday, February 11, 2025, at 9:00 am at the Murray City Power Office.

The Commission will come between 5:00-5:30 pm on Saturday, December 7th for the Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony. They will wear their shirts and help to keep the line moving. If needed, they will assist with toys left at city hall from the toy drive.