

MURRAY CITY POWER
Shade Tree & Beautification Commission
Murray City, Utah
August 12, 2025

Minutes of the Murray City Power Shade Tree & Beautification Commission meeting held on August 12, 2025, at Murray City Power located at 153 West 4800 South, Murray, Utah.

Shade Tree & Beautification Commission

Jann Cox, District #2; excused
Marshall Smith, District #4
Alex Motro, District #5

Department Staff

Matt Erkelens, Forestry Supervisor
Bruce Holyoak, Park Superintendent; excused

Special Guests

Rowan Coates, Museum Curator

Marshall called the meeting to order at 9:03 am. He asked if there were any changes or corrections to the May minutes. There were none. The minutes were approved.

Beautification Awards

Matt showed a PowerPoint presentation for the September 16th Council meeting honoring the 2025 Jim and Jean Hendrickson Beautification Awards.

Matt asked how the Commission would like to present the awards. It was decided that Jann would present Districts #1 and #2, along with the Xeriscape award.

Alex would present Districts #3 and #5, along with the Water Wise Living Park Strip award.

Marshall would present District #4, the Commercial award, and the Multi-Family winner.

Marshall asked if the mayor would present the Citywide/Mayor award. Later, Power Department staff contacted the mayor's office, and he said he would be happy to present that award.

Marshall asked if the winners would be notified and was told that Department staff would be doing that.

He also asked if someone would reach out to the Murray Journal to see if they would be interested in covering the awards. (Power Staff reached out on August 13th. Waiting to hear.)

Arbor Day

Matt asked if the Murray Mansion/Museum would like to display the citywide winners again next year. Rowan said that she would like that.

Arbor Day will be held on Thursday, April 30, 2026. Planning will commence at the February Shade Tree and Beautification Commission meeting. It was decided that Alex would emcee the event again in 2026.

Matt asked the Commission to begin thinking of a theme for the poster contest. Rowan suggested maybe using something about the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence.

Rowan also said that as a part of the 250th anniversary there would be an emphasis on service projects and that there has been talk about planting 250 trees as a part of the celebration. Grant money would be applied for to cover expenses. She mentioned that it was just in the planning stages and that no decisions have been made.

The Commission talked about whether there was a national tree. Alex looked it up and there is...an Oak.

Rowan reported that there would be a committee formed for the 250th anniversary celebration.

Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony

Rowan reported that there would be a meeting later in the week to plan the Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony.

The following ideas are being discussed:

- For the first time, a Murray City vehicle light parade will be held prior to the tree lighting.
- City vehicles will be decorated by an outside vendor.
- The light parade will start at Constitution Circle and end at Murray City Hall where the vehicles will keep their lights on and remain parked at city hall for an undetermined length of time.
- The Fire Department will be using a vintage fire truck.
- The float from Fun Days will also be decorated with lights and be in the parade.
- A hot chocolate food truck has been scheduled.

- The Parks Department will be providing smore's (like they do at Arbor Day). This will be held close to the Murray Mansion.

Rowan reported that Erica Brown, Chief Communications Officer, has several other things planned.

Marshall asked about the advertising. Rowan reported that it would be heavily advertised via social media, news coverage, and flyers.

Matt reported that Santa will ride in the city vehicle light parade and that he will help light the tree as in years past. Santa will then go inside city hall to visit with the children.

Marshall suggested putting duct tape arrows on the carpet, in addition to the stanchions, to help with the flow of traffic.

Matt felt that more stanchions will be needed.

With the addition of the Murray City vehicle light parade, the Commission felt that more people would be in attendance.

Matt also reported that the tree lighting would be on Saturday, November 29, 2025 (which is earlier than the usual first Saturday of December).

Matt will update Santa about the parade.

Matt also asked Power Department staff to notify the Commission of any changes after the meeting is held.

2026 Shade Tree & Beautification Commission Schedule

The following was decided:

- No January meeting will be held.
- Plan for the first Tuesday of each month.
- 9:00 am start time.
- Arbor Day poster contest judging will be held in March.
- 2026 will be similar in dates as 2025.

Power Staff will have a tentative calendar ready for the October meeting.

With no other business to come before the Commission, Marshall made a motion to adjourn, Alex seconded it. The meeting was adjourned at 9:36 am.

Minutes recorded and transcribed by Barbara Ishino.

The next in-person meeting will be on Tuesday, October 14, 2025, at 9:00 am at the Murray City Power office located at 153 West 4800 South.