

MURRAY CITY POWER
Shade Tree & Beautification Commission
Murray City, Utah
October 14, 2025

Minutes of the Murray City Power Shade Tree & Beautification Commission meeting held on October 14, 2025, 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 9:09 am. He asked if there were any changes or corrections to the August minutes. There were none. The minutes were approved.

Beautification Awards

Marshall gave a few of his thoughts about the presentation of the awards at the September city council meeting.

In the future he would like to see the mayor give out the citywide award. He thought it would be nice if the mayor also took a photo with the winner(s).

Matt reported that all but 2 winners attended. It was noted that the winner of the multifamily award had a crew with them. In the future, it would be nice to recognize them as well.

Tree Lighting Ceremony

The Tree Lighting Ceremony will be Saturday, November 29, 2025; 6:00 pm at Murray City Hall (10 E 4800 S; Murray, Utah).

Matt reported that there have been a few meetings with city personnel about the event and let the Commission know the following:

- The City Vehicle Light Parade has been cancelled for 2025. If possible, it will take place in 2026.
- Santa, Miss Murray, and Little Miss Murray will ride on the fire engine to city hall.
- The mayor and Santa will light the tree.

- Alex Motro, Shade Tree and Beautification Commission member will emcee.
- There will be a firework(s) go off prior to the tree lighting.
- There will be free s'mores provided by the Parks Department. The Murray Youth Community Council will assist.
- Free hot chocolate provided by the Murray Exchange Club.
- A Christmas market is in the works.
- Hillcrest Jr. High students will sing. Location to be determined.
- The Murray Museum will be open for the public.
- The Murray City Library Dragon will be there.

Channel 4 will be reporting/advertising the event. Flyers have been made with a QR code that will give detailed information.

Marshall would love to see Murray City be the go-to destination for Christmas. He even suggested having a "search" light at the event to promote interest.

Alex would like to see if a map of the event could be shared with them at the next Shade Tree & Beautification Commission meeting in November.

Matt will:

- reach out and invite the cadets to attend
- get more stanchions
- have stands with signs on that say no food or drink inside city hall

Jann asked if there was a place for all the outdoor decorations to be stored. Matt told her that has not yet been decided.

Jann also asked about which official commission shirt they should wear to the event. The black polo or the red t-shirt? They will decide later.

Santa Line

Matt let the Commission know that it was suggested that there be reservation check in system to see Santa instead of the traditional line.

Jann has had experience with a haunted house event where they used a reservation check in system. She said that it didn't work well and that there were a lot of angry people.

There was a brief discussion about hiring a photographer to take Santa photos to speed up the line. However, it was decided that it would be just as fast for the parents to take the photos.

There was concern about the length of visits as well. Marshall suggested having lights near Santa that change color after 2 minutes so that Santa could time his visits.

After some discussion, the Commission felt that it wouldn't be advisable to use a reservation check in system.

The Commission will be there to assist and help move the line along. The Commission also suggested getting a sign that says, "Santa line now closed".

Santa Candy

Matt asked if the Commission would like to package the candy again this year. They all decided they would like to do that.

They will assemble the candy on November 4, 2025, at 7:00 am at the Power Department prior to their regularly scheduled meeting.

2026 Commission Schedule

Matt passed around the proposed 2026 Shade Tree & Beautification Commission schedule for discussion. There was a change to the schedule and then the Commission approved the 2026 schedule, which will be published online.

Arbor Day 2026

The Arbor Day celebration will be April 30, 2026. Prior to the celebration an Arbor Day Poster Coloring Contest will be held. Winners will be honored at the celebration.

The Commission was asked to consider a theme for the poster contest and bring a few ideas to the November 4th meeting. A theme will be chosen by the end of the meeting on November 4th.

Alex briefly threw out the idea, With Liberty and Clean Air for All.

With no other business to come before the Commission, Jann made a motion to adjourn, Alex seconded it. The meeting was adjourned at 10:02 am.

Minutes recorded and transcribed by Barbara Ishino.

The next in-person meeting will be on Tuesday, November 4th, at 9:00 am at the Murray City Power office located at 153 West 4800 South. (The Commission will meet at 7:00 am to package the candy.)