



**PAROWAN CITY SHADE TREE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
DECEMBER 4, 2025 – 7:00 P.M.
PAROWAN CITY OFFICES - 35 E 100 N, PAROWAN, UT 84761**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Heidi Toia, Linda Smith, Ryan Johnson, Ron Roth, Justin Dalley, Vern Fridley, Councilmember John Dean

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: None

ADMINISTRATION AND STAFF PRESENT: Callie Bassett, City Recorder

PUBLIC PRESENT: Robert Schultz

Call to Order

Heidi Toia called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Approval of Meeting Minutes from June 5, 2025

A motion was made to approve the meeting minutes from June 5, 2025.

Motion to approve the meeting minutes from June 5, 2025 was made by John Dean, seconded by Linda Smith, and approved unanimously.

Update on Community Garden at Meeks Pond

Chairperson Heidi Toia provided an update on the community garden plans. She reported that approximately four people had expressed interest in serving on the garden board, with two others still considering the opportunity. She noted that she had recruited three main people who would be present throughout the summer and were interested in gardening.

John Dean added that he had spoken with Kristen Robinson from the Heritage Foundation regarding the Meeks Pond area. He explained that the Heritage Foundation was primarily interested in the cabin and its immediate surroundings but was supportive of establishing a community garden on the upper plateau where the recent fire had occurred. Councilmember Dean emphasized that the garden would be funded by the community rather than the city, including the construction of garden boxes and soil acquisition. He noted that they would work on bringing pressurized irrigation to the site for drip irrigation, with plans to also add a culinary water line for late-season gardening after the irrigation system shuts down.

Heidi Toia mentioned fundraising ideas including an "adopt a bed" program where community members or businesses could sponsor garden beds, with the highest bidders winning naming rights. She also suggested reaching out to larger companies and SUU for donations, with sponsors recognized on a sponsor board at the garden entrance.

Linda Smith noted that there was already a plan for the Meeks Farm that included garden beds, located in Shade Tree Committee documents stored at the city offices.

Justin Dalley clarified that the fire had destroyed the existing water infrastructure, but assured that connecting both culinary and irrigation water to the garden area would be feasible, though it would take some time.

The committee agreed that the new community garden would be located on the upper plateau where the fire had occurred, rather than at the previous lower location.

Discussion on List of Recommended Trees for Parowan Yards

Vern Fridley presented a comprehensive list of recommended trees for Parowan yards that he had developed in consultation with others. The list included 56 total trees, with 24 of them designated as preferred options. He explained that the list showed different tree shapes and sizes, and noted potential problems for each tree species.

Mr. Fridley suggested that while the Shade Tree Committee's primary mission concerns trees on public property, providing this list to citizens would be a valuable service. He proposed that the list could be made available at city offices and on the community website. He also suggested adding a cover page encouraging residents to research their selected trees further using resources like USU's Tree Finder. Ryan Johnson endorsed the list as an excellent resource, stating that he could not produce a better list himself and encouraging its use for both private and public trees.

Justin Dalley noted that having the list available would be helpful when residents have questions about suitable trees for their properties.

The committee agreed that the list should be made available on the city website as a resource for residents.

Member Reports

Justin Dalley reported on several tree removals, including one at 7 North 200 West that had been determined to be dead. He mentioned that several dead trees on 300 East and Center Street were scheduled for removal, as well as a large tree near Aldo Biasi's house. He noted ongoing cleanup work at the cemetery, parks, and Meeks Pond.

Heidi Toia asked if the Meeks Pond cleanup could involve community volunteers, to which Justin confirmed it could and mentioned that a dumpster would be provided. Callie Bassett reminded the committee to keep records of volunteers, including names, hours, and contact information.

John Dean reported that Dakota Veater of Lifetime Tree Service was offering a free tree removal or major pruning job to someone in need as part of his new business venture called TimberOps. Councilmember Dean explained that Veater was seeking nominations for recipients such as elderly homeowners, veterans, or families struggling financially with hazardous trees.

Justin Dalley expressed concerns about his capacity to handle all the necessary tree maintenance given his other responsibilities and inquired about pursuing funding for contracted tree services. Ryan Johnson suggested applying for a community forestry grant through the state, noting that applications are typically due in early summer. Vern Fridley added that while normal maintenance is not typically prioritized for grants, special projects might qualify.

Ron Roth reported on the July 4th Arbor Day celebration, which had good attendance and included the giveaway of five trees through a lottery system. He also mentioned the Meeks Pond fire, noting the excellent response from firefighters who saved the park. Roth shared that he and Ryan Johnson had provided consultation to owners of a historic property with 110–120-year-old apple trees, who were interested in researching the genetics and history of these trees. Heidi Toia offered to connect with extension office contacts to inquire about such research.

Roth also mentioned an article from Iron County Today that advocated leaving fallen leaves on lawns for ecological benefits rather than removing them, noting that mulching leaves with a mower can turn them into beneficial fertilizer.

Vern Fridley proposed conducting a regular Arbor Day program at the school in the spring, closer to the traditional early May Arbor Day observance. He volunteered to lead the planning with input from other committee members. Linda Smith noted that they had successfully conducted such programs with 4th–6th graders in previous years. Ryan Johnson offered his support and mentioned that scheduling away from the official Arbor Day would increase his chances of participation.

Ron Roth expressed concern about the stagnant water in Meeks Pond throughout the summer, noting that the city has legal water rights to the creek that feeds the pond. There was brief discussion about water diversion issues that would need to be addressed in another forum.

Public Comments

Robert Schultz, a resident at 395 West 300 South, requested permission to remove a city-owned elm tree located just outside his fence on 400 West. He explained that the tree had previously been marked for removal with purple paint when he purchased the property four years ago, but his wife had requested it be kept for shade. Schultz reported that the tree was now falling apart with branches reaching 35 feet high and leaning toward his house, presenting a safety concern.

After committee discussion and verification of the tree's location, it was determined that there were no power line risks associated with the tree's removal.

Motion to approve the removal of the tree at 395 West 300 South at Mr. Schultz's expense was made by Vern Fridley, seconded by Justin Dalley, and approved unanimously.

Adjourn

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Heidi Toia, seconded by John Dean, and approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.



Callie Bassett, City Recorder
Date Approved: 2/05/2026