

**SHADE TREE AND BEAUTIFICATION BOARD  
OF CITY OF ST. GEORGE  
REGULAR MEETING  
February 19, 2026, 12:00 P.M.  
MILLCREEK PARKS OFFICE CONFERENCE ROOM**

**Present:**

**Parks Deputy Director/Urban Forester Ben Neumann  
Board Member Bonnie Pendleton  
Board Member Conn Wood  
Board Member/Councilmember Steve Kemp  
Secretary Rachel Hurd  
Civil Attorney Daniel Baldwin  
Planner Brian Dean  
Arborist Clifton Christensen  
Applicant Mark Hodges  
Parks Manager Todd Steed  
Legal Intern Kylie Smith**

**Excused:**

**Planner Carol Winner  
Board Member Gil Almquist  
Board Member John Sorenson**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Deputy Director/Urban Forester Ben Neuman called the meeting to order and welcomed all in attendance. Each person introduced themselves.

Link to call to order and introductions: [00:00:07](#)

**DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF TREE(S) REMOVAL ON LOCATION AT  
600 NORTH 2790 EAST, ST. GEORGE, UTAH, 84790 - MARK HODGES (ARBOR  
TECH), SPRINGTREE GARDENS**

Link to agenda item one which is a discussion between Applicant Mark Hodges, the Shade Tree Board, Arborist Clifton Christensen, and Urban Forester Ben Neumann: [00:01:39](#)

Link to motion: [00:11:35](#)

**MOTION:**

Board Member Steve Kemp made a motion on agenda item number one that per Planner Brenda Hatch and the Planning/Zoning Department it is going to be fine without any variance to plant

four trees. With that confirmation, the Shade Tree Board is proposing they plant a desert willow in the larger planter on the north side of the parking lot and a chinese pistache in the larger planting area of the south side of the parking lot and that two privets are planted in between with space to work with the existing oleanders and that the applicant Mark Hodges will coordinate with the urban forester Ben Neumann and the power department/arborist Clifton Christensen to remove the northern tree by the power line when the other trees are ready to go.

**MOTION AMENDMENT:**

Board member Steve Kemp made an amendment to the motion and added that the City of St. George will take down the north tree but won't grind down the stump, the applicant Mark Hodges through his profession will be grinding the stump and removing the north tree. Applicant Mark Hodges through their arborist will also make sure that the trees that are planted will have appropriate irrigation considering the space and location they are being planted in.

Link to motion amendment: [00:13:09](#)

**SECOND:**

The motion was seconded by Board Member Bonnie Pendleton.

The motion was opened for discussion by Ben Neumann.

**VOTE:**

Ben Neumann called for a vote, as follows:

Board member Kemp - aye

Board member Pendleton - aye

Board member Wood - aye

The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

**DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF TREE(S) REMOVAL ON LOCATION AT 375 SOUTH 200 EAST, ST. GEORGE, UTAH, 84770 - MARK HODGES (ARBOR TECH), ST. GEORGE TEMPLE**

Link to agenda item two which is a discussion between Applicant Mark Hodges, the Shade Tree Board members, Urban Forester Ben Neumann, Parks Manager Todd Steed, and Arborist Clifton Christensen: [00:16:20](#)

Link to motion: [00:33:00](#)

**MOTION:**

Board member Bonnie Pendleton made a motion to take the two trees out and replant them with two uniform trees that fit in with the other trees in that area

**MOTION AMENDMENT:**

Board member Bonnie Pendleton made an amendment to the motion requiring that the two ash trees be removed and replaced with twenty-four inch box chinese pistache to continue the uniformity of this landscape and the City of St. George won't make them remove the other two trees that are technically in violation.

Link to motion amendment: [00:35:09](#)

**SECOND:**

The motion was seconded by Board Member Steve Kemp

The motion was opened for discussion by Ben Neumann

**VOTE:**

Ben Neumann called for a vote, as follows:

Board member Kemp - aye

Board member Pendleton - aye

Board member Wood - aye

The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

**DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF ARBOR DAY 2026**

Link to agenda item three which is the discussion of Arbor Day 2026 including discussion between the Shade Tree Board, Arborist Clifton Christensen, Parks Manager Todd Steed, and Urban Forester Ben Neumann: [00:36:30](#)

Arbor Day will be held at the Little Valley Complex April 25, 2026 from 9 AM - 12 PM

**OTHER DISCUSSION ITEMS AND UPDATES FROM THE SHADE TREE BOARD MEMBERS**

Link to agenda item four presented by Urban Forester Ben Neumann including discussion between the Shade Tree Board Members and Urban Forester Ben Neumann: [00:46:13](#)

**CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE MEETING HELD ON  
JANUARY 15, 2026**

Link to agenda item five presented by Urban Forester Ben Neumann: [00:47:05](#)

**MOTION:**

A motion was made by Board Member Bonnie Pendleton to approve the minutes from the meeting held on January 15, 2026

**SECOND:**

The motion was seconded by Board Member Conn Wood

**VOTE:**

Ben Neumann called for a vote, as follows:

Board member Kemp - aye

Board member Pendleton - aye

Board member Wood - aye

The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

**ADJOURN:**

Link to motion: [00:47:55](#)

**Motion:**

A motion was made by Board Member Bonnie Pendleton to adjourn

**Second:**

The motion was seconded by Board Member Steve Kemp

**Vote:**

Ben Neumann called for a vote, as follows:

Bonnie Pendleton - aye

Steve Kemp - aye

Conn Wood - aye

The vote was unanimous, and the motion carried.

/s/Rachel Hurd

Rachel Hurd, Secretary