

March 3, 2026 Tree committee meeting

Committee Members:

David Cloward
Michelle Coker
Janet Simonich
Laura Bakker
Matt Evans
Walter Roseman
Jocelyn Kessler
Josie Taber
Chris McGraw
David Zwicky
BrynHeather Johnson
Rhett Ogden
Brent Williams
Taylor Parker
Maryann Pickering
Dillon Blyler
Lyndsey Greenberg
Todd Draper
Logan Mathews

Attendees:

David Cloward
Michelle Coker
Janet Simonich
Jocelyn Kessler
Chris McGraw
David Zwicky
BrynHeather Johnson
Rhett Ogden
Taylor Parker
Dillon Blyler
Jeanette Jastremsky
Mike Barker

Agenda

1. Welcome and roll call
2. Approval of previous meeting minutes from February 2026
3. City updates
 1. Committee Roles - Rhett Ogden
 2. City Project Updates - Dillon
 3. Tree planting spec inclusion with street tree guide - Rhett
 4. Discussion of role of city arborist
 5. Proposal for managing trees causing sidewalk lifting
 6. Presentation of New Water Element Plan by Jen Jastremsky

4. Public Education
 1. Tree talks
 2. Localscapes
 3. Draper Forward
5. Budget and planting
 1. Potential projects
 1. Use of private donor funds - Parks
 2. Replacement of dead trees
 3. Beautification of city entrances and street trees on major thoroughfares
 4. Disc golf course plans and private funding
6. Other Committee Business by Motion
7. Adjournment

Notes:

Discussion about committee roles:

- Chair suggested that a review of roles and duties should not turn into a discussion about how we are executing in our roles because that would take the whole meeting
- City council - Bryn Johnson mentioned that roles of all committees are being reviewed and there was a discussion in the last city council work session
- Cloward confirmed city entrances, beautification, and main corridors is included - Rhett agreed
- Cloward confirmed that "public" property included park strips and Jen confirmed, but it does not include trees in private property due to the park strip being too small
- Michelle confirmed that we are supposed to provide recommendations to the city and if we are supposed to do public education, why wouldn't we be responsible for commercial property
- Cloward suggested that if we are only an advisory role and we are supposed to provide education to private property owners, then why wouldn't our responsibility include recommendations for private property
- Cloward suggested that he and Michelle would like to meet with Bryn Johnson to review our execution of our roles and she agreed

Jen Jastremsky reviewed the water conservation roles and strategies

- Michelle suggested putting the water efficiency standards on the landscaping website and we should be involved in promoting those
- Janet suggested our committee should be considered to be trees and landscaping instead of only trees. There is no real way to separate them.

Dillon spoke about a Pioneer road development 7th to 13th that may have room for trees and use the street tree guide.

- Dave recommended they not only use the street tree guide for tree selection, but they should also consider making sure the tree selection is in harmony with the pattern and types used in neighboring sections.
- Michelle asked about whether they would have lawn or mulch. Dillon said it will be "rock mulch" and so we recommended there should be shrubs and plants and not just rock.

Rhett explained that the planting spec should not be part of the street tree guide, but could also be referenced along with the street tree guide.

- Jen stated that the city attorney was concerned about liability if we required inspections of plantings and so we recommended Mike Barker speak to the city attorney
- Dave explained to Mike Barker the objective is to avoid the money to plant trees being wasted by having trees planted in a public right of way by developer's landscapers due to being planted in roadbase and thus there shouldn't be any legal liabilities by requiring landscape contractors adhering to a spec - just like any other building code we require.
- Michelle reminded everyone that is only the reference to the street guide in code and thus that is all we maybe need for the planting spec.
- Jen suggested we could just post the spec on the website, but Dave suggested that only having the spec posted on the website and not referenced as a requirement in code will be useless.

Discussion about potential tree removal policy

- David Zwicky did research on best practices from Sandy and Salt Lake city
- Janet mentioned that Sandy copied SLC and SLC is considered the authority since they have been doing this for so long
- Dave asked Bryn what would be the next step and Bryn asked us to put that forward through her

Rhett asked about Arbor Day - it is next month - April 25

- Michelle suggested an idea to plant an Elm in Draper park in commemoration of America 250

Actions:

1. Dave and Michelle to meet with Bryn Johnson to review execution of committee roles
2. Dave and Michelle to meet with Bryn on tree removal policy
3. Rhett to go back and meet with the city attorney to review possible ways to achieve our objective of providing a tree planting spec to developers; Mike Barker may help.
4. Committee and Parks to go look at Arbor Day planting site
5. David Zwicky to follow up with Jocelyn to see if we could send a text/email to city residents asking them for inputs on where they would like to see trees replaced and/or new trees planted