

MURRAY CITY POWER
Shade Tree & Beautification Commission
Murray City, Utah
March 2, 2021

Minutes of the Murray City Power Shade Tree & Beautification Commission meeting held on March 2, 2021 via a Zoom Conference call.

Shade Tree & Beautification Commission

Darin Bird
Dr. Jan Evans
Geneal Nelson
Judith Payne

Department Staff

Matt Erkelens, Forestry Supervisor
Bruce Holyoak, Park Superintendent
Barbara Ishino, Power Department

Dr. Evans called the meeting to order at 2:34 pm and turned the time over to Matt. NOTE: February's meeting was canceled therefore no minutes were needing to be approved.

New Shade Tree Commission Member

The city received a few resumes for the District #4 Shade Tree Commission seat. A meeting was held, and Connie Fong was approved to fill Jim Hendrickson's former seat. Connie is related to Kim Fong, Murray City Library Director. Connie will be confirmed at the March 16th City Council Meeting and will be invited to the April Shade Tree meeting. Connie has a background in landscape and gardening and should be a good fit to help judge the Jim and Jean Hendrickson Beautification Awards.

Arbor Day

A public Arbor Day Celebration has been cancelled however, in order for Murray City to keep their status as a Tree City USA, some celebration needs to be held.

Matt suggested planting trees in Murray City Park or the Murray Arboretum. Along that same line, Bruce thought that some trees in the arboretum could be replaced because many of them have died. That area is considered a Utah State Study area.

Darin asked if there was any part of the new City Hall that a tree could be planted there by the Mayor.

Bruce didn't think that the work was far enough along for trees to be planted and Darin wondered if there way any area that wasn't near the construction, possibly East to State Street. Bruce thought maybe where Poplar cuts across (where Grecian Gardens parking lot was located) might be a possibility as at this point nothing is over there. He will check with Jeff Martin (Parks Department Building Maintenance Director) to see if there is any possibility of planting trees in

conjunction with the 2021 Arbor Day Celebration. However, he expressed the concern that with all the construction in the area they might not want to have a tree/trees to work around. It was suggested that Zelkovas be used as they are already nearby.

If the new City Hall isn't an option Darin suggested planting trees at the new fire station.

Dr. Evans suggested the sign, "Looking Forward to a Shady Future" with some laughter and good-hearted teasing in response.

Bruce reported that the Parks Department takes care of the lands around the fire station so he could check with them to see if that is an option.

Matt reported that the Mayor has announced that he won't be running for election in the fall. Maybe the Mayor (former Fire Chief) would be willing to be in attendance at the Arbor Day celebration. Darin thought that it would be nice if the Mayor would participate because of his former connection to the Fire Department AND because there hasn't been a tree planting with the Mayor since he's been in office. Both Dr. Evans and Judith liked that idea. The committee wanted to be sure that masks would still be required even though the group would be small.

Date Discussed

Bruce asked if he could unblock the pavilions for May 7th (the original day of Murray City's Arbor Day Celebration) if they weren't going to be used. Matt agreed as they won't be used.

The State always celebrates Arbor Day on the last Friday of April. This year that would be April 30th. Judith suggested we hold our celebration on the same day as the State this year. Matt said that would give over a month to come up with a plan so that Murray City can keep it's Tree City USA status.

Decision

Murray City's Arbor Day will be Friday, April 30th. It will likely be at the Fire Station OR at the Murray City Park.

Grant Discussion

No one was sure of the deadline (Darin thought mid to late summer). Matt will check and let everyone know. Matt suggested the following ideas:

Idea #1

Have new tree ID plaques made at the arboretum with QR codes at each tree location. That way visitors could take a virtual tour. Many of the current plaques have been removed, damaged or destroyed in some way. (Darin thought QR codes could be made for all the historical trees in the city. Matt only knew of one tree on Ericson Lane and that tree has been removed.)

Idea #2

Have a tree replacement program at Murray City Park and get volunteers to help with tree planting.

Darin thought that next year's grant could be at the new City Hall as this year it seems unlikely. He thought it would be nice to have school children from around the city help plant the trees. When he was a child growing up in Cedar City, he planted Deer Grass along the freeway. It has always been a pleasant memory.

Judith liked Matt's QR code idea. The virtual tour would be an opportunity for others to learn and would also be very interesting.

Matt thought High School and College students would be able to get inspiration from the virtual tour.

Darin suggested sending a flyer home with Nature Center students. Judith said that would be really good.

Matt asked if there was still a publication that the Nature Center still distributed and if so, was it still valid.

Bruce reported that it was mostly on the computer now but found one in his office. It tells about the trees where and what was planted. IT came in and did a walking tour publication.

Matt thought going paperless would be good, but an up to date version.

Bruce liked that people could use their phone to see what is planted.

Matt suggested that Becky Hansen could help. Judith said that Becky would be great to work with.

Matt asked Darin if he thought the QR code idea would qualify for a grant.

Darin would ask. He liked the following: electronic, permanent, the ability to update any time.

Matt thought that brought up a great question. How permanent is it? It could be damaged or vandalized. Placing it in the soil is good so as to not have it damage the tree. But how to keep it long term is the question. The current plaques are a trip hazard. (Bruce agreed.) If the plaques were flush to the ground mowing wouldn't be a concern.

Bruce reported that there are currently tree rings to keep grass away from the trees. He would discuss ideas with Ben Teran from IT.

Matt asked if there were any other ideas or concerns. None were suggested.

Dr. Evans thought the ideas presented were great.

Judith was excited about the Arbor Day Celebration and the tree planting.

Both Dr. Evans and Judith expressed how please they were to have a new member of the committee.

Matt said that it was one of the most exciting meetings in a while. Judith said she wished ALL the meetings she attended were as fast and efficient as these meetings are.

Everyone should be thinking of ways to make the QR plaques indestructible as well as Arbor Day ideas.

It was decided that Matt would talk with the Mayor to see if he could attend.

With no other business to conduct, the meeting was adjourned at 2:56 pm.

Minutes for the meeting were typed by B. Ishino.

Person	Assignment
Bruce	Check with Jeff Martin to see if there is an area near the new City Hall where some trees could be planted as a part of the 2021 Arbor Day Celebration
Bruce	Check with the new fire station to see if trees could be planted there as a part of the 2021 Arbor Day Celebration
Bruce	Unreserve the pavilions for May 7, 2021
	Talk with Ben Teran about signage options that could be more permanent (Grant idea)
Matt	Find out when the Grant Application is due
Matt	Find out if the Mayor can attend Arbor day Friday, April 30th
Darin	Ask if the QR code/signage would qualify for a grant
Darin	Volunteered to ask State Park folks for QR code plaque ideas
Everyone	Think of ways to make QR plaques as indestructible as possible
Everyone	Think of additional Arbor Day ideas

The next meeting will be Tuesday, April 6th.