

MURRAY CITY POWER
Shade Tree & Beautification Commission
Murray City, Utah
April 6, 2021

Minutes of the Murray City Power Shade Tree & Beautification Commission meeting held on April 6, 2021 via a Zoom Conference call.

Shade Tree & Beautification Commission

Darin Bird
Dr. Jan Evans (excused)
Geneal Nelson
Judith Payne
Connie Fong

Department Staff

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

Darin welcomed, Connie Fong, the newest Shade Tree Commission member and called the meeting to order at 2:37 pm and turned the time over to Matt. Matt called for the minutes to be approved. Judith approved and Geneal seconded the motion.

Matt also welcomed Connie as the District #4 representative and asked the Committee members to introduce themselves to her.

Matt introduced himself as the Murray City Power Forestry Supervisor. He and his crew are responsible to trim the trees away from the power lines, trim trees in park strips and he is a member of the Shade Tree and Beautification Commission. Matt has worked just shy of 7 years with the City and was born and raised in Murray. He loves Murray City and the outdoors.

Judith Payne (representing District #1) has worked at the Nature Center for 20 years. This year, due to COVID, she has had a leave of absence (no field trips scheduled). What will happen next school year has yet to be determined. As a part of the Nature Center, she has worked with the Shade Tree Commission to schedule the field trips for Arbor Day. When an opening on the Commission became available, it was a natural fit. Judith has served on the Commission for many years (this is her 9th year). She loves trees!

Bruce is the Superintendent for Murray City Parks. He is glad to have Connie on board to help improve the trees and parks in the City. Bruce loves outdoors and everything in nature.

Geneal loves making connections with good people! She is a stay at home mom of 5 (13-26 years of age). She's been heavily involved in PTA and with volunteering in the community. She met Judith 15 years ago and loves being involved!

Darin started public service 32 years ago first serving on Governor Bangerter's personal staff. Cox is the 6th governor he has worked with. Darin is the Deputy Director of the Division of Natural Resources for the State as and such supervises the State Forester (which makes his position on the board such a good fit). Darin has lots of years of public service, has lived in Murray for 20 years and has a daughter in the 9th grade.

Connie thanked everyone for welcoming her and reported that she loves gardening (not so much as teen 😊). She loves being outside and in the garden. She lives in the area of Murray that has been recently annexed and is happy to be more involved. Now she drives around and looks at trees!

Matt asked Connie if she had any questions. Connie felt that most of her questions would be answered throughout the meeting. She mentioned that she has read minutes from some of the previous meetings.

Matt told her that the Commission is involved with:

- Arbor Day

- Arbor Day Coloring Contest

- The Fourth of July Parade

- The Jim and Jean Hendrickson Beautification Awards (where yards are judged, and awards handed out in a City Council meeting).

- The Tree Lighting Ceremony (and Santa visit) at City Hall (This year it is still to be determined if it will happen due to COVID.)

Arbor Day 2021

Matt reported that his year, due to COVID, we will not be holding a big, in person celebration. Instead, we will have a small celebration and plant a few trees. The Mayor will be attending. Arbor Day will be on Friday, April 30th at 10:00 am at the Murray City Arboretum.

Matt will work with Bruce to see where to plant the trees. Also, Matt asked who of the Commission will be attending the ceremony. Judith, Geneal, Darin, Connie and Bruce all plan to attend. Matt assured the Commission that they wouldn't have to dig any holes.

Honorary Tree Person

As a part of Arbor Day, the Commission needs to choose someone to plant a tree in their honor. The name needs to be chosen prior to April 30th.

Matt suggested Jim Brass. Darin suggested Mayor Camp because he will not be running for Mayor next term. Matt didn't think a current Mayor could be nominated while still in office.

Judith thought Jim would be a good choice. He was always supportive of the Commission and attended the Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony each year. She said, "can't find better".

Darin said, "like it".

Geneal conquered.

Matt will send an email to the commission to see if anyone has another name and asked the Commission to continue to think on it.

Judith wanted to clarify that the award will be presented on the 30th. Matt said that it would be and that the name needs to be decided soon so the person could be invited to Arbor Day. In regard to Jim's name Judith said, "you have my answer".

Matt wanted to reach out to Dr. Evans to see what she thought.

Grant Report and Discussion

Darin told Connie that the Commission is going to apply for a grant of up to \$10,000. A few years ago, Murray was awarded a grant and it was used to publish a tree brochure listing what type of trees should be planted in the park strip, tree planting guidelines as well as other helpful tree related tips. He said the brochure was well received.

This year the Commission is considering having signs made with QR codes on the so citizens can take a virtual tour of trees of significance to the City as well as the trees in the arboretum.

Darin spoke with Jeran Farley, Urban & Community Forestry Coordinator, and Jeran was very excited and supportive of the idea. Apparently, there are several historic trees in Murray's arboretum.

Darin then gave Matt Monica Rockwood's phone number. Monica works as an Interpretive Media Specialist at the Utah Department of Natural Resources. Monica designs signs for the State parks. Monica is knowledgeable about what materials would hold up to both weather concerns and vandalism. She also knows which vendors are approved by the State. Darin also thought there may be someone in the City who might also assist in sign design. Matt stated that design ideas and materials for the signs will need to be decided.

As a part of the grant, the City should match resources (volunteers count). Darin suggested a putting information on the City website. If the City has photos already on hand, that could count as part of the match.

Connie asked where the arboretum was. Bruce gave her directions (North of the old ice rink; or South of the Ken Price field; or off Vine Street there is a rock wall on the west).

Matt said that there used to be plaques with species and ID's and that many of them have been vandalized or ruined due to weather.

Judith explained that with new signage a virtual tour of the arboretum, including tree species, would be possible.

Matt added that a map could take someone along the parkway trail, pointing out plants, trees and shrubs of interest. Information could be accessed about the plants. Special trees throughout the City could be listed. Unfortunately, an old State championship tree was taken down recently in the Erickson Dairy area.

Matt suggested sending a newsletter out to citizens asking for tree nominations. He thought it would be best if the trees were in the front yards and be accessible to the public.

Darin reiterated that Monica would be a great resource and that she can advise the Commission. Also, Dr. Evan's grandson designed the brochure and Darin wants to be sure to use the "same feel" on the signs. It would be good to explain what the QR code is and why it is significant.

Matt thought it would be good to have a map posted on the website. He has talked with GIS and they didn't feel they would have much time to work on the project. In order to keep the website current, someone would need to continue to maintain it and it feels like GIS would be a good fit. Maybe Bruce would have more luck getting additional resources. Bruce said that he would look into it.

Jim and Jean Hendrickson Beautification Awards

Judith wanted to take a moment to clarify the Beautification Awards. Barbara reported that the nomination forms would go out in May and June and will be due July 1st. Judging will take place on Tuesday, July 13th at 9:00 am.

Matt said that this would give time to coordinate judging in person and to come up with the route.

Judith really likes the nominations from the community. Her district has such a difficult boundary and having the nominations is helpful.

Connie asked if the awards were just for residential or if businesses were also included.

Matt told her that the following awards are given:

- One residential winner from each district
- Mayor Award Commercial
- Mayor Award Multi-Family (condos/apartments)
- Mayor Award Xeriscape
- Mayor Award

Barbara took a moment to clarify the names of the awards. Last year there were some name changes of the awards, but after further review and discussion the Commission will use the traditional "Mayor's Award".

Citizens can nominate themselves or others. Members of the Commission also nominate. Then the Commission members narrow it down to about 3 and then they get together to judge.

Darin suggested that Connie look for home in her district to nominate. He further explained that the judging used to take place in August, but the Commission changed it last year to July in order to see the yards at their peak.

Fourth of July

Darin asked if Murray will be having the annual 4th of July parade. Matt was happy to report that "yes" plans are being made to have the parade.

Judith told Connie that the Commission has golf carts and that they ride in the parade. Matt told the Commission that they didn't need to attend if they felt unsafe or uncomfortable. There is no pressure to attend. Also, if they feel more comfortable, they could walk. Connie thought that in the July heat riding would be preferable.

Some discussion was had about whether walking or riding in the golf carts would offer more social distancing. Perhaps they could have more golf carts?

Geneal said that they have their kids come and help throw candy.

Darin wanted to verify when the parade would be as the 4th of July is on a Sunday this year. Bruce reported that the parade would be on **Saturday, July 3rd**.

Overview

Matt will send an email regarding nominations for the Honorary Tree person.

Matt will send an email with the 2021 meeting schedule AND a map of each of the districts.

With no other business to come before the Shade Tree and Beautification Commission, Matt adjourned the meeting at 3:10 pm. Minutes taken by Barbara Ishino.

The next meeting will be held Friday, April 30th at 10:00 am at the Joan M. Hardle Memorial Arboretum 5051 Treetop Circle; Murray.