

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

Minutes of the Murray City Power Shade Tree & Beautification Commission meeting held on November 2, 2021 at Murray City Power located at 153 West 4800 South, Murray, Utah.

Shade Tree & Beautification Commission

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

Department Staff

Matt Erkelens, Forestry Supervisor
Bruce Holyoak, Park Superintendent

Dr. Jan Evans called the meeting to order at 2:38 pm. She asked if the minutes from June and October were approved. Darin approved the minutes and Geneal seconded the motion.

2022 Shade Tree & Beautification Commission Meeting Schedule

Matt talked about the 2022 Shade Tree Meeting schedule. The proposed schedule had a January meeting and after some discussion it was decided that the January meeting would not be held. Darin brought up that a grant discussion would need to be held but felt meeting in February would give the Commission enough time.

Darin asked if the 2:30 pm time frame will continue to work for the Commission in 2022. (Several members have had job/schedule changes this past year.) Darin proposed the time be changed to the morning and asked what day of the week would work best. After some discussion of the commission member schedules it was proposed that the Commission meet on the first Tuesday of the month at 8:30 am.

Matt asked if there were any other questions on the meeting dates. There were none.

Poster Contest/Arbor Day

Matt reported to the committee that he didn't think the state would be holding an Arbor Day Poster contest. Darin said that he wasn't sure if they were going to either and volunteered to contact the state to see when/if they were having a coloring contest in 2022. (Matt may also reach out to Jeran, the contact at the state, to get more information.)

Matt asked the Commission if they would be interested in doing one for just the City if the state doesn't have one.

Dr. Evans said that if the state doesn't have one, the Commission still could hold the contest and also that many years ago the Commission picked their own theme.

Darin said that he would like to continue to hold the Arbor Day Poster contest. He even suggested looking through the past 20 years and maybe reusing one of those themes. Darin felt that the tradition is strong enough to continuing even without the state's participation. Darin also said that the Commission might be able to use the National Arbor Day theme.

Geneal felt it would be good to get Judith's opinion as she has worked with the schools for years and see how the schools felt about the contest.

Dr. Evans wondered if the school district would approve of the busing and event.

Geneal reminded the Commission that Judith always had to request the buses very early, or they wouldn't be able to get buses.

Darin was hopeful the schools would want to come because it is a close event and a great science activity for the 4th graders.

Matt reminded the Commission that if the event couldn't be held as usual then a drive by might work like was done in 2020.

It was proposed that if the state isn't doing the contest the judging may be changed to April so that it was closer to the Arbor Day celebration.

Darin reminded everyone that Arbor Day's celebration would be held Friday, May 6th, 2022 and that gives them a little bit more time to prepare and plan.

A final decision is pending until the state contest can be verified. Matt will let everyone know when he has more information.

Tree Lighting Ceremony

Matt reminded the Commission that December 4th is the date on the calendar for the Tree Lighting. He then asked if the Commission thought that the event could be safely held because of COVID numbers.

Darin didn't think it was the Commission's decision to make and that he thought the Mayor should make the decision.

Matt has talked with his supervisor and their feeling was that it might not be a good idea to have the traditional ceremony.

Darin thought that this year it might be a good idea to just have the tree lighting.

Dr. Evans thought maybe Santa could come on the fire truck and light the tree.

Connie asked about what is usually done.

Matt explained that his division puts lights on an outside tree at City Hall and in year's past when there was snow, Santa would throw a snowball and his people would light the tree.

Dr. Evans told her that years ago the City would get a real tree, cut it down and haul it to City Hall. Now there is one planted there that is used each year.

Matt mentioned that there would be a new City Hall in the future.

Darin wondered if maybe at the new City Hall they would choose one of the new, fancy electronic trees instead. He also expressed that they look very nice.

Matt reported that Santa was ok with doing the event, but Matt had concerns with having the traditional celebration held indoors with all the people in line and in the hallways in such close proximity.

Darin agreed that it really wouldn't be a good idea.

Dr. Evans thought that maybe Santa could be outside, and heaters could be brought in and then said it might be a hassle.

Matt said that the Tree Lighting Ceremony could still be held but wondered if there would be any spectators.

Dr. Evans pointed out that the tree still needed lighting.

Matt said that his division would still put lights on the tree but asked if an event should be held to turn the lights on.

Dr. Evans said that she wouldn't want to have the event cause an outbreak.

Darin thought we could just advertise that the tree will be lit on December 4th at 6:00 pm. He also mentioned that it would be the Mayor's last time to participate.

Geneal asked about including Miss Murray and Little Miss Murray. It was decided that Genenal would contact Miss Lloyd and get them on the schedule.

The Commission decided to have the Tree Lighting Ceremony only with no Santa, firetruck, or choir. Connie asked how the Commission lets citizens know about the event. She was told that the event would be advertised on social media, in the PowerLines newsletter, the Murray Journal and on the city website. They would encourage mask wearing and social distancing.

Darin noted how quickly word gets out. He pointed out that there was a great turn out at a last-minute event for the Olympic Silver medalist, Nathaniel Coleman. (There was also a party for Ali Ibanez, Paralympic Bronze medalist.)

Darin commented that it might be the last time at the old City Hall.

Bruce thought that the new City Hall construction was running behind and 2023 might be the first time for the Tree Lighting ceremony at the new location.

Geneal said that “you never know”. Pavilion #5 got done and is absolutely beautiful and that it would be in “high demand”.

Geneal wondered about having a table with some things to give to the children that came to the ceremony. Maybe 100? Matt thought it would be hard to know how many children to plan for, so the Commission decided not to plan for children’s gifts.

Connie asked who decorates for the event and Matt told her that the Shade Tree Commission usually decorates the inside but that they wouldn’t be doing that this year and that if next year happens, they will decorate.

With no other business to come before the Commission, Dr. Evans adjourned the meeting at 3:04 pm.

Minutes approved February 1, 2022.