

MURRAY CITY POWER

Shade Tree & Beautification Commission

Murray City, Utah

February 1, 2022

Minutes of the Murray City Power Shade Tree & Beautification Commission meeting held on February 1, 2022, at Murray City Power located at 153 West 4800 South, Murray, Utah.

Shade Tree & Beautification Commission

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

Department Staff

Matt Erkelens, Forestry Supervisor
Bruce Holyoak, Park Superintendent

Darin called the meeting to order at 8:36 am. He asked if the minutes from November were approved. Judith made a motion to accept the minutes. Geneal seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

Arbor Day

Darin would like to continue having the Poster Contest even though the state has stopped sponsoring it. He felt that Murray has such a great momentum, and that Murray could choose its own theme. He said that Utah usually adopts the National Arbor Day theme.

Matt distributed a paper with a few themes for consideration.

Darin asked if there was a theme in 2020 and Barbara said that there was a theme and contest, but that no celebration was held due to Covid.

Darin was checking to see if the National theme for 2022 was online.

Judith said that she had a folder at the Nature Center with years of past themes and that maybe she could get it.

Darin said that the State had been pushing the "Trees are Terrific" theme for the past several years.

Judith said that Delaware used Trees are Terrific in many different ways. In 2021 Delaware used "Trees are Terrific in Many Wonderful Ways", which Judith thought was a nice one. In 2012 Utah

used the theme, "Trees are Terrific and Useful". Also, "Trees are Terrific for Today and Tomorrow" is Delaware's theme for 2022.

Matt thought keeping up with the Trees are Terrific would be good.

Darin said that most states follow the National theme, but his guess is Delaware is using the National theme. He also said that Utah always looked to the National theme for its direction. Using Delaware's theme would be good to "do what others do".

Judith agreed that "it's a nice one".

Darin did mention that even if the Arbor Day celebration couldn't happen due to Covid, the poster contest could be held, and awards distributed to the schools.

Judith reported that Cathy Singer from the Nature Center wasn't able to attend today's meeting due to the time, but that she had talked with her, and that Cathy had already arranged for the classes to come and had reserved the buses. Cathy told Judith that the schools were ok with the celebration but that if Covid numbers became too high and school was not held that day then the students wouldn't be at the celebration.

Darin felt like it wouldn't be too difficult to cancel because most of the people involved were local.

Judith also felt like having it all outside during Covid would be a plus.

Matt said that the size of the amphitheater is big enough to spread the audience out, even if those on stage may not be able to.

Darin also said that in the last few years Covid numbers tended to be lower in spring and summer.

Judith felt that teachers might be grateful to have something different to look forward to after these last few years.

Darin suggested it might be wise to contact government entities earlier than usual this year for the educational workshops due to how tough it has been for them to plan. Many employees are working from home and then there are also many who might be excited for the opportunity to participate.

Darin also reported that Utah has a new State Forester, Jamie Barnes. He said that she is great with kids and that he would contact her today and see if she would put Murray's Arbor Day celebration on her calendar.

Matt asked how many educational workshops we should plan for?

Judith said that Cathy had the following classes/schools scheduled:

- Horizon Elementary 4
- Viewmont Elementary 3
- Parkside Elementary 3

For a total of 10 educational workshops. Judith listed some of the ones from the past: smores, tree planting, blue stakes, bicycles.

Darin reminded the committee to reach out to DWR and Salt Lake County.

Barbara reported that she reaches out about March 21st to arrange the educational workshops and that she uses the same list each year.

Darin asked that the committee consider reaching out to newly elected Mayor, Brett Hales, to invite him to the Arbor Day Celebration (Friday, May 6th). Perhaps the Mayor could reach out to the Governor's office to invite him to the celebration. It would be good to tell them that Murray has the longest running Tree City USA program in the state and that there would be a few hundred 4th grade students and their families in attendance. Murray also has the largest city celebration in Utah.

Judith agreed that Murray's celebration has been going for a very long time.

Matt asked Bruce if he would reserve the amphitheater along with pavilions 1, 2, and 3 for Friday, May 6th. Bruce said that he would take care of the today and hoped there wouldn't be any issues.

Arbor Day is celebrated nationally on April 29th this year and Matt felt if there were a conflict with the reservations, the date could be changed from May 6th to an earlier date. (He said the reason that Murray traditionally chooses a later date was to allow State officials to attend.)

Darin noted that there was often snow in April but that in May the weather was better.

Judith did say remind everyone that the busses have already been scheduled so moving the date would not be ideal/recommended.

Bruce said he would see what he could do.

Darin said that there wouldn't be a need to order the lunches until 2 weeks prior to the event and that Jimmy John's was a good way to go.

Judith asked that we order an extra lunch for Cathy at the Nature Center. Matt said that he didn't know how many have been ordered in the past but that there are usually extras. (Years ago, instead of ordering lunches, staff would BBQ hamburgers and random people would stop by.)

Judith suggested that the schools get contacted about the contest to see if they were ok doing it. Barbara reported that she had been in touch with the schools letting them know that the Arbor Day Poster Coloring Contest would likely be held. She will follow through following the meeting and to give the schools dates, etc.

Matt gave the committee a proposed calendar and asked if there were any thoughts on it. Judith suggested that posters be picked up on March 11th instead of the 8th. (After a short discussion it was decided that GSD schools be picked up first that day as classes get out early for them on Fridays. Murray gets out early on Wednesdays.) Also, paper will be delivered as early as February 8th or as late as February 15th.

In looking over the proposed calendar the Shade Tree Meeting date of March 1st was changed to March 15th. This meeting would be to judge the posters. Bruce reported that he would not be at the meeting on March 15th. The committee told him that they would miss him and his helpfulness. Also, said they'd miss him while they shared pizza and root beer floats.

Matt asked if there were any other changes or concerns about the proposed calendar. No additional changes were made.

Darin wanted to let Barbara know that the 2022-2023 school calendars were now approved and published in case she needed to plan out any other dates.

Honorary Tree Recipient

Matt asked if the committee had considered who to choose as 2022's Honorary Tree recipient.

Darin suggested choosing former Mayor Camp. He said that choosing a former mayor had been done in the past. He thought specifically of former Mayor Snarr.

Judith asked who last year's recipient was.

Matt reported that Jim Brass was honored in a small ceremony at Murray City Park. For Murray to continue as a Tree City USA a ceremony needed to be held. It turned out to be a beautiful day.

Geneal recalled the cute cookies in a bag and that it was a nice ceremony.

The committee felt it might be good to ask Dr. Evans and Connie Fong for their opinions.

The committee will discuss on April 5th.

With no other business to come before the committee, Darin made a motion to adjourn. Judith seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 am.

Minutes recorded and transcribed by Barbara Ishino.

The Shade Tree Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, March 1st at 5:00 pm has been cancelled. The meeting has been rescheduled for **Tuesday, March 15th at 5:00 pm.** Arbor Day Posters will be judged at that time.