

ANCHORAGE FORESTRY BOARD
Regular Meeting • November 7, 2022 • City Hall

ATTENDEES

Jan Ruzich, Chair; Diane McAllister; Adele McCoy; Lucy Spickard; Ellen Welham; Paul Wessel; Nancy Wilkinson; City Administrator Reneé Major; City Forester Andrea Hanlon; Tyleen Stoutt

CALL TO ORDER

Jan called the meeting to order at 8:45 AM.

REVIEW OF MINUTES

Copies of the September minutes were distributed to members for review. Nancy made a motion to approve them as written; Adele seconded. The September minutes were approved unanimously. The October meeting notes were presented to members for review, but because a quorum was not present in October, there were no official minutes to approve.

FORESTER REPORT

Permits

There were 8 permits issued in October for the removal of 20 trees of which 5 were Ash.

Fines

There were no fines in October.

PROJECT REPORTS

Arbor Day 2023

The evening event will be held on March 15. Several possible speakers have been suggested by Board members; Jan will gather information. Possible topics were discussed.

Hazardous Trees (Paul Wessel, Jan Ruzich)

Andrea will conduct a final check of trees on the list and submit her findings to the City. Next year's goal will be to complete the survey earlier and submit the report to the City by October 1st. Board members surveying and flagging trees may wish to wear yellow safety vests for improved visibility.

Canopy Campaign (Diane McAllister)

Participating residents have flagged their planting locations, and "Before-U-Dig" has marked utilities. The current drought may delay digging and planting of the trees, and we are waiting for the grower to announce when the trees can be dug. Discussion was held about how to improve communication between committee members. The Board discussed ways to increase public awareness of the annual campaign.

Park Road Landscaping (Lucy Spickard)

Trees that were marked for removal have been removed. Reneé reported that Public Works will grade and bring in topsoil. Jan, Lucy, Andrea, and Reneé reviewed the design with Public Works Director Gary Burkhead; Gary has staked planting locations. Gary is working with Abrams and Walnut Ridge nurseries to maximize plant-size and price options.

Tree City USA / Growth Award (Lucy Spickard)

Lucy reviewed the status of our points for 2022. Because we expect to exceed the requirements for 2022, points for the Park Road landscaping project will be applied to the 2023 award. Jan and Lucy will work with Reneé on the application for the awards.

Calendar (Jan Ruzich, Tyleen Stoutt)

Jan distributed a number of the 2023 calendars at Anchorfest. The Board discussed additional events at which it may be convenient for residents to take them. Several residents have already picked up calendars at City Hall.

Bellewood Harvest for Hope Festival (Nancy Wilkinson, Adele McCoy)
Nancy and Adele managed the children's tree-themed craft booth at the fair.

NEW BUSINESS

Meeting attendance (Jan Ruzich)

Jan requested that Board members notify her in advance by text if they will be unable to attend a meeting. The Board considered the possibility of members' attending by conference call when they are out of town.

Recruiting new members (Jan Ruzich)

There is one open position on the Board, and several residents have expressed interest in filling it. We will follow up with those residents before announcing the opening.

CITY COUNCIL REPORT (Jan Ruzich)

Jan gave the report.

THE ANCHOR AGE NEWSLETTER (Ellen Welham)

The December article will include a reminder to residents that calendars may be picked up at City Hall and a notice that the drought may delay planting of the Canopy Campaign trees.

ADJOURNMENT Jan adjourned the meeting at 9:45 AM.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING: 8:45 AM • Monday, December 5, 2022 • City Hall

Respectfully submitted by Ellen Welham