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City of  
**WEBSTER  
GROVES**

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**WEBSTER GROVES GREEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMISSION**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**Date:** January 3, 2022  
**Location:** City Hall  
**Called to Order:** 5:30 p.m.  
**Adjourned:** 6:30 p.m.  
**Next Meeting Date:** February 7, 2021, 5:30 p.m. Virtual, via Zoom

<b>NAME</b>	<b>PRESENT</b>	<b>ABSENT</b>
Annie Russell	X (Zoom)	
Bill Hoss	X (Zoom)	
Pam Bliss, City Council Liaison	X (Zoom)	
Joe Oelke	X	
Ginger Garrett	X (Zoom)	
Laura Jordan	X	
Lynnda Greene	X	
Jerry Pinkner	X (Zoom)	
Carrie Coyne, Chairman	X (Zoom)	
Corin Pursell	X	
Yvonne Steingrubby, Staff Liaison		X

- I. Call to Order**
- II. Roll Call**
- III. Approval of minutes for last meeting, November 2021**
- IV. Old Business:**

**A.** Trees of Distinction Replacement Program update. Carrie (chair) reported that she and Laura Jordan had met for preliminary discussions concerning the formal launch of the actual street tree planting initiative this spring. Carrie

has invited Andre Buehler (PW arborist) to participate in further talks this month to determine specific locations for the program's first trees, no later than January 30th.

**B.** Tree of Distinction Award update. Joe Oelke has volunteered to handle promotion of the distinctive tree nomination process to residents, and invite their participation. To that end, Joe suggested that he give a brief PowerPoint presentation explaining the "TOD" nomination process at GSAC's first public education talk on January 27—which will feature arborist Colleen Baum, speaking about tree selection and care in Missouri's changing climate. He also suggested that GSAC include an open invitation to the public in the Webster Kirkwood Times, soliciting residents' nominations of trees they feel are distinctive in character, age, condition, etc. Eric Peterson assured the group that the city could include this on Webster's monthly "Community Page" in the paper, and that the city public relations team could help with messaging.

**C.** Mayors for Monarchs. Jerry Pinkner reported that Mayor Welch has officially declared Webster's participation in the national program on the organization's website. He has also written some copy covering GSAC's role in devising specific pollinator support initiatives and projects residents can participate in over the coming year. The group discussed the idea of having Mayor Welch speak briefly about the program at GSAC's public education talk on pollinator-supporting trees and shrubs, scheduled on February 24.

Jerry will soon call a meeting of the "cut-out committee" of GSAC members who have volunteered to work with the mayor on designing specific projects, to include counsel on specific plants, plot maintenance, etc. He also reiterated that communities need only complete three of thirty specific action items to maintain active membership in the program.

## **V. New Business**

**A** Continued planning for the three public education meetings GSAC will host the first three months of this year. Carrie affirmed that Colleen Baum of Droege Tree Care has agreed to speak on tree selection and care in Missouri's changing climate on January 27; and Jerry confirmed that James Faupel of Missouri Botanical Garden, will speak about Missouri trees/shrubs that support specific native pollinators on February 24. Lynnda Greene reported on promotional efforts for the talks such as printed flyers posted around town, and notices posted in the Webster Kirkwood Times online Events Calendar section. She also suggested meeting with library staff to fully understand their AV equipment. Jerry would like to introduce the Mayors for

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Monarchs program and the Trees of Distinction programs respectively, to audiences at both the January and February events.

**B** The group also discussed possible topics and speakers for the March date, currently open. Ginger suggested topics like "Sustainable Turf" and "Rain Gardens," and Carrie suggested speakers from Big Muddy Adventures or Deer Creek Watershed Alliance, such as Daniel Hake, who could talk about Missouri waterways, their function both ecologically and recreationally. Forest Releaf was also discussed as a topic for a possible evening program.

**C** Planning for Arbor Day Celebration. The group briefly discussed promotion of the event and a related tree planting activity in late April, as well as presentation of the winning "2022 Tree of Distinction" award to the property owners.

### **VII. Updates:**

**A** Chair: Carrie Coyne had no further announcements

**B** Council: Pam Bliss deferred to Eric Peterson

**C** Staff: Eric Peterson, representing the city and Yvonne (absent). Eric Peterson the group concerning the following upcoming developments and events that will involve citizen participation:

- As the city will soon receive money via the recently passed American Rescue Plan, the council plans to establish a platform by which residents can render input and suggestions re how these funds should be used.
- The city will hold an election in April to fill the post of mayor and three openings on the City Council. At present two candidates are running for mayor and six candidates are running for the three open council seats. The city plans to provide public forums to allow candidates to speak directly to voters, starting in March. Details of these forums will be well publicized in advance.
- Also on the upcoming April ballot will be an initiative to open discussions regarding changing the city's charter, and a second attempt to pass a city "use tax."

**VIII. Next meeting:** February 7<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 pm, via Zoom.

**IX. Move to adjourn , 6:30 pm**