



City of
WEBSTER
GROVES

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WEBSTER GROVES GREEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMISSION

MEETING MINUTES

Date: February 7, 2022

Location: Virtual via Zoom

Called to Order: 5:30 p.m.

Adjourned: 6:30 p.m.

Next Meeting Date: March 7, 2021, 5:15 p.m. Conference Room, City Hall

“This meeting will be available to the public in-person, and via teleconference. Instructions on listening through your phone or computer to the teleconference will be made available at www.webstergroves.org/teleconference. Public comments may be made in-person, virtually via Zoom with the raise hand option, by email at _____, or by U.S. mail. Public comments via zoom will be limited to three minutes. Due to the ongoing pandemic, masks will be required by all regardless of vaccination status.”

NAME	PRESENT	ABSENT
Annie Russell		X
Bill Hoss	X	
Pam Bliss, City Council Liaison		X
Joe Oelke	X	
Ginger Garrett	X	
Laura Jordan	X	
Lynnda Greene	X	
Jerry Pinkner	X	
Carrie Coyne, Chairman	X	
Corin Pursell	X	
Yvonne Steingruby, Staff Liaison	X	

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Approval of minutes for last meeting on January 3, 2022
- IV. Old Business:

A. Trees of Distinction Replacement Program update. Carrie (chair) reported that Todd Rehg and Andre Buehler have put together a list of 200 potential residents, from which she hopes to recruit fifty homeowners willing to participate in FTD's first wave of tree planting in front yards.

She anticipates that this first year, FTD will focus primarily on planting trees—ideally 100—in yards, rights of way and easements throughout the city's southeast quadrant (Yorkshire Hills) by the end of 2022.

Webster's Public Works Department will provide planting tools, materials and arrange for utility clearances, while Green Space members will assist in providing manpower and ongoing tree monitoring and maintenance.

Carrie also reported that a promotional flyer she and Laura Jordan designed, has been approved by Jennifer Starke, the city's public relations manager. Ms. Starke will also design a special FTD webpage on the city's website, where residents can apply to participate. To help kick off the program, Carrie suggested the group consider a "friendlier approach" to recruitment, whereby GSAC members would knock on doors throughout the area and explain the program in detail.

Yvonne (Steingrubby) reported that 75 percent of the trees that volunteers planted throughout the city last year have survived.

Also discussed for TOD, were the library's possible participation in promoting the program, which Carrie wants to announce and explain at GSAC's public education talk on March 31 in the library's meeting room. Guest speaker will be Colleen Baum, of Droege Tree Care, who will speak on proper tree selection for residential use in Missouri's changing climate, as well as correct planting techniques.

The group also discussed tentative plans for this year's Arbor Day celebration on April 20th, which will mark the national Arbor Day's 150th anniversary. As the city will choose a new mayor and two new city council members on April 5th, Yvonne suggested inviting both outgoing mayor Welch and the new mayor to participate.

B. Tree of Distinction Award update. Joe Oelke reported on initial efforts to solicit "distinctive tree" nominations from citizens. These will include: an announcement of the program in Webster's monthly update page in the Webster Kirkwood Times, a brief announcement of the program in City Hall's

Friday Page e-newsletter, an announcement on Facebook, and flyers/posters in the public library and other venues around town. Yvonne's new office email will be used as the contact person/address too which nominations can be emailed.

Submission deadline will be March 30th.

The group discussed various categories of qualities worthy of "distinction," such as: unique groupings of trees, creative uses of native trees in home landscapes, trees serving particularly vital functions in environmental settings, and "trees we'd like to see more of," in addition to the more customary "old and bold" category. Corin also suggested that we could create a kind of score card of "Arborists' Thumbs Up" for various submissions. He plans to draw up criteria for use of natives. Undecided to date has been who will make the actual selection of winning tree/s. Carrie suggested a "committee" of GSACE members could decide and contact the winning homeowner, and while no firm decision was made, the group indicated general agreement. Yvonne asked if we wanted to give a different kind of award this year, such as an outdoor plaque, or a tree nursery gift certificate. Ginger suggested that we post the winning tree and homeowner on Facebook, with an explanation as to why this tree or group of trees was selected.

C. Mayors for Monarchs (MMP). Jerry Pinkner updated the group on recent developments in the Mayors for Monarchs program, chiefly changes in talk dates due to rising Covid omicron infections throughout the area, and the city's stipulation that all city-related meetings be held virtually until further notice. To that end, Gerry and Lynnda Greene canceled and rescheduled two talks slated for January 27 and February 24, both at the library's meeting room. Carrie was able to reschedule the Colleen Baum January talk on trees for March 31, and Jerry rescheduled James Faupel's talk on pollinator supporting trees for April 28th—again in the library's meeting room.

Jerry also explained his plans for a solid publicity campaign for the MMP to the public, with initial roll-out at the Faupel talk April 28th. He and Lynnda are working on specific materials – promotional flyers and notices on various city platforms, social media, etc.—and Jerry is setting up outreach channels to a wide range of community organizations. He will talk extensively about the program that evening with a PowerPoint presentation; Lynnda and Laura Jordan will gather and have on hand a variety of pollinator/native plant

brochures and handouts available from local sources. (MDC, MoBot, Wild Ones, GrowNative, St. Louis County, MoDot, St. Louis Zoo, etc.)

Plans for selection of possible “pollinator pocket gardens” are already under discussion. Yvonne will be applying for an MDC grant to fund native plantings in Ivory Crocket Park. Jerry said he wants to see a demo pollinator garden at City Hall, and possibly the library. Another suggested site is the newly remodeled Hixon Middle School. Carrie would like to see the program make serious efforts to include North Webster in the Ivory Crocket Park plot. Another idea being discussed is forming a standing GSAC “outreach advisory team” of members available to help residents plan their own home native garden plots.

V. New Business

Arbor Day Event. Members discussed particulars of this year’s event, such as where it will be held this year; all agreed with Yvonne’s suggestion of Barbre Park.

Other plans include: a tree planting session at 3:00 pm, ceremony at 5:30 pm, with possible “Tree ID Walk” through the park to follow. Both retiring Mayor Welch and the incoming new mayor will preside; the new mayor will reiterate the MMP proclamation initiated by Mayor Welch. Pam Bliss will speak about the history of Arbor Day national, and in Webster. The Tree Steward award will be handled by Annie Russell, with assistance from retired GSAC member Tessa Wasserman. Ginger Garrett will handle cub scouts’ participation, trooping of the color. A tree giveaway, popular at last year’s event, is also being considered.

Jerry will promote James Faupel’s important talk on native trees that support pollinators, held the following week.

VI. Updates

A. Chair: Carrie Coyne (see above.)

B. Council Liaison: Pam Bliss, absent.

C. City Liaison: Yvonne Steingrubby. Yvonne mentioned that the city’s budget is now very tight, and that GSAC has \$300 planned in the annual budget. Zoom meetings going forward will begin at 5:15pm.

VII. Next meeting: March 7th, 5:15 pm., City Hall

VIII. Move to adjourn, 6:45pm

Individuals who require an accommodation (sign language, interpreter, listening devices, etc.) to participate in the meeting should contact the City Clerk at 314-963-5318 (fax number 314-963-7561) or Relay Missouri at 1-800-735-2966 (TDD) at least two working days prior to the meeting.