



City of WEBSTER GROVES
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 314.963.5300 | WEBSTERGROVES.ORG

WEBSTER GROVES GREEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Date: June 5, 2023

Location: City Hall

Called to Order: 5:00 p.m.

Adjourned: 6:23 p.m.

Next Meeting Date: MONDAY, August 7, 2023, 5:00 p.m. WG City Hall Marsh Room

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. Public comments via zoom will be limited to three minutes.

NAME	PRESENT	ABSENT
Carrie Coyne, Chair	X	
Ginger Garrett	X	
Bill Hoss		X
Lizz James	X	
Laura Jordan	X	
Joe Oelke	X	
Jerry Pinkner		X
Corin Pursell	X	
Emily Hixson Shepherd, Council Liaison	X	
Yvonne Steingruby, Staff Liaison	X	

- I. **Call to Order (By Carrie Coyne)**
- II. **Roll Call**
- III. **Motion to approve Meeting Minutes of May 3rd, 2023** by Ginger Garrett.
 Seconded by Corin Pursell. All approved.
- IV. **Visitors**
 Todd Hughes attended, just wanted to observe the meeting
- V. **Old Business-**

- a. Eco Ed Speaker Series with Bob Criss at Larson Park on 5/18/23 went well. He spoke about the Army Corps of Engineers and the Meramec River watershed and how it is one of the most unique watersheds in the country.
- b. Eco Ed Event Coordination 6/22/23- Private Event at Maypop 9:30am morning walk around with council and staff GSAC personally invited. Carrie Coyne is still coordinating invitations to other select local stakeholders. All are invited, along with the general public to attend the evening Eco Ed Series with Ronda Burnett about community conservation planning. Meet and Greet at 6:30, presentation at 7pm at Webster University Interdisciplinary Science Building (ISB) Auditorium; 8274 Big Bend Blvd. Park in the parking garage on Garden Avenue. Zoom: Community Conservation Invitation Passcode: 216395807 Webinar ID: 836 5734 2433
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83657342433?pwd=VEZRUGgyYTIUL0pBdHJIZnBwQl cxQT09>
- c. Green Our City Initiative update- 24 applicants as of Friday 6/2/23. There might be more, Carrie Coyne just needs to talk to Todd Rehg. We are capping it at 40 trees. Public Works Dept is going to drive around and look at the applicant properties and make recommendations on trees and where to place them in the yards. Joe Oelke and Carrie Coyne are going to drive around together and do the same, they will all compare notes. Important dates– 7/15/23 is the tree planting workshop at Larson Park time is TBD. 10/7/23 is the Green Our City tree planting.
- d. 4th of July- Carrie Coyne and Corin Pursell will be driving one of the electric carts in the parade, Ginger Garrett made motion to approve up to \$300 towards LEAVE the LEAVES banners to be used on the parade cart, Corin Pursell seconded, all approved.
- e. Pollinator Patrol Workdays- the Parks Department is very short staffed, we are not going to put any new pollinator beds in for the time being. We plan to just maintain the ones that we have. There are 3 new ones that we need to water/weed– City Hall, Ivory Crockett Park and the Concrete Garden. Jerry and Lynnda are/were coordinating a volunteer network to help with the upkeep. Watering needs to occur every 5-6 days until these pollinator beds are established. Jerry will continue to help with organizing this endeavor.

Additionally, Joe Oelke and Corin Pursell put out an all call for volunteers on 6/1/23: "The Green Space Commission has become aware of a citizen-managed historic property that does not have regular mowing services on a railway-owned field. [Big Bend Railroad Club](#) at 8833 Big Bend committed to No Mow April but then was unable to resume mowing on May 1st as recommended by the City and the Green Space Commission. A yard company offered to cut the grass for \$3000. We intend to do it for free as a service in support of our Railroad Club." They organized a community work morning at 6/4/23. At least 8-10 community members came out

and helped clear the tall grass, volunteers were there for 2.5 hours. Community member Stan Musial is planning to organize the volunteering for mowing that property going forward. Freddie's Market and Councilwoman Sarah Richardson brought water for the volunteers.

- f. Burr Oak Festival and Sponsorship by GSAC- (defined by: City-Sponsored Event – A special activity that has been designated by City leadership, City Council, or a board or commission of the City as one that is worthy of the City's In-Kind contribution of public service time, assets, and funds.) Ginger Garrett motioned to sponsor with fiscal year 23-24 funds, Laura Jordan seconded, all approved. We will be working on the applications and necessary paperwork to make it happen, as the date is coming up on 7/14/23 at 7pm. The first act has been booked, they are looking to book all local musicians to avoid airfare costs. Event coordinator Margo Parks likes the poster idea presented from the last GSAC meeting. Lizz James suggested setting up the stage on Poplar St. and having the public sit on the adjacent hill. Carrie Coyne mentioned getting on this earlier in the future if we plan to sponsor again.

VI. New Business

- a. Tree planting/Memorial for Lynnda Green- 6/24/23 at Lorraine Davis Park, time is TBD. GSAC will plant an Oak tree in her memory. Lynnda's brother is still working on the obituary, and it will be in the WKT. Yvonne Steingrubby plans to reach out to her contact and friend at the WKT to see if we can get a cover story on our extremely valued community service conservationist, driving force behind our Eco Ed series and passionate dark sky advocate GSAC member. Corin Pursell requested when we eventually get a Dark Sky area in WG that dedicate it to her memory.
- b. LEAVE the LEAVES initiative for the Fall– No Mow April was received so well, we're going to do more to protect our pollinators. We need to assess money for yard signs, and possibly have an option for folks to purchase them on our webpage. Webpage will be created with help from Jen Starkey, and will cover benefits of leaving the leaves, and the various spectrum of leaving the leaves– could all be left, could be raked into flower beds, etc. Carrie Coyne is considering going to a Council meeting and sharing why our community should support this initiative. At this time, we don't need anything from Council, just their support. More discussion will occur at the next GSAC meeting.

VII. Council Update- Stormwater plan got approved. Emily Shepherd thanked Corin Pursell and Joe Oelke for organizing and leading the Big Bend Railroad community

project. Council budget meeting is 6/6/23. Going to get the time of the GSAC meeting fixed in the City of WG calendar.

VIII. City Liaison Update- In the process of submitting a grant to MDC & Mark Gruber for the Green Our City project in front of Straub's. The Bradford pear trees will be removed, and they will be doing structural soil to give roots plenty of space to go in that bed before they plant black gums. Once we have our plans complete, they will be sent to Mark Gruber for approval. Redoing that bed will cost \$12k. Yvonne Steingrubby met with folks who approved the 319 grant. Next step is paperwork and to get estimates to Stacy Arnold by early July. Also received a grant from the Deer Creek Watershed Alliance for \$700 of tools. We need to get a volunteer coordinator, the 319 grant should help cover that cost over 3 years.

**Ginger Garrett motioned to adjourn, Corin Pursell seconded.
Meeting adjourned 6:23pm**

IX. Next meeting: 8/7/2023 at 5:00 pm, WG City Hall Marsh Room (It is located through the front doors of City Hall and directly to the right.)

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.