



City of WEBSTER GROVES
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 314.963.5300 | WEBSTERGROVES.ORG

WEBSTER GROVES GREEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Date: August 6, 2023

Location: City Hall

Called to Order: 5:00 p.m.

Adjourned: 6:50 p.m.

Next Meeting Date: MONDAY, September 11, 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	
Emily Horton	X	
Bill Hoss	X	
Lizz James	X (Zoom)	
Laura Jordan	X	
Joe Oelke	X	
Jerry Pinkner	X (Zoom)	
Corin Pursell	X	
Emily Hixson Shepherd, Council Liaison	X	
Yvonne Steingrubby, Staff Liaison	X	

I. Call to Order (By Carrie Coyne)

II. Roll Call

- a. Welcomed our new member, Emily Horton, gave introductions and a run down of all our current projects

III. Motion to approve Meeting Minutes of June 5, 2023 by Carrie Coyne, seconded by Corin Pursell. All approved.

IV. Visitors

none

V. Old Business-

- a. Fourth of July recap- Corin Pursell and Carrie Coyne commented on their experience riding in the parade in one of the city's electric carts with a banner on both sides promoting our "Leave the Leaves" initiative that we are starting this Fall. They had a great time, and received a very positive response from the community. Mayor Arnold also rode with them for a bit during the parade.
- b. Leave the Leaves update: Active QR code is coming to the City's of WG's website soon. The QR code will take folks to the information we are providing regarding the benefits of leaving the leaves and how to go about doing it. Carrie is looking into signage options and getting quotes from Minuteman Press, as there are no funds from the City of WG for signs this time around. We are considering selling signs or potentially doing a pre-order. Emily Horton is going to ask The Novel Neighbor what their process is, and see if we can have signs there to sell. There is also the option to download for free and print on their own. Carrie will be emailing the GSAC with options for us to consider. Emily is also volunteering to take flyers to local businesses to promote our initiative, and Corin is going to reach out to the WKT to see if we can get some coverage in the paper.
- c. Burr Oak- Friday July 14th, Margo Parks & the Oak Street Neighbors presented the 3rd annual concert at the centuries old Burr Oak in Larson Park. This event was sponsored by Webster Groves Arts Commission, Webster Groves Green Space Commission and Perennial on Lockwood. The concert was free to the public. Corin Pursell and Lizz James represented the GSAC and said it was awesome, even though the bad weather cut it a little short. They had a Stream Team table and Green Keepers table, Vince Huening was also there on behalf of the Rotary Club and promoting their Legacy Oak Tree initiative. There were about 250 people in attendance. Lizz is advocating to have the event moved to September next year to not only give us more time to help plan, but to also hopefully avoid summer thunderstorms and potential bad weather/summer heat. Lizz is also looking into giving away oak saplings at next year's event. There is a meeting on 8/15, Lizz will update the commission at the next meeting.
- d. Green Our City Initiative update from Joe Oelke: there were 73 total applicants, 40 applicants/locations were chosen for city right of way trees. Carrie and Joe drove around and inspected each site. The tree planting workshop with Mark Gruber and Billy Haake at Larson Park on 7/15/23 was well attended, about 30 people showed up. Forty 15 gallon trees will go in the ground on 10/7/23 with help from the GSAC. Of the 14 trees we planted last year, 13 have survived. This year we will have help from the City of WG with pre-dug holes. Meet at the Rec Plex at 9am

with tools and be ready to break off into groups and head to the sites provided by Carrie. We need someone to be our photographer. Lizz, Emily and Corin will collaborate and make documents to hand out to the home owners regarding their specific tree care/benefits/habitat/etc... Home owners will get a 5 gallon bucket, a magnet and the document on their specific tree care. The City of WG tree fund pays for this initiative.

VI. New Business

- a. Native garden maintenance- commission needs to step up. Jerry Pinkner has been doing a great job helping out with the new pollinator gardens weeding and watering, but we need everyone to help out. We need GSAC members to lead a crew one day each month who want to help beautify our community. Yvonne will let us know which areas/gardens need work, and we can sign up on the city's website. We need to encourage folks to go to the Green Keepers and Civic Rec to sign up to volunteer. Groups should aim for 1.5 hours, and communicate with the rec center to see how many folks are signed up, communicate with Yvonne if you need staff help/tools/etc. Carrie also reached out to Scott Davis to see about getting the Parks and Rec Commission's help with this endeavor. The Parks Dept has their hands full, so if we can all help out, that would be great. We are not going to be adding any gardens until we can maintain the ones we already have. Yvonne and Carrie will be making the list for priority locations needing attention.
- b. Eco Ed Update: Sustainability handling Eco Ed talks for the second half of the year since GSAC did the first half. Jean Ponzi will be educating about Mosquitos at Webster University on 8/10/23 at 7pm. Additionally, it was brought up that the Sustainability Chair, Jamie Hasemeier left the commission, so concerns were voiced over our joint stormwater sub-committee. Corin is going to reach out and see if they are still committed.
- c. Givens Back to School Bash- 9/8/23 from 5-7pm- they would like us to have an educational table, Jerry is volunteering to lead. If you can help Jerry, please email him.
- d. Joe is volunteering to help Vince Huening with the Century Oaks of WG project with the Rotary Club's 100 years of service in 2024- nominations will be accepted through mid-September 2023. At that point, one hundred century oaks will be chosen, and 10 of those will be named legacy oaks. From these legacy oaks, acorns will be collected in October 2023, and saplings will be grown by Forrest Keeling Nursery. Each sapling costs the Rotary Club \$25 to be grown/managed. In 2024, saplings from the legacy oaks will be sold as the Rotary Club fundraiser.

VII. Council Update- Emily gave an update about the Pool situation. It needs replacing. It is coming up on 30 years old, and the plumbing started failing 10 years ago. They've had engagement sessions/surveys, and folks want to keep the same size/same amount of occupancy, not go smaller. The community has a lot of interest in doing an indoor option, and the capital cost of building would be covered by the bond, but the cost to the City of WG to subsidize would be \$250k/year going forward. Can that be covered in the budget, or would folks be willing to pay higher taxes? All council members want a new pool, it's just hard to make the decision on what to bring to the community. At the minimum, a replacement pool bond will be on the April 2024 ballot. Firehouse 2 bonds will be paid off soon, so the pool bond will take that place with no rise in taxes.

VIII. City Liaison Update- Reimbursement checks should be coming in the mail. Going forward, Yvonne has to do all the purchasing because the commission does not have purchasing power.

**From Carrie- we should have all gotten an email from Steve Bader that puts all our meetings on your calendar, as well as the zoom info. Yvonne is going to have Steve resend it, and say yes— so it will populate to your calendar so you will have all the meetings.

Meeting adjourned 6:50pm

IX. Next meeting: 9/11/2023 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.