



City of WEBSTER GROVES

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314.963.5300 | WEBSTERGROVES.ORG

**WEBSTER GROVES GREEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**

**Date:** October 3, 2022

**Location:** City Hall

**Called to Order:** 5:00 PM

**Adjourned:** 6:15 PM

**Next Meeting Date:** November 7<sup>th</sup> 2022, 5:00 PM. 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](http://www.webstergroves.org/teleconference). Public comments may be made in-person or virtually via Zoom with the raise hand option. Public comments will be limited to three minutes.

Name	Present	Absent
Carrie Coyne, Chair	X	
Ginger Garrett	X	
Lynnda Green	X	
Bill Hoss	X	
Laura Jordan		X
Joe Oelke	X	
Jerry Pinkner	X (Via Zoom)	
Corin Pursell	X	
Annie Russell	X	
Emily Hixson Shepherd, Council Liaison	X	
Yvonne Steingruby, Staff Liaison	X	

**I. Call to Order**

**II. Roll Call**

**III. Minutes of September Meeting were Approved.**

**IV. Visitor Comments: None.**

**V. Old Business**

**a. Secretary Schedule:**

Switch Jerry and Ginger.

1. Corin Pursell– Oct

2. ~~Jerry Pinkner – Nov/Jan~~ Ginger Garrett Nov/Jan

3. Joe Oelke – Feb/Mar

4. Bill Hoss – Apr/May

5. ~~Ginger Garrett – Jun/Jul~~ Jerry Pinkner – Jun/Jul

6. Lynnda Greene – Oct/Nov

7. Laura Jordan – Jan/Feb

**b. Green Our City Initiative Update**, from Carrie Coyne, supported by Joe and Yvonne. Successful tree planting two weeks ago with 13 trees planted and good citizen involvement. Carrie will do a value estimate for these trees and send it to the Commission. Carrie, Joe, and Yvonne will follow up with Andre at Public Works for feedback and next steps. Some citizens have already inquired about getting involved and getting some street trees. There is a website (<https://www.webstergrovesmo.gov/635/Green-Our-City>) for citizens to apply and they should be referred there.

Various related issues discussed. Signage for the new trees is a goal, which can be funded with the Tree Fund. We will need a sign design. Members of the Commission may try to come up with one but we will also ask Jennifer Starkey (Public Affairs & Engagement Director). Bill Hoss is capable of laser cutting for signs but this may be a better option for the Trees of Distinction program instead.

Missouri Community Forestry Council (MCFC) meeting will be Nov 10.

**c. Pollinator Program Update**, Jerry. Saturday event (prepping Ruhe park) went great with a good turnout. Women's Garden Club organized with multiple Master Gardeners present with Amy Hanson. Mayor Arnold attended. Jerry and Lynnda with the Commission attended. Jerry will pass photos along. Planting will follow on Oct 22 for Make A Difference Day. \$800 has been allocated for native plants in this project. The WGC requested that we allocate \$200 of the Green Space budget to support the Ivory Crockett, City Hall, and Ruhe Park planting projects. Jerry proposes a vote. After a brief discussion of our finances (we have not yet spent much of our budget) the vote passes with unanimity, excepting that Yvonne and Emily abstain as city employees. Yvonne says purchases should be made and receipts submitted to her, and she will pay them from our budget.

**d.** Yvonne adds here that she and Jenny Starkey have recently discussed changing the Webster website to smooth the process of accepting and organizing volunteers. Green Keepers, tied to the Deer Creek Alliance, occasionally causes delays in organizing because of the need for approval from outside. These website changes will allow volunteers to sign up and accept a waiver online, with an associated calendar function. The calendar can also include our public speaking events and other public events, as well as other volunteer opportunities. Yvonne has essentially proposed making a tool to organize a Webster Groves Volunteer Corps.

**e. Upcoming Events:**

- i. Oct 22, Make a Difference Day. Yvonne. Multiple events planned. For now, sign up at Green Keepers.
  1. At Lorraine Davis, honeysuckle removal and Deer Creek Watershed cleanup / trash bash. Scouts will be involved. Ginger Garrett will run things with the Schweitzers.
  2. At Deer Creek, Stacy Arnold and Joe Oelke will run additional Stream Clean.
  3. Ivory Crockett – Mike Carter and Corin Pursell will clean up and prep beds for pollinator plants for spring, and split rail fencing may be added.
  4. At Ruhe Park, Jerry will run planting.
  5. At Larson Park, Jeremiah and Lynnda will run seed collection event for native seeds.
  6. At City Hall, Mike Albers and Bill Hoss will do clean up for planting new, and making room for the new bicycle rack.

**f. Stormwater Subcommittee**, Corin: Second meeting held September 29<sup>th</sup> with experts Stacy Arnold and David Wilson. We learned a great deal of information about appropriate next steps as well as funding sources, and they were both very complimentary to Webster for having already taken some major steps and being ahead of most municipalities in planning ahead and committing. While Corin can summarize that

information in a separate document if desired, the major takeaway is that the Subcommittee would like to make three major recommendations, with the intent that both Green Space and Sustainability will approve / sign off on them, for submission to the City Council and the Mayor. 1. We will recommend that Webster formally develop and approve a Master Stormwater Plan, tied to and building on our current MSD agreements and development / sustainability plans. This plan will allow us to demonstrate success and a viable plan and qualify for additional sources of funding as well. 2. We recommend that Public Works, Parks, and Planning be consulted and involved in the development of this Master Plan. 3. We recommend that current ordinances requiring a certain amount of lawn, turf, or grass (including “sodding” requirements) be eliminated to encourage growth of plants that will absorb even more stormwater than empty lawn, which is not very useful for mitigating stormwater.

- i. Carrie and Jamie (from Sustainability) drafted a letter covering recommendations 1 and 2, with recommendation 3 to be addressed / pursued later. Carrie reads the letter and calls for a vote for Green Space to sign off on the letter. This also passes unanimously, excepting Yvonne and Emily, who abstain.
- ii. Yvonne inquires whether we can also make a recommendation to address overuse of chemicals in streets and yards, including salts, producing water contamination by *E. coli* bacteria and salts. Yvonne asserts that the Department of Natural Resources had originally planned for Deer Creek to be usable for recreation by 2023, and we are nowhere near that target, with Deer Creek being excessively dirty and contaminated. We need dramatic changes if we want Deer Creek to be the kind of showcase aquatic environment that others have achieved (for example, Dardennes Waterway). Corin and Carrie (Stormwater subcommittee members) agree to this and some discussion is made of whether we should draft a second letter to address the grass and stormwater / contamination ordinances.
- iii. Yvonne – some kind of branding for our clean streams efforts might help us get citizen buy in, in the sense of “Trees Clean Streams,” or something else catchy. Can we do a webcam to document the effects of cute water creatures in Webster, such as the beaver, mallards, turkeys, etc. whose habitats require clean waters? Can we hold a contest to achieve branding, perhaps among kids (the Hixson Sustainability Class?)

## **VI. New Business**

- a. MSD Public Engagement event is coming but not yet scheduled. Emily encourages at least some of us to participate, both for information and to help build a positive working relationship with MSD rather than the adversarial one that may develop if the event becomes a venue for citizens to vent frustrations at MSD.
- b. New Trees of Distinction Nominations are coming. We should promote that. Fall foliage is a great time to document a tree.
- c. Lynnda proposes that for the November agenda we discuss speakers for the upcoming months. Lynnda will email us to see if we have suggestions.

**VII. Council Liaison Update**, Emily. Scott Davis, director of Parks, recently has talked about problems with upkeep of properties. Webster has been maintaining some properties they are not required to keep up, and they’re going to stop due to personnel limitations. These duties will now fall to citizens. Davis also talked about ways to make current forms of maintenance less time intensive / expensive and also more sustainable, including transitioning to native plants or tree plantings that require less maintenance. Jerry – Green Space may be able to help with some of these properties in 2023 and forward.

- VIII. City Liaison Update, Yvonne: Nothing else.**
- IX. Next Meeting Date November 7, 2022 @ 5:00 pm.**
- X. Adjournment, 6:15 PM.**

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.