The January 2021 meeting of the City of Pierre Arbor Board was held at the City Hall Training room. Board Chair Art Smith called the meeting to order at 12:10 pm. Those in attendance were: Board Chair Art Smith; and Board Members Rollie Isaacson and Mark Smith. Also present were Ex-Officio Members: Urban & Community Forestry Coordinator Rachel Ormseth; Park Superintendent Tom Moore; and Commissioner Vona Johnson.

The Board voted to approve the minutes of the November 24, 2020, meeting as presented. The Board voted to approve the proposed meeting agenda, as printed.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. *Dutch Elm tree removal report.* Moore reported that 15 diseased or dying Dutch Elm trees were removed by the city in 2020. This number is consistent with the number of such trees removed in past years.

2. *Tree City USA notice of recertification.* Moore reported that the city’s application to be designated as a Tree City USA has been submitted. Rachel reported that, because of ongoing COVID-19 concerns, no Arbor Day event will be required in 2021 (as was the case in 2020). Unlike 2020, though, an Arbor Day proclamation by the city will again be required.

3. *Tree grant for Dog Park trees.* Application has been made for a grant from the state forestry office for new tree plantings at the dog park site. The grant request is for $2500, and involves 29 new trees. The species for these trees is similar to the 16 trees already planted. Rachel reported that the awarding of the grants will be made soon. Moore reported that the trees already planted were watered by the city by hand. An irrigation system will not be in place for another year.

4. *Don Trimble Memorial Tree, Steamboat Park.* There is no new action to report. Chairman Smith will make contact with Mark Venner, the point person on this project.

5. *Review Board member terms.* The terms for Will and Mark have ended. Mark has agreed to continue to serve on the Board. Chairman Smith had heard that there might be a person interested in serving on the Board.
6. *Bird Feeding schedule.* Rollie will finish feeding the birds in January. Moore stated that he will feed the birds in February. It was reported at the meeting that there is a shortage of bird seed. Shortly after the meeting, additional bird seed (enough to finish out the season) was purchased by some of the Board members. During the bird feeding discussion, Moore reported on work that is being done at the Arboretum: fixing up the shed, including a new door; and fixing up the wedding arbor. He also reported that he has ordered plugs for the pollinator/butterfly garden from Prairie Nursery in Winona, Minnesota, and has ordered seeds for plants for the pollinator/butterfly garden from Burpee's.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

7. *Curb and gutter tree removals pending.* Moore reported on the upcoming curb and gutter tree removal program for 2021. This work will take place on Pleasant, Highland, Buffalo, Central, Seneca, and north Huron. On Highland, for example, 30-35 trees will need to be removed. Attached to these minutes is a copy of the city’s “Curb & Gutter Tree Removal Program” brochure. Also attached is the city’s letter going to residents affected by the curb and gutter tree removal program, in which the city offers a credit to residents who replace removed trees.

8. *Tree removal south of Park Department cold storage building.* The Park Operations Staff was directed to cut down 25 trees just south of the Park Operations Cold Storage Building. This is on Corps land. The land is north of the Lewis & Clark Trail entrance, and the vault restroom. The reason for this work was flood management - if the river floods again, then a berm will be constructed on this piece of land.

9. *Tree removals to improve storm water drainage.* A total of 161 trees were removed from a drainage way that leads from the Hersch Drive area south past Riverside Cemetery and the Women’s Prison to the south side of East Wells Avenue. The trees were causing erosion that was leading to underground utility damage. Consequently, the trees were removed by City staff. The trunks and big limbs of the removed trees were made available to the public over a 1-week period. Moore reported that this disposal method for the trunks and large limbs was well-received.

10. *Review draft 2021 Plan of Work.* The draft of the 2021 Plan of Work for the Board was presented. This is a draft that everyone should review. A copy for review is attached to these minutes.
There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by Chair Art Smith at 12:50 pm.

Next Meeting: Noon, Tuesday, February 23rd, City Hall Training Room

Respectfully Submitted:

Mark Smith, Arbor Board Secretary
Curb & Gutter Tree Removal Program

In preparation for new infrastructure, the City is removing boulevard trees that are causing existing curb and gutter to fail.

IF I WANT TO REPLACE A BOULEVARD TREE, WHO PAYS FOR IT?
The City of Pierre is offering $150 credit per tree that is removed from the boulevard in preparation for the curb and gutter project. Property owners are responsible for any purchase and installation cost above the $150 per tree credit.

The credit can be claimed at East Pierre Landscape and Garden Center or Dakota Sprinkler and Landscaping.

AM I REQUIRED TO REPLACE TREES THAT ARE REMOVED FROM THE BOULEVARD?
No. However, the $150 per tree credit offered by the City can only be used to replace a boulevard tree.

ARE EAST PIERRE LANDSCAPE AND DAKOTA SPRINKLER THE ONLY PLACES THE CREDIT CAN BE CLAIMED?
Yes. The City has an agreement with both for the purchase and installation of trees.

HOW LONG DO I HAVE TO REDEEM THE CREDIT?
Credit can be redeemed until Dec. 1, 2022.

WHO OWNS THE BOULEVARD AND THE TREES IN THE BOULEVARD?
Per state law, the sidewalk and space between the sidewalk and street is public right-of-way. Per city ordinance, maintenance of the sidewalk and boulevard are the responsibility of the adjacent property owner.

DO I HAVE TO PAY FOR THE CURB AND GUTTER WORK?
The curb and gutter work is already built into the City’s Street Maintenance budget; it is funded by pre-existing fees and taxes. There is no new cost for property owners.

WHAT SPECIES OF TREES CAN BE PUT IN THE BOULEVARD?
Some tree varieties are better suited for boulevard placement because of their smaller root systems and maximum growth potential.

When choosing a tree, it’s also important to consider the other tree species that exist in the immediate area of the planting; a variety of tree species is beneficial to the health and survival of all vegetation.

East Pierre Landscape or Dakota Sprinkler can help identify the species that makes the most sense for your boulevard.

HOW MUCH DOES A NEW TREE COST?
Cost varies based on species and size of tree.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT...
Tree planting, visit cityofpierre.org to access the City’s Tree Planting Guide.

Replacing a tree, contact East Pierre Landscape and Garden Center at 605.224.8832 or Dakota Sprinkler and Landscaping at 605.280.4440.

The curb and gutter program, contact Kristi Honeywell, City Administrator, at 605.773.7407.

2301 Patron Parkway, Suite 1, Pierre, SD 57501
Phone: 773.7407 • Fax: 773.7406

CITYOFPIERRE.ORG
January 20, 2021

Contact info
Contact info
Contact info

Good news – improvements are coming to your neighborhood!

The curb and gutter adjacent to your property at (insert location) is scheduled for replacement during the 2021 construction season.

To help preserve the new curb and gutter, prior to construction, the City will remove boulevard trees that are causing the current curb to heave. This will prevent the trees’ root systems from causing similar damage to the new curb and gutter. Weather permitting, tree removal is scheduled to begin in the next ten days.

As you might know, for the past 37 years, the City of Pierre has been designated as a Tree City USA by the National Arbor Board Foundation. We are proud of the designation and intend to keep it! With that in mind, the City wants to help you replace the trees that are being removed.

The City is offering $150 credit per tree that is removed for curb and gutter replacement. That credit can be used at East Pierre Landscape and Garden Center or at Dakota Sprinkler and Landscaping to purchase and place a new tree in the boulevard. The $150 credit is only good for replacement trees and placement of those trees; you are under no obligation to replace the trees in the boulevard adjacent to your property.

There are a variety of species with root systems and maximum growth potential that aren’t hazardous to curb, gutter or other infrastructure. Either East Pierre Landscape or Dakota Sprinkler will be able to help you identify an appropriate replacement tree.

Enclosed is additional information about the tree replacement program. If you have questions, please contact me at 773.7407.

Sincerely,

Kristi Honeywell
City Administrator
City of Pierre Arbor Board
2021 Plan of Work

January
Welcome new board members, if any
Election of officers if needed
Review the draft Plan of Work for the year
Initiate Grant Ideas and any new projects
Remove 32 curb and gutter trees

February
Finalize the Annual Plan of Work
Finalize new project ideas
Select date/site for Arbor Day Program/s

March
Set Arboretum Work Day for April
Finalize education program
Finalize Arbor Day Plan/Program

April
Report to City Commission on Arbor Day Program and Educational program
Conduct Arboretum Work Day
(Remove tree protectors, pruning if needed)
Print new Arboretum map if done
Dog park committee plants buffer trees

May
New trees are watered as needed

June
New trees are watered as needed

July
Plan Arboretum Work Day
New trees are watered as needed

August
Conduct Arboretum Work Day
(Install tree protectors)
New trees are watered as needed

September
Plan community tour of Arboretum
Place tree order for October planting
New trees are watered as needed

October
Arbor Board hosts community tour
Begin Bird Feeding
Conduct Arboretum Tour
Compile TCUSA Support Documentation
Report on any DE trees to be removed
Trees are watered as needed

November
Review board member terms/vacancies

December
No board meeting – Merry Christmas
Director files TCUSA recertification