

City of Pierre
Arbor Board Minutes
Tuesday, February 22, 2022

The February 2022 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 12:00 pm. Those in attendance were: Board Chair Art Smith; and Board Members Adam Kulesa, Tony Dorschner, Amanda Martin and Mark Smith. Also present were Ex-Officio Members: Commissioner Todd Johnson; Parks and Recreation Director Bryan Tipton; and Parks Superintendent Tanya Lieberman. Toby Stertz, Parks Department Crew Leader, was also present to discuss the 2022 Dakota ISA Conference. Cole Irwin was present to be part of the discussion about “2022 curb and gutter tree recommendations” under Old Business.

The Board voted to approve the minutes of the January 27, 2022, meeting as presented. The Board voted to approve the proposed meeting agenda, with the “New City Parks tree care BMP” item under New Business being moved to the next Board meeting.

New Parks and Recreation Director Bryan Tipton was welcomed, and introduced himself to the Board.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. *2022 Arboretum Walking Play.* The Walking Play, that is scheduled for this fall, is taking place on either Ike’s or Corps of Engineer land between the Ike’s shooting range and the river.

2. *Fruit Orchard Update.* Chair Smith had made contact with Deseree Corrales to check on tree work at the community orchard. In response, Ms. Corrales indicated that the Girl Scouts were going to hold a work day in March, but that the Girl Scouts were no longer going to be involved in sponsoring and maintaining the Community Orchard. At the next meeting, there needs to be discussion about what agency or group will take over those responsibilities.

3. *2022 Dakota ISA Conference.* Toby Stertz, Parks Department Crew Leader gave a short report on the conference that was held in Aberdeen on January 12-14, 2022. He and several others from the Parks department attended the meeting. Unfortunately, because of an impending winter storm, the group needed to leave to come back to Pierre after attending only one day of the conference. Stertz indicated that the conference looked to be quite informative. It was agreed by the Board that Park Department personnel should attend these conferences in the future, and that Board members should consider attending, if possible.

4. *2021 Tree City USA Application.* The application paperwork was sent into the Arbor Day Foundation in December. The City is just waiting to hear back from the Foundation. There was a preliminary discussion of this year’s Arbor Day activities, particularly the 2nd grader tree program. Commissioner Johnson and Amanda indicated a willingness to help with that project, and they will contact Will Hanson to help coordinate the school presentations. Chair Smith will contact John Hartland,

the Department of Agriculture & Natural Resources Staff Forester, to see whether he is available to be part of the education program at the schools.

5. *2022 Curb & Gutter Tree Recommendations.* Cole Irwin was present to ask questions about this process, especially as it applied to trees on his father-in-law's property at 722 West Pleasant. Mr. Irwin made a good presentation about the trees, and a good discussion followed. Mr. Irwin was informed that there is a process to "appeal" the decisions about cutting down trees in the boulevard, so he is going to start that process with the Parks and Recreation Director.

6. *McDonald's Renovation & Trees.* A possible violation of the city's landscape ordinance, as it applies to the newly renovated McDonald's Restaurant, was brought to the attention of the City Planner in October 2021. The violation relates to the lack of planting the trees required by the landscape ordinance. The City Planner notified McDonald's that they needed to comply with the landscape ordinance requirements. It does not appear that there has been any action (or promise to act) by McDonald's to come into compliance. Chair Smith will forward the emails between the city planner and McDonald's to Commissioner Johnson and Parks & Recreation Director Tipton, with the hope that some action will be taken to ensure compliance with the city's landscape ordinance.

NEW BUSINESS:

7. *New City Parks tree care BMP.* Parks Superintendent Lieberman indicated that she will be preparing a new tree planting and care BMP (best maintenance practices) for use by City employees. That document will be presented to the Board for review at the March meeting.

8. *2022 Draft Plan of Work Discussion, Including EAB Response Plan Review.* A draft Plan of Work for the Board for 2022 has been presented to the Board for review. Because of a lack of time at the meeting this month, it will be reviewed at the March meeting. Also at the March meeting, the City's EAB Response Plan will be reviewed to see whether there are any necessary updates. Staff Forester John Hartland provided a written document, which was part of the meeting packet, with some of his thoughts on the document.

9. *2022 Arbor Day trees.* Arbor Day is on April 29th, which is a Friday. Usually, the school programs for the 2nd graders are on Thursday, which will be April 28th. Because of the need to get in an order for the trees presented to the 2nd graders during these programs, Chair Smith presented the Board with some options regarding possible trees. After reviewing that information, the Board decided to have Chair Smith order catalpa trees for the program. The second choice is crab apple.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by Chair Art Smith at 1:00 pm.

Next Meeting: Noon, Tuesday, March 22nd, City Hall Training Room

Respectfully Submitted:



Mark Smith, Arbor Board Secretary