

City of Pierre
Arbor Board Minutes
Tuesday, March 24, 2020

Because of concerns about the Covid-19 virus, the March 2020 meeting of the City of Pierre Arbor Board was held with some members appearing in person and some by telephone. Board Chair Art Smith called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. Those in attendance were: Board Chair Art Smith; and Board Members Adam Kulesa, Tony Dorschner, Will Hanson and Mark Smith. Also present were Ex-Officio Members: Park Superintendent Tom Moore; Urban & Community Forestry Coordinator Rachel Ormseth; and Commissioner Vona Johnson.

Motion by Adam, second by Tony to approve the minutes of the February 25, 2020, meeting as presented. Roll call vote – all voted in favor of the motion. Motion by Adam, second by Will to approve the proposed meeting agenda. Roll call vote – all voted in favor of the motion.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. *Arboretum tree/shrub/sign replacement progress report.* Adam reported that the sub-committee is working on getting a list of what additional and replacement trees and shrubs are needed. After that list is created, the list will be prioritized, and a plan will be developed on how long it will take to add and replace the trees and shrubs. Moore noted that the current map of the Arboretum lists 45 native trees and shrubs. The plan is to have at least 3 trees or shrubs of each species in the Arboretum. Adam stated that he had contacted Dr. Ball with the current list of the Arboretum's native trees and shrubs, asking whether there were any other native trees or shrubs that needed to be added to the Arboretum. Dr. Ball noted that there were three additional species to be added to the list. Moore said that he would share the list of native trees and shrubs with the group. Moore also reported that the city crew had removed all the old metal-post plant signs in the Arboretum, and replaced them with wooden-post signs. The city crew had also trimmed and pruned throughout the Arboretum. This was a lengthy project that consumed about 72 man-hours.

2. *Arboretum pollinator/butterfly garden progress report.* Moore reported that the area at the Arboretum that will be converted to the pollinator/butterfly garden was tilled again on March 23, 2020, was packed down, and is ready for planting. In looking at plants for the garden, Moore agreed with the suggestion by Charlie Bessken (from the South Dakota Prairie Butterfly Garden) that plant plugs be used for the perennial plants in the garden. When he tried to order those plants, however, he found that the supplier was sold out of many of the species he wanted to order. Therefore, the first year will be planted about 20% plugs and 80% seeds. Bessken will provide seeds for the annual plants, and some other plants. Moore has some ideas to for plantings for this first year to

make the garden more kid-friendly. He has regular contact with Bessken about the pollinator/butterfly garden.

3. *James Likness Memorial Tree update.* Over \$400 has been gathered from private donors for this project. Art will be talking to Joan Likness soon to determine the location of the planting and the type of tree to be planted. Art will make sure that Moore is kept in the loop about this planting.
4. *Educational Seminar update.* Currently, the educational seminar is scheduled for Thursday, April 16th, with Dr. Ball talking about which ash trees should be saved, and Brenda Sievers talking about choosing replacement trees with EAB in mind. As of now, the seminar is still scheduled. As the Covid-19 virus situation develops, that will probably need to be moved or cancelled.
5. *Second Grader Trees update.* Because of the Covid-19 virus situation, schools will likely not be re-opened until after May 1st. Because of that, Will reported that the annual Isaak Walton League program of handing out trees to 2nd graders will not be held this year.

NEW BUSINESS:

6. *Community Orchard tree pruning and update.* Art reported that he had recently gone to the Community Orchard with Deseree and her daughter. While there, they checked on all the trees, and pruned all the trees that needed pruning. He stated that it appears that all of the trees made it through the winter, and that the trees look great. It does not appear that any deer had gotten inside the fence. Art also stated that Deseree told him that there has been a new contractor hired to finish the shed.
7. *Wally Thomsen memorial tree.* Art reported that funds are being raised to purchase and plant a tree in memory of Wally Thomsen. The tree will be planted in a garden area at Parkwood.
8. *April work day at Arboretum.* Under the circumstances, an April work day might not work. There will be an email discussion among the group once more is known about the city's suggestions/policies regarding the Covid-19 virus.
9. *Review April 21st Arbor Day tree planting event.* Under the circumstances, there will not be an Arbor Day tree planting event this year. Rachel informed the group that the national Arbor Day Foundation has stated that communities will not be required to do a tree planting this year in order to be considered for the "Tree City USA" designation.

10. Informational Updates.

- Curb & Gutter – Art noted that he had seen that some of the stumps of the trees removed for this year’s curb and gutter projects have been ground out.
- Dog Park – Art has had no further contact with the Dog Park organizers regarding the purchase and planting of the trees at the proposed park.

There being no further business, Chair Art Smith adjourned the meeting at 12:34 pm.

Next Meeting: Noon, Tuesday, April 28th , City Hall Prairie Room

Respectfully Submitted:



Mark Smith, Arbor Board Secretary