City of Pierre
Arbor Board Minutes
Tuesday, March 23, 2021

The March 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 12:04 pm. Those in attendance were: Board Chair Art Smith; and Board Members Adam Kulesa, Tony Dorschner and Mark Smith. Also present were Ex-Officio Members: Urban & Community Forestry Coordinator Rachel Ormseth; and Park Superintendent Tom Moore.

The Board voted to approve the minutes of the February 23, 2021, meeting as presented. The Board voted to approve the proposed meeting agenda, as printed.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. **2021 Plan of Work – Review and Finalize.** The draft of the 2021 Plan of Work for the Board was presented and reviewed. Motion by Adam, second by Tony to adopt the 2021 Plan of Work. Motion carried. A copy of the adopted 2021 Plan of Work is attached. As has been the case in the past, the plan will be looked at again for review at future meetings, as necessary.

2. **Trees for 2nd grade students - plan.** Rachel reported that she had contacted all the schools in Pierre and Ft. Pierre, and virtual programs have been scheduled in the schools. She has not heard back from PILC. The programs will be held on April 29th and 30th. A letter to parents of the children, which describes the program and reviews tree planting options, will go out a couple weeks before the event. A copy of that letter is attached.

3. **Tree maintenance work updates.** Moore reported that work will be starting soon on a tree removal project in the Capitol Creek area – from Capitol Avenue to the river.

NEW BUSINESS:

4. **Arbor Day tree planting dates/location.** The City was awarded the grant from the state forestry office for new tree plantings at the dog park site. The grant calls for planting 29 new trees. Chairman Smith reported that the trees should arrive before the last week in April. Chairman Smith will make contact with Farnsworth, with the hope of coordinating with the dog park organizers to use the tree planting as the Arbor Day planting this year.

5. **Pierre Recognized as 2020 Tree City USA.** The City was recently informed that it had been designated as a Tree City USA for 2020. This is the 38th year that the City has gained this designation.
6. **Dialogue.** During some discussion about this year's current curb and gutter projects, it was noted that not many of the property owners affected by last year's projects had replaced trees that had been removed for the new curb and gutter. Apparently, the tree credit offer for last year's curb and gutter project is good until the end of this year. In order to encourage planting replacement trees, perhaps another letter could be sent out by the City to those affected by the 2020 curb and gutter projects to remind them of the tree credit offer.

It was also noted that there has been a good response to the tree brochure developed by the Board and distributed by the City and at the local nursery. There have been many comments about how helpful the information is for those looking to plant trees. Rachel indicated that she has shared the tree brochure with other communities as an example of helpful tree information that can be produced at the local level.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by Chair Art Smith at 12:21 pm.

**Next Meeting: Noon, Tuesday, April 27th, City Hall Training Room**

Respectfully Submitted,

Mark Smith, Arbor Board Secretary
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
Dear Parent,

Each spring, on or around Arbor Day, the Pierre Sunshine Chapter of the Izaak Walton League of America provides free tree seedlings to every second-grade student in Pierre and Fort Pierre. Each of approximately 300 kids will arrive home with a tree and the hope that it will be planted and grow. The tree is protected in a plastic bag with sphagnum moss around the roots to keep them moist.

The reason for this letter is to provide some information about the tree and to provide some suggestions to those who live in apartment complexes, condominiums, or in other locations where the space is not available to plant a tree.

The tree your second grader will receive is a Bur Oak (*Quercus macrocarpa*). Bur oak is a large, deciduous tree with a very wide, open crown. Usually wider than tall, the tree can exceed 100 ft. in height and width. The massive trunk supports heavy, horizontal limbs and rough, deep-ridged bark. Bur Oak has large acorns, enclosed in the cup. These acorns attract deer, gray squirrels, red squirrels, chipmunks, wild turkeys, crows, flying squirrels, rabbits, opossums, blue jays, quail, raccoons, wood ducks, and so much more.

Bur oak is drought resistant, long-lived and handles our soils well. In the first few years you will only see around a foot of growth per year, but if well cared for, this may increase to 2 or 3 feet a year when the tree’s roots settle in.

The planting of a tree can be a very rewarding family experience, whether the tree is planted on your own property, the property of a neighbor or relative, or on public property. Your child will learn about the responsibilities associated with taking care of a tree after planting and will be able to watch it grow as the years go by.

If you do not have a suitable location to plant the tree at your home, please consider contacting a friend, neighbor, or relative to see if they can provide a site for it. Otherwise, please consider planting it in the wooded "Nature Area" around the Izaak Walton Clubhouse.

Contact Rachel Ormseth at 773-3594 with the State Resource Conservation & Forestry Division for more information.

You can also consider planting the tree on Corps of Engineers land. Arrangements should be made in advance with the Corps of Engineers Park Ranger, Brian Korman, at (605)-945-3423.

The kids have always been very enthusiastic about receiving their trees and look forward to planting them. Please help maintain that level of enthusiasm by, first of all, selecting a suitable location for the tree, and, then, by helping him or her to plant the tree and properly take care of it.

Thank you very much for helping to stimulate and maintain in your child the spirit of good land stewardship.

This Year’s Traditional Arbor Day in South Dakota is Friday, April 30th!

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