

Approved



## CITY TREE BOARD MINUTES

Tuesday, May 23, 2023

5:00 PM

Athletic Complex

3301 West 1st

Joplin, MO 64801

***MEMBERS PRESENT:***

Lauren Copple, Kristi Brown, Robert Dopp, Christian Woods

***ABSENT:***

Michael Luse

***GUESTS:***

Paul Bloomberg  
Greg Bertoncino  
Jason Cowen  
Jon Skinner

***MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:***

Lauren Copple called the regular meeting to order.

***APPROVAL OF MINUTES:***

Robert Dopp made a motion to approve the minutes with a second by Kristi Brown.

***OLD BUSINESS:***

Paul mentioned to the board that the Earth/Arbor Day was a great event, and the weather was perfect. This is our fourth year having this event. He said there was about 500 people that attended the event and several vendors. He said the sawmill vendor was awesome. Liberty gave away almost all the trees but a few of the Oak trees.

He told the board that we turned our invoices and documentations for the MDC Community Forestry Cost-Share Grant. He said this grant would cover 90% of the project. Jon Skinner said he would start reviewing our stuff tomorrow. He also told the board they are changing the way they do the grants July 1, 2023. They will now rank them into tier by priority. Tier 1 would be the highest priority and would get a higher percentage back. Tier 3 would be lowest priority and get a lower percentage back. Jon mentioned that 26<sup>th</sup> street – Zora, Rangeline – West

is a Tier 1. Greg Bertoncino asked Jon so it's not a guarantee to stay a Tier 1 each year. Jon said no it could change each year. Lauren mentioned that the tornado area isn't in that area and that area is lacking good trees.

Greg let the board know that he went to Ozark Nursery and spoke to Ken. He had a little knowledge of the Junge Blvd project we had previously talked to Gal about. Greg said that if we are wanting to change types of trees or add something different this would be the time to do so. He will be meeting with Ken again to continue working with him on getting the trees we need for Junge Blvd project.

Greg also told the board that Joplin High School Science National Honor Society had asked if they could plant some Maples and River birch saplings for a project. They planted 15 saplings by the parking lot at the Complex.

***NEW BUSINESS:***

Paul said we have several trees that are struggling on Main Street from 15<sup>th</sup> – 32<sup>nd</sup>. He let the board know that he spoke with Assistant City Manager Tony Robyn, and he would like to see all the Bradford pear trees gone and replaced with new trees. Paul said this will be a project that we will start working on and will be discussing in the next Tree Board meeting. We have also had some complaints from business owners that the trees are getting too large and damaging their awning.

Greg mentioned that we have started removing and replacing about 20 trees at Mercy Park because they didn't make it from the heat last summer.

***REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS:***

None

***ADJOURNEMENT:***

Christian Woods made a motion to adjourn, second by Robert Dopp.

Nakia Endicott, Accounting Specialist

*N Endicott*