

Public Land Appearance and Recreation Board

Minutes

March 28, 2024

Members present: Deb Boyd, David Goodson, Bo Henderson, Alice Roess & Aidan Waite

Staff present: Jennifer Brown & Cory Cathcart

Guest: Jamie Dixie

Begin: 9:00 a.m.

End: 9:55 a.m.

February Minutes Approved: Motion by Deb Boyd and seconded by Alice Roess

Request made to send a reminder at least seven to ten days ahead of the monthly meeting. Also to send everyone an updated list of all the Board Members' Contact information. David did not receive a copy of the minutes.

Budget Update: The Budget is being reconciled through the end of March and copies will be emailed to all the Board Members from Jennifer.

We will be starting to advertise for donations for Hanging Baskets with an initial letter, followed by a reminder.

Arbor Day: Our next meeting was scheduled for Thursday 25 April, but we will now be meeting on Friday 26 April at 10:30 a.m. This will be followed by the tree planting in Broyhill Park at 11:30a.m. Cory has already marked the spots for the planting with two flags on the edge of the Parking Lot. The question was asked as to what trees to plant, David will help with suggestions. We are looking at trees with a two-inch diameter that love the late morning and early afternoon sun. Now most of the trees are Pine and Birch. Deb Boyd asked if perhaps we could plant a Ginkgo tree. It has beautiful leaves and when they drop, it is at the base of the tree. Bo Henderson told the Committee he has a Ginkgo tree he would be willing to donate. He invited Cory to come and look at it to see if this is feasible.

Cory will prepare the area on Thursday 25 April and have it ready for Friday's planting. Jennifer informed us that there is plenty of money in the budget for the cost of Arbor Day. Jennifer also informed us that we are still waiting for a grant for the upkeep of Broyhill Park.

Jennifer will be talking to Sam from High Country Press to see if we can have him present to promote Arbor Day and explain why we are a Tree City USA.

Donations: The floor was open to suggestions on raising money for the General Fund.

The suggestion was made to have a table at Art in the Park to promote Hanging Baskets and other flowers. We talked about asking the Chamber or the Library for suggestions on where we could put the table. The Chamber has talked about allowing charities and non-profits to set up in front of the Chamber building on their front lawn.

Alice also suggested in front of the First Citizens building.

Suggestions were made about what we would have available. Perhaps a flyer showing the different plants with photos and descriptions. This would show what Cory has planted throughout the town. Also, on the table we would have two of the Hanging Plants to show where the donations are used. Every year we expand the locations where the baskets are being placed.

Deb Boyd had an idea for next year when we have time to order in advance to give out Dahlia Bulbs. Cory emphasized that these are hard to get as they are so popular.

Alice suggested having T Shirts, Sweatshirts and Caps available. Alice will be going to stores around town to see where they purchase their merchandise from and the cost and availability. Jennifer said he we had a few T Shirts Left with BRACC on them.

Aidan suggested setting up a QR Code, to show photos of all the plants with descriptions and how to donate. Jennifer said this is not hard to do and Cory would provide pictures and descriptions of the flowers and plants. The suggestion was made to keep it to fifteen in total.

Other Business:

It seems like the aeration process in Broyhill Park is working well and achieving its goal.

The question came up again concerning the deer and the bear in the neighborhood. Very hard to create a solution. Bo Henderson talked about how he uses deer spray. Between loss of natural habitat and locals leaving trash cans open to the elements, it is an ongoing issue. Perhaps the Town Council can put a suggestion out there to cover the cost of bear proof trash cans that the local population can use.

Aidan asked about having the trash cans on Main Street replaced after the water lines installation had finished. Jennifer said this money comes out of the Town budget. It has been brought up at the Town Council meetings, but no decision has been made. Jennifer said the approximate cost of each Trash Can is \$1500.00. The statement was made that even though the Trash pick up is regular and they do a great job, there is a continuous build up around the Trash cans. Jennifer stated we use Seasonal Workers who do continuous follow ups on Main Street but with the volume of tourists it is never ending.

Aidan also asked if there is any way a steam cleaning schedule can be set up for Main Street during the season, especially the street gets very dirty and in places very sticky. If the Town cannot do this or the local stores maybe we could look at a private contractor.