

SMITHFIELD CITY TREE COMMITTEE MEETING

January 9, 2024

Meeting Minutes

Present: Jack Greene, Jeff Barnes, Mair Murray, Rich Johns, Todd Orme, Guest- Nick Reithel
Excused: Carole Holland

New council member Todd Orme was welcomed! Todd has been assigned to our committee, along with History and Diversity committees. He was asked to recommend Rich Johns as a Tree Committee candidate to the city council. Rich is highly qualified and full of passion for trees and all they do for us. This would give us 7 committee members which includes Todd. Todd expressed interest in the history of Summit Creek in Forrester Acres following Jack's description from yesterday's fieldtrip to view needed streamside improvements.

Jack asked Todd to search for the city code that requires a natural buffer along Summit Creek to protect the bank, shade the water, and provide aquatic organisms improved habitat. If the code exists, property owner bordering the stream should be educated.

Committee approved awarding lowest bid, D's Tree Service, LLC with the contract to remove seven dead trees and stumps in the cemetery. If he doesn't want chips, city could use them as mulch or compost. We suggest city rent a stump grinder to remove eight old stumps in cemetery. Their time and rental fee would be used as "in-kind" match needed for our grant.

Hayden's arborist certification - Jack will check with City Manager Justin Lewis for progress.

Jack finds it difficult to communicate with Hayden Downs and Public Works Director Josh Wright as they rarely answer his emails or other means of contact.

Trees & Summit Creek Watershed- Nick Reithel- Bear River Watershed Coordinator with Utah Department of Agriculture and Food- met with four others- including two tree committee members yesterday in Forrester Acres to view some Summit Creek channel concerns where cement chunks had been used to stabilize bank and a few erosion problems near sidewalk. Sherm Jensen, a riparian restoration specialist, was present. These concerns will be taken to Justin and Josh. Jack would like to know the history of this part of Summit Creek., the origins of cement barriers and stream channelization.

Curbside trees- the committee suggests that columnar trees be used for curbside to prevent additional pruning and avoiding tree damage from curbside work from lateral branches.

Policy change- Jeff has read several tree ordinances from four different Cache Valley cities and will be sharing additions/alterations in the Smithfield policies for the committee to review.

Arbor Day elementary school poster contest theme agreed upon- "Birds, Bugs, and Kids Need Trees!"

Pollinator/community gardens- Nick has grant opportunities for establishing pollinator gardens. Jack mentioned the city has expressed interest in a community garden on a grassy area east of the city office building. This could be combined with a pollinator garden. Having a considerable number of Latino and other cultures in Smithfield who have high interest in gardening, this could serve those populations. Jack mentioned federal grant possibilities such as infrastructure and IRA which may be worth pursuing for infrastructure- raised beds, soils, irrigation systems.

Next meeting: February 6th