

## Smithfield City Tree Committee, March 4, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Present: Jack Greene, Carole Holland, Jeff Barnes, Jennifer Clark, Kayo Robertson, Todd Orme, Nick Reithel

Excused: Rich Johns, Mair Murray

**Jeff's grant progress update-** An additional 3 cemetery trees were removed by our contractor and stumps ground by city personnel who rented a grinder. Their work hours and rental fee will be used as a match for our grant. D's Trees noticed several others that should be removed and/or pruned because of beetle infestation at an estimated cost of \$7,200 which will be proposed for the 2025 budget. Their age and lack of sufficient water make them highly vulnerable to insect and disease damage. **A tree management plan needs to be developed for the cemetery, which may include planting new trees of different species and installing a better watering system.**

**Tree committee policy change-** Jeff will complete his review and recommendations for policy change. Some discussion ensued on possible wording change to reflect our responsibilities and band width. CCNR Three Creeks development had some stream bank protect verbiage from the Neighborhood agreement. Also, the Army Corps of Engineers requires permitting before any stream channel alteration below the high water mark. **It was suggested the Tree Committee should educate the community, especially those whose properties border the stream channel, on how best to protect it's banks with native vegetation wherever possible.**

**Abor Day poster contest-** Kayo created art and text for "Maple Trees are Super Heros!" poster contest which will be distributed to the 3 elementary school teachers and administration. A digital version will be sent out as well. Jennifer's artist brother and friends will judge the entries as they did last year. Some committee members wish to see the posters as they're being reviewed, and Mair may be representing the Tree Committee. Only the grand champion will be invited for the tree planting ceremony during Health Days. The top 5 posters in each school will be awarded a cash prize. We have \$210 for prizes. We hope to get more participation from Summit elementary this year. **Posters will be due April 29<sup>th</sup>**, judged the first week of May, and winners announced prior to May 11<sup>th</sup> Health Days. We hope to take photos of the winning posters and have them on the city website/Facebook for a few weeks.

**Health Day's booth-** Jeff will arrange. We will have similar activities as last year, an include a screen shot showing our many resources on the City webpage. Kayo plans to have bigtooth maple seedlings as prizes for the Tree Trivia quiz, which proved very attractive to all ages last year. It was suggested that we offer a tree pruning workshop, perhaps this fall, for our citizens.

**Summit Creek Watershed-** Nick mentioned several resources and grants for pollinator gardens & bare-root native plant stock. He is hoping to involve high school youth and others in stream health assessment and restoration work where needed. Jack offered his backyard which borders on Summit Creek and adjacent neighbors who may wish to participate in the project. Forester acres and Kayo's Center street native plant demo stretch are other reaches that could serve for monitoring and restoration where needed. Willow, cottonwood, and redosier dogwood are excellent natives for this purpose.

**Community garden-** it was decided that given the Cities limited resources to participate with volunteers, that we are not yet in a position to take on this daunting task.

**Other business** A lengthy discussion on the desirability resuming the green waste service for Smithfield, and perhaps other north valley communities. Creating mulch to sell for a small fee could help offset the costs of managing the operation. We will do more study on the matter, and if it's found to be financially viable, prepare a formal proposal for the City to entertain.