



CITY OF PEORIA – PEORIA URBAN FORESTRY ADVISORY BOARD

TUESDAY, MARCH 5, 2024, MEETING MINUTES

ATTENDANCE

MEMBERS PRESENT: Matt Freeman, Michael Wilkins, Ella Maxwell, Randy Swenson, Doug McCarty – 5

MEMBERS ABSENT: Mike Price, Brian Probst, Amy McLaren – 3

OTHERS PRESENT: KJ Mathews, Nick McMillion, Darren Graves, Shawn Johnson, Sie Maroon, Samantha Riley - 6

ANNOUNCEMENTS, ETC.

None.

MINUTES

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF THE PUFAB

December 5, 2024 MINUTES

Wilkins motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by Freeman; approved with a unanimous verbal vote.

ITEM NO. 1 Spring Home Show Event Overview

Maroon opened discussion about the Spring Home Show Event. The board agreed the event was a little slower than it has been in the past. Mathews added that it was beneficial to interact with the public from the Public Works perspective as well, because many people had questions about how Public Works plays a role in urban forestry. Maxwell suggested more Public Works staff work the booth in the future as there were also a number of service request inquiries. The board agreed that most questions consisted of tree inquiries, Public Works service requests, and city operations. The educational materials were very helpful, and the seeds provided by JULIE Locate were popular. The board agreed the Spring Home Show Event is something they would like to continue to participate in.

ITEM NO. 2 Discuss City's Tree Planting Initiatives for 2024

Maroon opened discussion about tree plantings by first mentioning two planting projects which will take place on Arbor Day. Freeman requested the plantings take place in the afternoon. Freeman recommended another planting near the Gateway Building where many trees have been removed in the past few years. He also suggested planting in the Sinclair Grove area near Constitution Garden.

The board determined the necessary Arbor Day Proclamation has been completed for this year.

Maxwell inquired about grant opportunities for tree planting initiatives. Graves responded, saying Public Works recently applied for two urban forestry grants. If awarded, these grants will assist with planting trees and completing a comprehensive tree inventory in disadvantaged areas and city-wide.

McCarty asked if trees help with the combined sewer overflow efforts. He mentioned there were some suggestions and modifications for street designs where bump-outs were implemented, and wanted to know if those areas would be good places to plant trees. Maroon answered, saying the bump-outs are more for pedestrian use and would not be the best place for trees. Johnson added that sometimes during CSO projects, the engineers will reach out to him for tree planting implementations. Maxwell mentioned that in a past CSO project, trees were planted to assist the cause.

Freeman mentioned they are receiving twenty-five trees being donated by the State Conversation District that will be planted sometime in April or May. Maroon and Johnson said Public Works plans to plant about ten trees in Springdale. Johnson is also currently working on planting trees in areas where he has received tree planting requests. Maroon suggested planting some trees at the corner of North and McClure near the creek.

ITEM NO. 3 Discuss Tree Plantings on Alta Road

McCarty mentioned the tree plantings that took place on Alta Road about three years ago; he said at the time approximately ten trees were planted and there was a plan to plant ten more in the future. Johnson said the trees were planted in that area per a resident request. He said Public Works can reevaluate the area to continue planting further down on Alta Road. There is concern that Public Works does not have enough staff to water a large number of new trees.

The board discussed the pros and cons of different planting times. Johnson mentioned many factors play a role in when trees can be planted throughout the year, including weather, tree procurement, maintenance, and resident requests. Swenson requested that Johnson pull up the tree inventory at the next meeting so that the board can review it.

ITEM NO. 4 Discuss Tree City USA Requirements

Johnson shared the following requirements to receive Tree City USA recognition:

1. Delegate responsibility for public trees to a tree board and/or department
2. Establish a tree care ordinance
3. Document a community forestry program with an annual budget of at least \$2 per capita

CITIZENS WISHING TO ADDRESS AN ITEM NOT ON THE AGENDA SHOULD CONTACT A COMMISSION MEMBER PRIOR TO THE MEETING. ALL OTHER PUBLIC INPUT WILL BE HEARD UNDER PUBLIC COMMENT NEAR THE END OF THE COMMITTEE MEETING.

NOTE: THE ORDER IN WHICH AGENDA ITEMS ARE CONSIDERED MAY BE MOVED FORWARD OR DELAYED BY AT LEAST 2/3 VOTE OF THE COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT.

4. Hold an Arbor Day observance and proclamation

He said the 2024 Tree City USA application is currently pending. Peoria has been recognized as a Tree City USA for the past thirty years. The board discussed getting another Tree City USA flag and adding signage around the city. McCarty offered to pay for a new Tree City USA flag, and Maroon said the city would purchase another sign.

The board discussed having another Peoria Urban Forestry Advisory Board banner made to use at events like the Spring Home Show. Graves suggested a banner be hung at the Peoria Civic Center to bring awareness to the board.

ITEM NO. 5 Discuss Arbor Day Events

Maroon established that this item was sufficiently discussed in item number two, and asked if there were any other events the board would like to participate in throughout the year. McCarty mentioned Earth Day which takes place on April 22, 2024. Freeman mentioned someone from the Forest Park Nature Center will be contacting the administrative specialist to discuss a booth for the Earth Day Festival.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Maxwell suggested members participate in virtual workshops which were shared with them via email.

NEW BUSINESS

None

CITIZENS' OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS THE COMMITTEE

Anyone wishing to make a public comment can do so by sending those comments to Public Works, by **12:00 p.m.** on March 1, 2024, Public comments can be sent to the public works department, in writing, at **publicworks@peoriagov.org** or via fax at 309-494-8855. The email or fax should be labeled "public comment for March 1, 2024, PUFAB Committee Meeting," and we ask that you include your name and address.

Citizens wishing to address an item not on the agenda should contact a commission member prior to the meeting. All other public input will be heard under public comment near the end of the committee meeting.

NEXT MEETING

June 4, 2024

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further discussion, Wilkins motioned to adjourn the meeting; Maxwell seconded. Meeting adjourned at 1:11 PM.

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