



City of Cookeville Tree Board Minutes

July, 3 2019 Time: 12:00pm

In attendance: Guy Zimmerman, Douglas Airhart, Tony Stone, Greg Brown, Jeff Littrell, Ed Hollingsworth, Jaime Nunan, Mike Witt.

I. Approval of Minutes

Minutes from May board meeting approved.

II. Budget report and spending plans for FY 2019-20

Beginning July 1 the board has \$16,651 in available funds, and projected \$8,180 in expenditures for this fiscal year.

Treasurer will make a secondary spread sheet to track exact expenditures throughout the year for better record keeping.

III. Status of TAEP Grant

Board has received a reimbursement of funds from the 2018 TAEP grant which was a total of \$1,214.00

City council reviewed and approved the application for the 2019 TAEP grant which was then submitted by Jaime. The grant application included a request for 85 trees at a total of \$5015.00 if award we will receive \$2,507.50 in matching funds.

Approval/Denial letters in response to grant applications will be sent out in August.

IV. International Society of Arboriculture Conference in Knoxville

ISA Conference will be held in Knoxville this year August 9-14.

V. ISA Certification for Guy Zimmerman

Guy informed the board his ISA Certification will be expiring this year, in order to renew he must attend the conference in Knoxville. The total for Guy's attendance would cost the board \$1700.00 which is over the projected travel expenditure for the year. Guy is impartial to the decision on whether to renew or not and left the decision to the board. Board members Douglas Airhart and Jeff Fitzpatrick hold current certifications, should the board need an arborist in the future as it has occurred in the past.

VI. Cookeville High School Art Contest

Tony is looking into the status of a newspaper article displaying the art contest winners.

VII. Location for 2 new “Tree City USA” signs

The city received 2 new street signs as part of the 30 year anniversary of being recognized as a Tree City USA. The board agreed to place one sign at the new Tennessee Ave interstate exit, and keep one sign as a mobile sign to be placed at new tree planting sites yearly.

VIII. Pamphlet/Publication ideas

Board members discussed new ideas for publications and handouts. Ideas included: online tree resource list, proper species choice, and landscaping codes.

IX. Tree inventory for high travel areas

Guy suggested that the board take on a project to inventory open planting spaces along high traffic areas within the city such as Interstate Drive, or Jefferson Avenue as a potential TAEP project for 2020.

Jaime, Guy and anyone else interested in helping will work together to create inventory and maps of open public locations for tree planting. Also discussion was had about speaking with businesses within the project boundaries about partnering up in the tree planting effort to be able to increase private property tree canopy as well. Although we cannot use funds to plant or maintain trees on private property it could be a good opportunity to engage the community in urban forestry efforts.

X. Arboretum at Prescott South Middle School

Douglas, Jaime and Guy inspected the PSMS Arboretum for accuracy and are waiting to hear from Tennessee Urban Forestry Council about moving forward with the certification.

XI. Other Business

Mike Witt is going to talk with the new Dean of Agriculture at TN Tech about the fulfillment of the Tech position on the board to either receive a new letter of appointment for Douglas or his wishes in involvement.

Guy led discussion on planting partnerships with businesses and advertisement, Jeff Littrell informed him of short time limits due to off premise advertising complications.

The Arbor Day Foundation's "Partners in Community Forestry" Conference will be held November 20-21 in Cleveland Ohio.

Meeting Adjourned 1:56 PM