

Minutes of the Centerville City Tree Board meeting held Wednesday, January 15, 2020 at 8:00 p.m. in the Centerville City Hall Administrative Conference Room, 250 North Main Street, Centerville, Utah.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Joy Chambers, Chair  
Brooke Holman  
Anne Linton  
Gary Smith  
Gary Woodward  
Scott Zeidler

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Grant Chavez

**STAFF PRESENT**

Randy Randall, Public Works Director  
Mike Higgins, Parks and Recreation Supervisor  
Mackenzie Wood, Planner

**STAFF ABSENT**

Connie Larson, Recording Secretary

**DISCUSSION OF TREE ROOTS IN PARK STRIPS**

Randy Randall, Public Works Director, displayed pictures of park strips that show where utilities are buried, and how tree roots have grown down and wrapped around the utility cables. A street light on 1800 North was replaced three times over a 40-year span because of tree roots destroying the electric lines. Tree roots also grow under the sidewalk and road, which raises the sidewalk, and then settles when the tree dies. Mr. Randall said that there are so many utility lines in the park strips that are too narrow, that the street vacuum cannot get into the ground to clean it out. Many years ago, Jenny P Stewart Elementary used to have sub-drains behind the school, and the tree roots filled the sub drain systems, which had to be replaced. It takes 20 to 30 years for tree roots to find the sub drain systems and destroy it. Mr. Randall discussed other examples where tree roots have destroyed pipe systems and caused major utility problems.

Mr. Randall explained the dynamics are changing, in that the infrastructure in Centerville is antiquated and needs to be replaced, but the problems with trees in park strips and above ground must be dealt with. He is in favor of landscape nodes, where small areas of property are landscaped in a subdivision, but the parking strips do not have trees. He would like to see fences of historical nature in the front yards, as this would make Centerville unique and different.

**ADOPT 2020 CALENDAR**

The Tree Board agreed to continue to meet the third Wednesday of each month.

Gary Smith made a **motion** for the Tree Board to meet the third Wednesday of each month at 8:00 p.m. Brooke Holman seconded the motion, which was passed by unanimous vote (6-0).

#### **APPOINT CHAIR/VICE CHAIR**

Gary Woodward made a **motion** to postpone the nomination for the Tree Board chair and vice chair positions until the February 2020 meeting. Anne Linton seconded the motion, which was passed by unanimous vote (6-0).

#### **DISCUSS CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION**

The Board discussed the work session that was held with the City Council on December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2019. Anne Linton said she felt there would have been more input on how trees could be implemented more in the Ordinance, specifically on what trees should and should not be allowed. She gave the example of the trees in Rose Park, and how they have accommodated tree canopies. Gary Woodward explained there is a cost and value to having trees, and they need to be balanced. Mr. Woodward feels a mission statement or vision needs to be implemented by the City. Mackenzie Wood, City Planner, explained some of the utilities are in the park strip, but the main lines are in the street. The reason no decision has been made, as there is not a majority among the City Council on how they will decide. Scott Zeidler said there are good and bad tree stories, and there were good questions that were asked. He felt it was overall positive, but there are complex issues to deal with. Gary Smith said he was confused on what the City Council was looking for, as a list of trees was previously provided to them. The City Council must decide if they want to allow trees in park strips. Joy Chambers said she felt there is not a unanimous vote among the Council members on what will be best. The Tree Board agreed that a better direction must be given from the City Council before they will proceed on the Tree Ordinance.

#### **PLANS FOR 2020**

The Tree Board agreed they will work on standards and specifications for the Tree Ordinance during 2020. Suggestions were made to have a web page for the Tree Board on the City website that would provide information on standards and specifications of trees that would work well in our climate.

Plans for Arbor Day activities in April need to be made. Scott Zeidler suggested an evening in April in the Council Chambers for citizens to obtain information about trees. Perhaps tree experts from the Extension Service could come to answer questions from citizens. An Arbor Day activity will be planned for Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup> and Mike Higgins will reserve a park.

**MINUTES REVIEW AND APPROVAL**

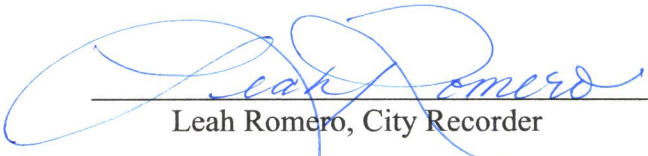
Minutes of the November 20, 2019 meeting minutes were reviewed. Gary Smith made a **motion** to approve the minutes as written. Brooke Holman seconded the motion, which was passed by unanimous vote (6-0).

**NEXT MEETING**

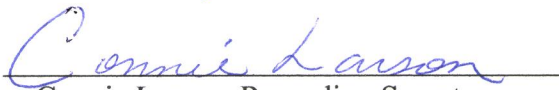
The next Tree Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 19, 2020 at 8:00 p.m. at City Hall.

**ADJOURN**

At 9:35 p.m., Gary Woodward made a **motion** to adjourn the meeting. Brooke Holman seconded the motion, which was passed by unanimous vote (6-0).

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Leah Romero, City Recorder

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date Approved

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Connie Larson, Recording Secretary

