

1 Minutes of the Centerville City Tree Board meeting held Wednesday, August 18, 2021 at 8:00
2 p.m. in the Centerville City Hall Conference Room, 250 North Main Street, Centerville, Utah.
3

4 **MEMBERS PRESENT**

5 Joy Chambers
6 Grant Chavez
7 Anne Linton
8 Gary Smith
9 Gary Woodward, Chair
10 Scott Zeidler
11

12 **STAFF PRESENT**

13 Michael Higgins, Parks & Recreation Supervisor
14 Connie Larson, Recording Secretary
15

16 **DISCUSS TREE MANAGEMENT PLAN**
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18 Scott Zeidler distributed the draft of the Centerville City Tree Management Plan and
19 Mitigation Plan to the Tree Board. This Tree Management Plan is necessary in order to receive the
20 State Tree Grant. Mr. Zeidler has been working on the template for a few years. This is not an
21 advocacy plan, but actions the city may be willing to take to grow and manage trees to satisfy the
22 requirements for the grant. The grant specifies trees can only be placed in parks, cemeteries, and
23 other public spaces. Trees must be planted where there is adequate space, and where it would
24 benefit the public. It is intended the City would manage the Tree Risk Detection and Mitigation
25 Plan that specifies what the City would do if someone is injured by a tree, or if there is property
26 damage.
27

28 The State would contribute \$8,000 to plant the trees and replace the trees that were lost
29 during the windstorm last September. Mike Higgins, Parks & Recreation Supervisor, reported
30 Bruce Cox, Parks & Recreation Director, found a company that will plant the trees, as his
31 department does not have the time or resources to do planting. Grant Chavez said Salt Lake County
32 was able to obtain trees from a citizen by the University of Utah who donated trees from his yard.
33 Mr. Higgins said he is not aware of how many trees will be needed at the new extension of the
34 Smith Park on the south side.
35

36 Joy Chambers made a **motion** to approve the Tree Management Plan. Anne Linton
37 seconded the motion, which was passed by unanimous vote (6-0).
38

39 Scott Zeidler then discussed the Tree Risk Detection and Mitigation Plan. He said trees on
40 property lines can become an issue with the adjacent property owner. Grant Chavez said in Salt
41 Lake County, if the branches are over on the neighbor's property line, the branches can be cut
42 down. Scott Zeidler said park strip trees are a contentious issue in Centerville. He has met with
43 Bruce Cox, Parks and Recreation Director, and they have agreed to work on a Parks Cemetery
44 Plan. It will take one year to make this plan, and this plan will safeguard the City against negligence
45 with trees.

1 This plan is for legal reasons, not for the grant. Mike Higgins reported the Parks & Recreation
2 Department is constantly looking for trees that need to be taken care of or removed for safety
3 reasons. Centerville is with the ERMA (Environmental Response Management Application), and
4 this department goes to cities to point out possible risks and dangers that need to be taken care of,
5 but they have never mentioned trees.

6
7 Scott Zeidler said the Tree Risk Management Plan should be given to the City Attorney in
8 case of a lawsuit against the City. Mr. Zeidler proposed sharing the document with Bruce Cox,
9 Lisa Romney, and Brant Hansen to review and decide if the Tree Board should pursue the City
10 Tree Risk and Mitigation Plan further. The public may want to be more involved with trees and
11 their property.

12 13 **DISCUSS AWARDED GRANT MONEY**

14
15 Scott Zeidler reported he talked with Bruce Cox, Park & Recreation Director, on the
16 species of trees to be planted from the grant money. The matching grant is where the State will
17 give \$8,000 to match with \$8,000 from Centerville to plant trees that need to be replaced from the
18 windstorm last September. Reimbursement will not come until the trees are planted, and the trees
19 must be planted by May 22, 2022. Mr. Zeidler suggested looking for trees that might be worthy of
20 experimentation. The Board reviewed the list of trees that Gary Smith compiled last year. Gary
21 Smith distributed a list of shade trees he made, and he also suggested going through a "tree broker"
22 instead of a nursery to purchase the trees. Tree brokers locate trees of the best quality for the best
23 price. He also suggested "group planting" of trees, which allows the trees to support each other
24 and gives them strength. Mr. Smith will give Bruce Cox the name of the tree broker, as he will
25 need to start planning the trees he wants to have at the parks.

26
27 Mike Higgins asked about the trees that were partially blown over during the windstorm
28 last September at the Freedom Hills Park. These trees were given supports, and he asked how long
29 the supports should remain on the trees. Gary Smith replied tree supports should remain on the
30 trees for one year. Young trees can be supported easily, but large trees do not support well, and if
31 they are not stable by now, they should be taken down.

32
33 Gary Smith reported that if the irrigation water is turned-off early, people should use their
34 bathwater on their trees and shrubs. He said people need to be informed that it is okay to not water
35 their lawns, as the lawns will grow back. Trees will die if they are not watered in the fall.

36 37 **MINUTES REVIEW AND APPROVAL**

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39 Minutes of the June 16, 2021 Tree Board meeting were reviewed. Scott Zeidler made a
40 **motion** to approve the June 16, 2021 meeting minutes as written. Gary Smith seconded the motion,
41 which was passed by unanimous vote (6-0).

1 **TREE OF THE MONTH**

2
3 Anne Linton will do the Columnar Oak tree for the Tree of the Month in September for the
4 City website. Gary Smith will do the Ivory Silk Lilac tree for October; Joy Chambers will do the
5 Zelkova tree for November, and Grant Chavez will do an evergreen tree for December.

6
7 **MISCELLANEOUS**

8
9 Mike Higgins asked about the Emerald Ash borer, and if it has been seen in Utah. Scott
10 Zeidler replied it has not been found in Utah at this time. A federal agency has tried to stop this
11 borer in other areas, but has been unsuccessful. Utah has placed traps around the State, and if it is
12 found in Utah, the State will be very aggressive to get rid of it. This borer feeds on the ash species
13 of trees, and the ash trees should be planted sparingly. The Lilac Ash borer is also getting into the
14 ash trees.

15
16 **NEXT MEETING**

17
18 The next Tree Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 15, 2021 at 8:00 p.m.
19 at City Hall.

20
21 **ADJOURN**

22
23 At 9:15 p.m., Grant Chavez made a **motion** to adjourn the meeting. Scott Zeidler seconded
24 the motion, which was passed by unanimous vote (6-0).

25
26
27 Jennifer Hansen
28 Jennifer Hansen, City Recorder

1-26-2022

Date Approved

29
30
31 Connie Larson
32 Connie Larson, Recording Secretary

