

1 Minutes of the Centerville City Tree Board meeting held Wednesday, September 18, 2024 at 8:00
2 p.m. at Centerville City Hall, 250 North Main Street, Centerville, Utah.

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4 **MEMBERS PRESENT**

5 Linda Porter
6 Sara Stettler, Chair
7 Heather Taylor
8 Gary Woodward
9 Scott Zeidler, arrived at 8:23 p.m.

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11 **MEMBERS ABSENT**

12 Grant Chavez

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14 **STAFF PRESENT**

15 Brian Plummer, City Council Liaison
16 Mike Higgins, Parks Supervisor
17 Sydney Dewees, City Planner
18 Connie Larson, Recording Secretary

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20 **MINUTES REVIEW AND APPROVAL**

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22 Minutes of the June 19, 2024 meeting were not reviewed. They will be reviewed at the next
23 meeting.

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25 **CENTERVILLE RECOMMENDED TREE LIST - DISCUSSION**

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27 Heather Taylor reported on her research of the list of trees for our area. There are two lists
28 of trees on the city website, but one of the lists is outdated. Heather distributed a list of trees from
29 Kaysville, Farmington, and Salt Lake City, which the Board reviewed. She also displayed a list of
30 trees from Murray and North Salt Lake that are allowed in parking strips for these cities. The trees
31 are defined by the size of the park strip and the type of soil that is used.

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33 The Tree Board discussed the Centerville website, and Sydney Dewees said Bryce King or
34 Haley Turner is responsible for the Tree Board website. She will find out who oversees the website
35 and send an email to Sarah Stettler of who is responsible for the Tree Board website.

36
37 Scott Zeidler reported that Murray City owns their power lines, and they employ nine
38 fulltime urban forest employees to maintain the trees in Murray. The Tree Board viewed Murray's
39 list of park strip trees that are allowed. Most of Murray's park strips are four feet wide, and Murray
40 provides the trees for residents to plant in their parking strips.

41
42 **At 8:23 p.m., Scott Zeidler arrived at the meeting.**

1 Heather Taylor reported the Utah State Extension Service told her even small trees should
2 not be planted in park strips, unless the park strip is a minimum of eight feet wide. Logan City is
3 using tile sidewalks, so that when tree roots need to be trimmed, they can easily remove the tiles
4 and put them back down. This will, hopefully, prevent the trees from being cut down. Trees that
5 buckle a sidewalk can cost from \$1,000 to \$3,000 to be cut down. Farmington City is requiring
6 new developments to have trees. There are no parameters or restrictions on their trees, as
7 Farmington has large parking strips.

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9 **CENTERVILLE PARKSTRIP TREES ORDINANCE – DISCUSSION**

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11 Heather Taylor reported she had a meeting with City Council member, Gina Hirst. She said
12 the City Council is trying to find middle ground approval on parking strips.

- 13
14 1. All current parking strip trees can stay, as long as they are not causing a problem. What
15 is the definition of a problem tree?
16 2. A waiver could be required for the homeowner to sign that states the city is not
17 responsible for damages caused by trees to the sidewalk and utility lines.
18 3. Voucher program continues and is retroactive to the past three years. An unused
19 voucher can be offered to a neighbor.
20 4. No new trees allowed in park strips that are less than six feet wide.

21
22 Gary Woodward reported his neighbor went to the City Council meeting when the park
23 strips were discussed, and he said he told Gary that their trees would be a problem in a few years,
24 so they had them removed. His park strips are under four feet.

25
26 Heather Taylor will make a list of the benefits of trees, and other items associated with
27 trees in Centerville. She will email this list to the Tree Board members when it is completed. Most
28 trees have a 15-foot tree spread. Larger trees should be encouraged to be planted on the yard side
29 of the sidewalk.

30
31 Scott Zeidler distributed handouts on Tree Care Standards from the American National
32 Standards Institute (ANSI A300). These standards are used as the final authority in the United
33 States Court System, and compliance ensures that your work aligns with the highest industry
34 benchmarks. Case law is important to challenge the government that they are doing the right thing
35 in duty of care. The ANSI A300 has changed in the past year. Twenty years ago, there was a
36 national tree database, and it described the structural characteristics of trees that failed. Qualitative
37 terminology in matrix is now used to measure tree failure. The action of cutting or severing tree
38 roots less than six times the size of the tree trunk is a departure from best practices. The east winds
39 in our area are considered common knowledge for tree failure because it can happen any season
40 of the year.

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42 If there is a tree failure, URMA recommends that the roots of the tree not be cut, as this
43 can cause the tree to fall, and it would be a cause of tree failure. It could cause the city to have a
44 non-jury trial. URMA specifies that omission and negligence expose incompetent employees.

The Tree Board discussed the current ordinance of four feet parking strips. Brian Plummer, City Council Liaison, said a resident came to the City Council meeting and reported he planted a tree in his park strip that was on the website. It is believed that there is a system in place for permits, but the residents are not using it. Brian Plummer believes the ordinance is good, but it needs to be enforced. He believes we have had the freedom to do this, but the city also works for the people. Mark Marchant said the ordinance was too "nuanced." Brian Plummer said there is the aspect of the people, and what we have been traditionally used to. The current ordinance states, "trees will only be allowed if the park strip is at least four feet wide."

Sara Stettler discussed if no trees are allowed in park strips, it could set a precedent of the city removing trees in backyards or other parts of a yard, if the trees are causing utility problems. Scott Zeidler said Bountiful and Kaysville are requiring citizens to pay for sidewalk repairs if their trees are damaging the sidewalk. Brian Plummer asked how long it takes for tree roots to get to where they start pushing up the sidewalk. Scott Zeidler said it depends on the type of tree. Brian Plummer said he would like to see the enforcement of the rules we currently have.

OTHER BUSINESS

Scott Zeidler reported this will be his last meeting as a member of the Tree Board. He has served on the Board for two terms, and he has met with the mayor and informed him of his decision. He said he would be happy to return as a technical advisor if needed. He has accepted a new position with his job that requires him to work in rural part of northern Utah. He has recommended the name of T. J. Riley to the mayor as his replacement on the Tree Board.

NEXT MEETING

The next Tree Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 16, 2024 at 8:00 p.m. at City Hall.

ADJOURN

At 9:30 p.m., Sara Stettler made a **motion** to adjourn the meeting. Gary Woodward seconded the motion, which was passed by unanimous vote (5-0).


Jennifer Robison, City Recorder

11-21-2024
Date Approved


Connie Larson, Recording Secretary

