

1 Minutes of the Centerville City Tree Board meeting held Wednesday, July 16, 2025 at 8:00 p.m. at
2 Centerville City Hall, 250 North Main Street, Centerville, Utah.

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4 **MEMBERS PRESENT**

5 Barbara Allen
6 Brandon Henderson
7 Keith Roper
8 Heather Taylor, Chair

9
10 **MEMBERS ABSENT**

11 Sara Stettler

12
13 **STAFF PRESENT**

14 Mike Higgins, Parks Supervisor
15 Connie Larson, Recording Secretary

16
17 **STAFF ABSENT**

18 Brian Plummer, City Council Liaison

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20 **MINUTES REVIEW AND APPROVAL**

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22 Minutes of the June 23, 2025 meeting were reviewed. Heather Taylor made a **motion** to
23 approve the minutes as amended. Brandon Henderson seconded the motion, which was passed by
24 unanimous vote (4-0).

25
26 **REVIEW/DISCUSS JUNE ACTION ITEMS**

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28 Sara Stettler did the banners for the Art Contest, and they turned out very well. Heather
29 Taylor reported she did a “mini” tree audit one year ago by driving her car in her neighborhood,
30 and there were around half of the park strips that had problems caused by trees. The last tree audit
31 was done in Centerville about ten years ago. Brandon Henderson said there are an estimated
32 11,000 vertical faults in 2025, possibly related to trees in Centerville that are possibly causing
33 problems with sidewalks, and this also includes sidewalks that have water damage.

34
35 Barbara Allen reported she sent Bruce Cox, Parks and Recreation Director, an email about
36 walking through the Community Park to identify trees that are distressed or dying, and what can
37 be done to help the trees. Brandon Henderson discussed the tree stumps that were carved into
38 animal figures that have since deteriorated and need to be ground out. Mike Higgins, Parks
39 Supervisor, said the tree stumps were carved into animal figures because it would cost more money
40 to have the stumps ground out. They are cottonwood, which is a soft wood.

41
42 Heather Taylor asked Mike Higgins to identify and document any legacy trees in
43 Centerville that are old or significant. Mr. Higgins said the Whitaker Museum has the oldest trees,
44 but several of them have died or blown down from the winds. There is a large sycamore tree at
45 Smith Park that was damaged in a wind storm. There are four new trees that have been planted in
46 the park strip on Parrish Lane and Market Place Drive where the road construction is taking place.

1 The Board discussed the removal of trees by the Streets Department. Peach Tree Lane has
2 had some trees removed, and the Streets Department is currently working on 400 West. The
3 tentative plan is to finish Peach Tree Lane, and then Balsam Drive will begin to have trees
4 removed. Bonita Drive is five years out for tree removal. The plan is when streets are being
5 repaired, the trees that are causing problems are removed. Heather Taylor has talked with Bruce
6 Cox and Marc Marchant on the losses and gains of trees, and we have a net loss. The streets
7 program is removing more trees than vouchers are requested. So far, only 30 percent of the
8 vouchers are being turned into trees. There is a net loss on trees in park strips of 23 trees and a
9 gain of 12 trees in the parks. Marc Marchant has had only three requests for vouchers, and the
10 vouchers are only valid for six months. Heather Taylor said she would like to see the vouchers be
11 valid for at least 12 months. Mike Higgins reported 18 trees were removed on 400 West, and there
12 were only five requests for vouchers.

13
14 Keith Roper said he feels the Freedom Hills Park needs more trees. Mike Higgins reported
15 some of the residents surrounding this park want the pine trees removed because of the pine cones
16 and needles the trees drop. There are cottonwood trees that are raising the asphalt on the walking
17 trails. In the past, the city has used a company to plant trees in the parks that used an arguer to dig
18 the hole. This caused some of the trees to be planted too deep, which caused the trees to rot and
19 die. Bruce Cox has decided to hire Super Trees Services Utah that air pot the trees, and they have
20 a better root system. The drawback is the trees are small, and children will sometimes damage
21 small trees.

22
23 Brandon Henderson displayed the Centerville City Tree Guide that he and his wife made
24 by compiling the ten pages of information the Tree Board previously made into a one-page
25 condensed information sheet. He will send Board members a digital copy of the page for Board
26 members to review. He will also put QR codes on it on how to properly cut a tree limb without
27 damaging the tree. The Board discussed having this guide in the Centerville Newsletter. Heather
28 Taylor discussed having a video that would be posted on the city website on how to water trees
29 during the winter.

30
31 Keith Roper said he would like to involve the Utah State Extension Services and connect
32 them with residents when there are questions with trees, especially if they must have their trees
33 removed. He would also like to see if there are activities with the Whitaker Museum that the Tree
34 Board could be involved with.

35
36 **REQUIREMENTS TO QUALIFY AS A TREE CITY, USA**

37
38 Heather Taylor reported on the required spending for the Community Forestry Program,
39 which is \$2 per resident to be a Tree City, USA. The requirements were emailed to each Tree Board
40 member for their review. There are currently enough action items, and the biggest initiative is to
41 get the Tree Voucher Program going.

1 **MUNICIPAL CODE AND TREE CITY, USA STANDARDS**

2
3 Heather Taylor reported there are questions on the city Municipal Code. For example: one
4 of the standards is residents are supposed to know who to go to for questions on trees. This is
5 something at times might be the Tree Board, the Parks Department, or City Council.

6
7 The Tree Board discussed what authority they have regarding trees. Mike Higgins said if
8 the Tree Board is given authority, what happens as Board members leave and are replaced. The
9 Tree Board is an advisory group, and they are a subsidiary of the city. Heather Taylor said she is
10 not sure on standards one and two of the Tree City USA Requirements at this time.

11
12 **ACTION ITEMS**

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14 Heather Taylor said she will ask Marc Marchant for the addresses of residents who have
15 had, or will have their trees removed from park strips, so members of the Tree Board can support
16 tree replacement via the Tree Voucher Program. Keith Roper will contact the Utah State Extension
17 Services. He will also contact Lisa Sommer about activities at the Whitaker Museum. Brandon
18 Henderson will contact Haley Turner about the city newsletter, and about the video on how to plant
19 a tree being placed on the city website.

20
21 **NEXT MEETING**

22
23 The next Tree Board meeting will be on Wednesday, August 20th, 2025 at 8:00 p.m. at City
24 Hall.

25
26 **ADJOURN**

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28 At 9:20 p.m., Barbara Allen made a **motion** to adjourn the meeting. Keith Roper seconded
29 the motion, which was passed by unanimous vote (4-0).

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31
32 *Jennifer Robison*
33 _____
34 Jennifer Robison, City Recorder

35
36 *8-25-2025*
37 _____
38 Date Approved

39
40 *Connie Larson*
41 _____
42 Connie Larson, Recording Secretary

