

# BERTHOUD TREE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

## February 2026 Meeting Minutes

### 1. Call to order:

Rick called the meeting to order at 5:31 P.M. on Monday, February 23, 2026.

### 2. Roll Call:

1. Richard (Rick) Kurcab – Chairman - present
  2. Daniel (Danny) Buendia – Vice-chair - present
  3. Randy Niece – Secretary – present
  4. Kathy Mitchell – present
  5. Hannah Daniels – present
  6. Paul Buckner – absent
  7. Natalie Peitsmeyer – present
- Quorum – 6/7 in attendance
- Sean Murphy – Town Liaison – present
  - Paul Furnas – Town Forester & Open Space Supervisor – present

### 3. Approval of Minutes from January 2026 Meeting:

- A quorum was available. Randy moved to approve notes. Kathy 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. All voice approved.

### 4. Public Comment or Non agenda items:

- a. There were no public comments.
- b. Non-Functional Turf discussion
  - 1) SB24-005 Prohibit Landscaping Practices for Water Conservation, in effect Jan 1, 2026.
  - 2) Town staff presentation to board recently proposed to modify development standards.
  - 3) Largest impact would be to street strip grass and use of non-grass landscaping.
- c. Cost Sharing Program for residential planting
  - 1) To be fair, the town will notify all HOA's and Metro Districts of this new program.
  - 2) It will be up to those organizations to notify their residents of this program.
  - 3) Committee members are cautioned to avoid presenting information to residents as a member.
  - 4) The program is expected to allow 1 tree/property/year.
- d. Training by Colorado Intergovernmental Risk Sharing Agency (CIRSA)
  - 1) An action proposed at training was for BTAC committee members to have a town email address.
  - 2) Microsoft Outlook is the program used by the city for emails.
  - 3) Liability will be less for committee members to use this email vs. personal emails.
- e. Arboretum Update
  - 1) Jan 13, Construction Documents (CD) invitation to bid.
  - 2) Mar 17, pre-bid conference.
  - 3) Apr 7, bids in hand for review.
  - 4) Apr 14, expected recommendation will be made to the Board.
  - 5) May 4, possible date for contract award.
  - 6) Paul was asked by Sean to send 100% CD's to committee members.
  - 7) Questions or concerns about the design can be sent to Paul for forwarding, no later than Mar 16.
- f. Paul reviewed several trees scheduled for repair or removal
  - 1) Roberts Lake park, there is an old crabapple that has not done well, scheduled for R&R.
  - 2) Nebraska Ave east of S. 5<sup>th</sup> St, four locust in grass strip will be R&R. It was suggested new tree placement be further away from sidewalk.

**5. Discussion Items per agenda:**

- a. Committee Goals for 2026
  - 1) Public comment – none
  - 2) Paul was asking for help to work on Growth Awards.
  - 3) Randy volunteered to create spreadsheet of salient points for tracking progress.
  - 4) Natalie asked about possible paid internships for Forestry Dept.
  - 5) Paul elaborated on donation of large logs and stumps to Bio Char and benefits.
  - 6) Sean is attempting to get funding for an educational test program.
- b. Arbor Day Poster Contest 2026
  - 1) Public comment – none
  - 2) Paul is looking for a theme for this years contest.
  - 3) Randy suggested “Trees and their different colors”.
  - 4) Another suggestion was “Trees and their bark”
  - 5) Paul will present contest to 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> graders no later than the end of March.
  - 6) Kathy offered to check the books at the library for topics on trees for contest.
- c. Arbor Day 2026 Planning
  - 1) Public comment – none
  - 2) Arbor Day event is set for Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup>.
  - 3) Location still TBD.
    - a) Roberts Lake Park is one possibility, 2<sup>nd</sup> choice.
    - b) Town Park sidewalk west of Ivy playground is preferred location. Paul to start UG locates.
    - c) School has asked that there not be flowering trees next to playground due to allergies and attraction of bee’s and other insects. Tree types still to be chosen.
    - d) Alternate prize for contest winners proposed as tickets to Botanical Gardens.
    - e) Kathy will contact Alison to get date on Master Gardener calendar.

**Action Items:**

1. Randy to prepare spreadsheet summarizing information on Growth Awards website.
2. Committee to prepare a statement by next meeting in support of Arboretum.
3. Kathy is to check at the library for books on trees with good information or hints for contest.

**6. Staff Report:**

- a. Paul provided a quick update on staff completed and ongoing work.
  - 1) STEM night was a great success. Thanks to all that attended and helped.
  - 2) Crew took down the holiday lights. Also removed hanging broken branch in same area.
  - 3) Scheduled removal of Russian Olive in No-Man’s Land behind homes along Canyonlands.
  - 4) Crew attended ProGreen Industry Expo.
  - 5) Winter “appeal” removed from downtown pots; replaced by Summer plants.
  - 6) In town park, Paul is getting quotes to repair large, old Ash tree with large split.
  - 7) Tree’s removed from ditch at 1<sup>st</sup> Street & county road to improve sight lines.

**7. Adjourn:**

- Rick adjourned the meeting at 7:27 P.M. on the 23<sup>rd</sup> day of February 2026.

Next meeting is scheduled for **Monday, March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2026, at 5:30 pm**

Signature:

  
for BTAC 3/18/26