

BERTHOUD TREE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

August 2023 Meeting Minutes

1. Call to order:

Randy Niece called the meeting to order at 5:09 P.M. on Monday, August 21st, 2023, when a quorum was established.

2. Roll Call:

1. Toni Baker – Chair – attend via Zoom at 5:09pm
2. Amy Lentz – Vice Chair – absent
3. Randy Niece – Secretary – present
4. Joe Nesvara – absent
5. Lynn Larsen – present
6. Kathy Mitchell – present
7. Hannah Daniels – absent

Quorum - 4/7 either in attendance or via Zoom

- Sean Murphy – Town Liaison – absent
- Paul Furnas – Town Forester & Open Space Supervisor – present

3. Approval of Minutes from July 2023 Meeting:

- Lynn asked about the editor note. Randy provided clarification and amendment was agreed.
- Motion for approval as amended made by Lynn; seconded by Kathy. Approved by all.

4. Public Comment – Non agenda items:

- a. Paul requested this time to comment on the Town Park tree removal.
 - 1) The original plan was to demolish 11 of the existing trees. Paul worked with the construction team to reduce this to 7 trees.
 - i. Two honey locust trees that are “trapped” in the parking area and are not doing well.
 - ii. One hackberry that is in the same condition and not expected to survive.
 - iii. Three large cottonwoods in the interior of the park that have lost branches during recent storm.
 - iv. One hackberry in the park that is also having problems and may be at the end of its life.
 - 2) Paul showed pictures of the three cottonwoods that appear to have reached the end of their 50-70 expected life span and have diseases.
 - 3) The recent broken branches and possibility of future breakage over the playground area raise safety concerns for users of the future park.
- b. Lynn announced that he was requested to make an annual report to the Board of Trustee’s Tuesday night, August 22.
 - 1) The presentation was quickly reviewed, and all agreed it correctly represented the year 2022.
 - 2) Paul will be attending the meeting with Lynn to support the presentation and to answer questions that are expected to arise regarding the town park.

5. Discussion Items:

- a. Volunteers for Oktoberfest or other Fall & Winter events
 - 1) Paul believes the date of this event is Saturday, October 7. This needs to be confirmed.
 - 2) Kathy will contact the Master Gardeners leader to ask for participation again.
 - 3) Kathy volunteered to attend. Still looking for others.
 - 4) Tree Lighting at Christmas will need to be discussed in future meetings. The town cannot sponsor a float for the parade, this would have to be done by committee members or residents.

b. Tree City USA Growth Awards

- a) Paul is asking the committee for assistance with applying for this award.
- b) He had sent out the list of eligible activities for the committee to review.
- c) Joe had been the only one to respond. Spend time reviewing some of the “low-hanging fruit” to get the 10 points needed.
- d) Paul expects to get 5 points for the Added Credentials that were earned by himself and his technician.
- e) Time frame for submission should open in September and close in January.
- f) It is important to collect documentation for this submission.

Public Comment:

- a) Anne Schaefer (548 8th Street, Berthoud)
 - i. She was suggesting that schools and certain classes could participate in planting a tree. That was all kids in that class could grow up watching that tree grow with them.
 1. Paul pointed out that school property is governed by the Thompson School District and if the city planted a tree on school property, the maintenance staff would be responsible for caring for it. While a good idea, he does not feel this is workable.
 - ii. Anne also suggested that families could plant memorial trees.
 1. Paul offered that there had been a program like this, but it is currently on hold.
 2. When done in the past, it put undue pressure on the maintenance crews to make sure that the tree was well maintained.

6. Staff Report:

- a. Paul provided update:
 - 1) The extreme heat has presented challenging working conditions for the crew.
 - 2) His crew has been pruning trees down main street. The 14-foot clearance requirement is still hitting some delivery trucks and they have been pushing this clearance up when needed.
 - 3) There have been three large stumps (2-Elm, 1-Spruce) ground down at the cemetery, hopefully to make way for the planting of a new tree in that location.
 - 4) The branch pile that has been gathered all summer was run through the chipper.
 - 5) The August 2nd storm caused quite a bit of damage and limb loss throughout the town.
 - 6) At the Heron Lakes Conservation Easement (near rookery), noxious trees have been cut down and removed. Russian Olive and Tamarack.
 - 7) His crew has been working to help get the new Bike Park opened.
 - 8) The crew has only planted three trees this year compared with 100 last year. They are working on getting dead ones replaced this fall.

7. Adjourn:

- Randy adjourned the meeting at 6:05 P.M. on the 21st day of August 2023.

Next meeting is scheduled for **Monday, September 18th, 2023, at 5:00 pm.**

Signature:


Randy R. Niece
for the BTAC

10/17/23