

BERTHOUD TREE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

January 2024 Meeting Minutes

1. Call to order:

Kathy Mitchell called the meeting to order at 5:00 P.M. on Monday, January 22nd, 2024.

2. Roll Call:

1. Kathy Mitchell – Chair – present
 2. Lynn Larsen – Vice Chair – present
 3. Randy Niece – Secretary – present
 4. Toni Baker – attend via Zoom
 5. Hannah Daniels – attend via Zoom
 6. Richard (Rick) Kurcab – present
 7. Amy Lentz – attend via Zoom
- Quorum - 7/7 either in attendance or via Zoom
- Sean Murphy – Town Liaison – present
 - Paul Furnas – Town Forester & Open Space Supervisor – present

3. Approval of Minutes from December 2023 Meeting:

- Motion for approval made by Randy; seconded by Toni. Approved by all.

4. Public Comment or Non agenda items:

- a. None

5. Discussion Items:

- a. Start plans for 2024 Arbor Day celebrations
 - 1) Action needed to decide on a location. Suggestions as follows. Looking for input.
 - a) Roberts Lake. May need to dig a test hole in spring to determine water level. May be reason three trees in NE corner are doing well.
 - b) Bien Park where tree had been removed.
 - c) Pioneer Park. Lynn suggested new areas of the park. Sean clarified those belong to the adjacent neighborhoods and not eligible for city furnished tree.
 - d) Berthoud Bike Park. Near parking lot. Problem here is water has to be tanked in.
 - e) Skate Park downtown.
 - 2) Arbor Day is officially the last Friday of April. This year April 26. Propose having event on Saturday, April 27.
 - 3) We will need to decide on what varieties to plant. Some suggestions:
 - a) Bur Oak
 - b) Bald Cypress
 - c) Bulletproof Bur Oak suggested.
 - 4) Paul would like more outreach to local schools. Poster contest for K-5 has been used in the past.
 - 5) Members to think of location and tree variety to vote on at next meeting.
- b. 2024 Pruning Schedule
 - 1) Will include trees in the new town park once construction is done.
 - 2) Paul considering 5-year rotation, similar to EAB treatments.
 - 3) This covers mostly larger trees that have to be done by contractors.
 - 4) Randy suggested adding Young Tree Pruning Class to Arbor Day activities given the large number of new trees being planted in town.
 - 5) Question was raised about whether Berthoud had a landscaping group.
 - 6) Rick brought up the concern of liability of large trees falling. Thought to be homeowner.

c. 2024 Growth Award opportunities

- 1) Website available at <https://www.arboday.org/programs/treecityusa/growth-award/>
- 2) Application is due next month.
- 3) Paul asking the committee to help him research and apply for eligible credits.
- 4) We need 10 points this year to get the award.
- 5) Example: C.3 Risk Management Policy. When large 30" tree fell NW of Fickel Park, there were no plans in place to address how best to deal with removal. Paul handled after seeing it while driving home. Loader brought in from Parks dept. to move cut tree out of roadway.
 - a) Could prepare single issue plans, such as how to respond to a tree fall or IPS beetle incursion.
 - b) Would not have to present it to the town Board of Trustees for approval; more as an informational presentation.

d. New Item: Berthoud Arboretum design

- 1) Paul shared the latest design update from PORT meeting.
- 2) Sean added that plans are available on the town website and will be discussed at this Tuesday Board meeting.
- 3) A survey was taken of 350 residents and the responses were mostly positive.
- 4) It is possible that the north end development of the new park will be delayed beyond the opening of the south 2/3 of the property. Includes the nursery, planting boxes and pavilion.
- 5) Thompson School District and the Turner Middle School property has an easement for waterline running W-E thru the site that must be kept clear. They have also asked for access to the property west of the track for farm equipment to clear field periodically.
- 6) Lynn suggested the planting boxes could use a "British allotment" system to allow apartment and townhome dwellers to "own" a box for their members to use and care for.

6. Staff Report:

a. Paul provided update:

- 1) The forestry team had a shredding day for branches at the cemetery.
- 2) Spent a lot of time watering trees at town park in construction area.
- 3) Upcoming: trees overhanging alleyway between 3rd & 4th Streets for sewer upgrade project.
- 4) Continued snow removal as necessary.
- 5) Planted a new tree at the Bike Park using large spade machine. Horse chestnut was removed from the town park and moved out near the 5 new spruces planted last month.
- 6) Paul and his technician are making plans for 2024 season and ordering new equipment.
- 7) Randy commented that in Hillsdale Park, Russian Olive trees appear to be coming back at cut trunks. Paul is aware of this in multiple locations and will continue to remove until the trees are finally dead.
- 8) Sean asked about an update on the cost sharing program. Paul said he is still working on this but has a draft version with the Park staff for review.

7. Adjourn:

- Kathy adjourned the meeting at 6:46 P.M. on the 22nd day of January 2024.

Next meeting is scheduled for **Monday, February 12th, 2024, at 5:00 pm** which is the 2nd Monday of the month to avoid conflict with Presidents Day holiday on the 3rd Monday.

Signature:

 02/13/24