

Hurricane City Tree Board minutes 9/9/15

The Hurricane City Tree Board met on Wednesday, Sept 9, 2015 at 4:30 p.m. in the City Hall East Conference Room located at 147 North 870 West, Hurricane, UT 84737.

Welcome/Call to order: The meeting was called to order by Devin Ruesch at 4:30 p.m. Devin Ruesch offered a prayer.

Members Present: Devin Ruesch and Wayne Shamo

Members Excused: Butch Farnsworth and Rebecca Bronneman

Staff Present: City Council Representative Darin Thomas and Assistant Planner Cindy Beteag

Approval of minutes: Devin Ruesch stated Chad Slaugh's name was spelled incorrectly. Devin Ruesch motioned to approve February 9, 2015 minutes with the correction. Wayne Shamo seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Review of Tree Board mission. Devin Ruesch read the Tree Board Mission.

Wayne: Report on Arbor Day: Wayne Shamo stated there were a lot of people present and a good involvement in the Honor's assembly. He stated several trees were planted. The Middle School principal expressed regret the students didn't have time to get involved because of the renovations underway at the school. Devin Ruesch stated it is a good program and he would like to get all schools involved. Mr. Shamo asked if the High School would hold Arbor Day next year. Mr. Ruesch stated he would like to give the High School a chance but he thinks an event to involve all the schools would be the best. He mentioned other cities hold it as an event and involve the whole community.

Darin Thomas: City Council update: No new updates.

Daniel Allen, Utah State Urban and Community Forester: Using tree inventory software—(on speaker phone) Daniel Allen apologized for not being able to be at the meeting in person. He stated he is an Urban and Community Forester covering the five southwest counties including; Beaver, Iron, Kane, Garfield, and Washington. He works for the Department of Natural Resources in the Division of Forestry Fire and State Land. He explained his job is an extension to the State by providing support to the communities and assistance in developing and maintaining their Urban Forest. He explained the ways he can help are by providing technical assistance, assistance in public outreach, and help in completing a tree inventory. He asked if Hurricane had a current inventory. Devin Ruesch stated they have one but it isn't maintained very well. Mr. Allen stated there have been some updates to the inventory program that have made it more user friendly. Mr. Ruesch explained the tree inventory system is a satellite GIS system that has all trees in the City geography located. Mr. Allen stated it is more than a map of tree locations. It keeps track of tree inventory, size, location where it's planted, condition, signs of problems, and if the tree is potentially hazardous. He stated it is a very powerful tool. All the information can be put into a spreadsheet to help find the hazardous trees or sort and identify the conditions and types of trees in the community. Mr. Ruesch invited Mr. Allen to come do a workshop and go over how the program works.

Devin Ruesch: Commercial Trees: Devin Ruesch explained the Tree Board has separated Hurricane's Urban Forest into three categories; private, public, and commercial. He stated they

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are unsure what category the school trees belong to. Daniel Allen stated if there are only three categories he would put them in commercial. Mr. Ruesch mentioned there is also State Parks that haven't been included. He stated they have done some creative thinking in ways to deal with problems and how to plan ahead. Mr. Allen stated a properly located tree can save on energy costs. Mr. Ruesch stated they will hold a meeting next month with Mr. Allen and try to get the City employees that are involved with trees to attend.

Wayne Shamo stated he has two major trees in his property that have power lines running right through them. He stated when the City moved the road the trees weren't that big but they have grown over the years. He expressed the need to have a closer relationship between government and residents when changes are made on personal property. Mr. Ruesch stated the City prunes the trees by his yard without telling him first. He stated he knows they are doing their job the best they can. Mr. Shamo suggested more communication with residents before trees are trimmed. Darin Thomas mentioned the City doesn't trim the trees. It is contracted out.

Meeting adjourned at 5:06 p.m.