

ARBORETUM COMMITTEE MINUTES

Wednesday, April 3, 2024, 7-9 pm, Penn Place

Attending: committee members -- Sean Conlan, Jim Sullivan, Jane McClintock, Lizzie Glidden-Boyle, Malcolm Russell-Einhorn, Charlie Andrews; Town Arborist – Phil Normandy; Town Council Liaison – Gerilee Bennett

Executive Summary: The April meeting was brief but packed with examples of the work the committee has been doing. Spring planting will begin soon (trees should arrive this week). The town is tackling a variety of invasive species around town using a mixture of external contractors and the town crew; examples include knotweed, bush honeysuckle, porcelain berry and vines. The committee is also working with the town office to plan plantings and celebrations for three tribute trees. Finally, the annual Spring tree walk has been scheduled for May 26.

Topic	Action Item
December 2023 and February 2024 minutes approval. Approved unanimously	Sean will send final minutes to archive
No Resident issues	
Updates from the chair <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The budget recommendations from the Arboretum committee were incorporated in the town budget to be introduced on Monday • The town office is working on the logistics to celebrate the planting of tribute trees for Ted Pratt and Gene Swearigen. The tribute tree for Yi-Chen is waiting on feedback from the nursery school. 	Gerilee and Jane are going to collect information for remembrances of Ted Pratt and Gene Swearigen Gerilee will close the loop with the office about Yi Chen’s tree
Updates from the town arborist (Phil Normandy): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WSSC recently cut a sawtooth oak down on Strathmore since it was growing into a sewer line • Yeandle Grove invasives removed by Empire (bamboo and trees) and the town (shrubs). Follow up, including a bamboo barrier, planned • Empire started invasive removals in Cambria park • The MOU between the state and town to allow town management of streetside trees on Strathmore is progressing. Hoping to have it in time to do pruning with FY2024 money. • Trees for the spring planting will be arriving in the pool parking lot soon, incl. redbuds (natives) and dogwoods. 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Phil completed an assessment of trees on the pool property in association with a new leasing agreement with the town. Estimates ~\$20k of work and \$7-8k in removals. 	
Tree walk, led by Phil, will be May 26 at 1pm. Meeting at Penn place.	<p>Lizzie will take care of signage</p> <p>Sean will send an email to the listserv</p>
<p>Invasives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knotweed treatments in Cambria have begun, likely a multiyear process Incremental progress on bush honeysuckle around town as the crew has time Jane mentioned that she spotted leatherleaf mahonia “escapees” in nearby parks and wondered whether the town should remove some that is planted near the town sign. The original rationale was that it was deer-proof but Phil agreed that it could be replaced. 	Phil will ask the town about removing the leatherleaf mahonia
The committee discussed the meeting schedule for the rest of the year and made some changes to the chair’s suggested meeting dates.	Sean will share an updated 2024 meeting schedule
Adjourned 8:25p, next meeting May 15	

Abbrev.

CAP=Comprehensive Arboretum Plan
 GPCAN=Garrett Park Climate Action Network
 MOU=Memorandum of Understanding
 LUAC=Land Use Advisory Committee

POSCO=Parks and Open Spaces Committee
 SHA=State Highway Administration
 SOW=Statement of Work