



Minutes of the  
URBAN FORESTRY COMMISSION MEETING  
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2023

Members Present: Bob Brantsch, John Berg, Andy Boateng, Jeff Napieralski, Mike Rauh, Jeff Saltzman

Members Absent: Laura Root

Staff Present: Jill A. Janson, Secretary

CALL TO ORDER – Mr. Brantsch called the meeting of the Urban Forestry Commission to order at 3:35 p.m.

ROLL CALL – Ms. Janson called the roll.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

VISITOR RECOGNITION – Jaime Syx, Law Director & Drew Reilly, Deputy Law Director

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Mr. Rauh made a motion to approve the minutes from the January 9, 2023 meeting. MOTION PASSED

NEW BUSINESS:

- Law Presentation – Ms. Syx introduced herself and Drew Reilly to the Commission and gave an overview of the reasoning for conducting this particular training to all Boards and Commissions of the City. She presented a PowerPoint (attached) which provided instructions and guidelines on Public Records and the Open Meetings Act. After a brief discussion concerning City Council's recommendation that all Boards and Commissions conduct visual recordings and live-stream their meetings, she suggested that the Commission make an official vote on whether they wished to continue to conduct their meetings as they have been or to pursue live-streaming their meetings. Mike Rauh made a motion that the Commission will maintain the same schedule as in the past, unless a future decision is made by the Commission to change any component of the meeting, seconded by Jeff Napieralski. MOTION CARRIED. The Commission thanked Ms. Syx and Mr. Reilly for attending and providing this information.
- Community Business Expo – Ms. Janson read an update of the Expo provided by Sue Mottl (attached). Mr. Brantsch suggested that we proceed in having a demonstration on proper mulching/tree planting. Ms. Janson stated that a volunteer is needed for the 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. slot on March 11<sup>th</sup> if any members are available and interested. Ms. Mottl will be at the booth the entire time from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- Bakers Glen Tree Planting – Ms. Syx spoke to the Commission on her recent opinion rendered regarding the tree planting in this development. She stated that since Pulte Homes defaulted on this project, the funds in the Tree Trust for this project now belong to the City to use for any tree planting project(s) within the City. It was Ms. Syx understanding that a letter would be sent to all residents giving them an opportunity to “opt-in” to have a free tree planted by the City. Ms. Janson reported that letters were mailed last week and residents were already calling in to provide their response. She asked Ms. Syx if the tree species had to be the same as the one indicated on the site plan since many residents are stating that the size of the proposed tree grows too large for their liking. Ms. Syx said that we could divert from the original tree assignment since Pulte defaulted and plant a different species of tree. Ms. Janson said the deadline for residents to opt-in is February 28, 2023.
- Commission Presentation to Public Improvement Committee – Ms. Janson confirmed that the Commission’s presentation is first on the Committee’s agenda for this Thursday, February 9<sup>th</sup>. The meeting starts at 5:30 p.m. in City Council Chambers and fifteen (15) minutes has been allotted for this presentation.

OTHER BUSINESS:

- North Coast Urban Forestry Conference – Ms. Janson told the Commission that she confirmed with City Administration that members would need to register and pay the cost for this Conference. She will send the agenda/registration packet out to members via email tomorrow.

STOW SENTRY NEWS ARTICLES –

**February:** Fruit Tree Update – Mike Rauh  
**March:** Proper Mulching – Sue Mottl  
**April:** Tree Festival/Arbor Day – Staff

NEXT MEETING: March 13, 2023

ADJOURNMENT – With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

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Bob Brantsch, Chairman

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Jill Janson, Secretary