

Pendleton Urban Forestry Committee

Meeting Minutes

Pendleton Town Hall
June 11, 2019

1. Special Meeting Called to Order

- Special meeting called to order by President Taylor Metz

The committee members had a lengthy discussion about their personal experiences with the tornado and Town recovery. Isbell advised they are currently compiling the bi-centennial book, so if PUF wants something added, now is the time to do it.

2. Roll Call and Determination of Quorum

- Linda Castor
- Kate Edwards
- Jeanette Isbell
- Christi Kelly
- Heidi McClintick
- Taylor Metz

Planning Staff member Rachel Christenson was in attendance.

3. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

- Taylor Metz motioned, seconded by Heidi McClintick, the approval of March 26 2019 meeting minutes. Motion carried.

4. Old Business Discussed

- 2019 Pendleton Arbor Day - April 26 2019
 - o Christenson Google Drive Presentation included several pictures from the tree planting ceremony at Pendleton Elementary School
 - o Second graders came out for the ceremony
 - o My Roots Are In Pendleton pencils were passed out
- 2019 Tree City USA Application - Goals for 2019
 - o A6 Publicity was one of the Potential Goals for the Growth Award.
 - o Christenson reviewed that we have the Town Newsletter now and this committee can do a little blurb in each one. A proposed calendar for blurb entry was provided with each committee member assigned to a specific month.
 - Taylor Metz due June 21st
 - Linda Castor due July 26th
 - Kate Edwards due August 23rd
 - Jeanette Isbell due September 20th
 - Christi Kelly due October 25th
 - Adrienne Dzelme due November 22nd
 - Heidi McClintick due December 20th

- She suggested that we revisit Street Tree Planting project because she believed we would have plenty of items following the tornado that will give us points. No game plan as yet, but no doubt there is plenty PUF will be doing that will satisfy those points.
- She is envisioning a volunteer day where we have people watch how to properly plant a tree, so a training component to it, and that is how they earn their tree for their back yard and then they can plant their tree properly and maybe even report that they planted it as part of our project. We can keep track of how many were planted.
- For any plantings for the park, we will need to work closely with the park. The larger the tree, the more maintenance required, so the park would need to be on board with tree sizes.

5. New Business Discussed -

- Tornado Recovery Efforts
 - Review Visual Assessment Meeting with IDNR – Community & Urban Forestry coordinator on May 31st. Carrie came and drove with Rachel Christenson, Jeff Barger, Paul (GIS mapper) from Council of Governments. Carrie felt we would qualify for a lot of assistance.
 - They found all trees that were damaged, not including the park, just residential data. Over 381 residential trees. Generated a mapping of the damaged areas
 - Carrie is working with the Urban Forest Strike team. They will come and go through an inventory looking at all urban trees, even the park, what level of hazard it is and provide baseline information. Because of our existing tree inventory, we can produce comparative data, including storm water because those trees had collected so much storm water. There might be an opportunity to collect some of the storm water fees after the Town obtains possession of a couple of the Madison County storm drains in town and there might also be opportunity to work with Madison County Soil and Water Conservation District.
 - Carrie wants to use Pendleton as the first training site for an Indiana Strike Team. Carrie is currently the only one that is Strike Team trained in the entire State. She will work with the experienced Michigan Strike Team, but then she will be able to lead the future Indiana Strike Team.
 - Carrie has been in touch with the Arbor Day Foundation already and there are a couple of options. 1) Community Tree Recovery Proposal. We come up with a proposal of what we want to do and then we submit it to the Foundation and then they find corporate partners or other donors whose goals align with ours. 2) Energy Savings Tree Team, where we have our own electric department and we can promote tree planting to our utility customers and show them the best places on their properties to plant trees to support energy savings. We can show, over time, the savings in energy.
 - Carrie has also advised she has earmarked funds for us between \$30,000 and \$40,000 to do updated tree inventory and tree plantings and removals, because of all of the hard work we have done and establishing this relationship with Carrie. There might be a matching component associated with this.
 - Christenson also reported that Nine Star has a couple of programs that could be a good source of funds for tree planting projects. They have one program where their staff comes and does a project. Or another one where they donate money and take that money and put it towards a project.
 - She also advised there is a need for us to get more information to residents in need. She did post a link about certified arborist, ISA has a search option for finding certified arborists.

- Carrie sent over an info sheet from Arbor Day Foundations, what to do with your trees after a storm. Christenson will email it to the commission members. To now she has been directing people to the Community Foundation because they have a list of volunteers there, but not sure of available equipment etc. Carrie will help with some legal questions like whose insurance is responsible if your tree lands on another's property. The Town won't provide legal advice but we can point people in the right directions.
 - Christenson reported that Tractor Supply Corporate wants to do a tree planting event in Falls Park. They want to volunteer help and be very involved. That might be a good kickoff event. Fall will be more appropriate. She will follow up with them. And they are making a donation to South Madison Community Foundation.
 - The Foundation has been extremely helpful following the storm and they have orchestrated the volunteer group and people in need. And we have been directing all monetary donations also to the Foundation. Last heard they were up to \$30,000. McClintick asked if that included the Lilly Endowment and Christenson said it did not, and explained Lilly did not want their name associated with disaster recovery efforts. Christenson wasn't sure how it was all going to work out regarding a match.
 - Christenson felt the next PUF meeting would be the real meeting allowing us to split up assignments and have teams or individuals working on parts of this.
 - Carrie had advised the Strike Team won't come in until around week six or so after a storm. Then they will have to process the data and then get the data to us. In the interim Christenson tells everyone that the Town is doing their due diligence and trying to make the best decisions moving forward which can take some time.
 - Christenson also advised that Greenfield's Main Street organization said they would donate funds to us for getting "better together" banners made for Pendleton.
 - Edwards shared that New Castle's Mayor and cemetery crew came and mowed our cemetery for us while our field crew was out working on more critical things.
 - Metz added that a deeper sense of community gets fostered when other communities step in. A list of names and the stories behind them, like the people donating chain saws, New Castle mowers, Greenfield Electric, etc. Metz had three strangers show up with chain saws at his property and he doesn't know if he will ever see them again.
 - Isbell said we could write an article for the book for the history section about the tornado recovery volunteers and the stories.
- A special follow up meeting was determined to be Tuesday July 9th at 4:30. The Commission members thanks Rachel Christenson for all she has and is doing. Christenson said she would keep chugging away with Carrie and when she has stuff to delegate she will definitely delegate.
 - Christi Kelly closed by saying she couldn't be more proud to be a part of this and a part of this community.
 - Adrienne Dzelme added that when she spoke with volunteers from Rensselaer who shared with her that recovery work is what they do, but added that Pendleton had been the most organized and the best people to work with.
 - Christenson advised that our relationship with the Park will be important moving forward and she will invite someone from the Park to attend the PUF meetings.
 - Isbell is on the Friends of Falls Park and, as a group, they agreed on two things; Any kind of tree planting, let them know and they will do anything to help, and on the memorial tree program the Friends of Falls Park would like to be involved in that.

7. Next Meeting (Special) - July 9, 2018 (4:30pm)

8. Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 6:00pm.