

Pendleton Urban Forestry Committee

MEETING DATE: March 28, 2024
LOCATION: Pendleton Town Hall
100 W. State Street Pendleton, Indiana
TIME: 6:00 pm

ORDER OF BUSINESS

I. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order by President Carol Hanna at 6:00pm.

II. ROLL CALL AND DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

Board members in attendance were President Carol Hanna, Vice President Jo Scott, Jeanette Isbell, Kerry Dodd, Dr. Kenneth Lau. A quorum was established.

Individual representing the Town was Assistant Planning Director Denise McKee

Others present: Kelly Leddy, representative from 3 Rivers Federal Credit Union

III. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Approval of February 2024 meeting minutes

Motion made by Vice President Jo Scott and seconded by Jeanette Isbell to approve the February 2024 meeting minutes. Vote taken and approved by all; motion carried.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

A. 2023 Tree City USA Award Recognition

Assistant Planning Director Denise McKee reported and provided the following information:

- Town of Pendleton has been awarded and recognized by Arbor Day Foundation as a Tree City USA Community for 2023, making it the 14th year to receive the award
- Summary of the four (4) standards and application details as outlined in the presentation
- Explanation of the comparisons between 2022 and 2023, including program developments and public outreach projects
- Overview of the Town of Pendleton Urban Forestry Management 5-Year Work Plan, for calendar years 2023-2027
- Recognition letter from Arbor Day Foundation as well as the public release statement
- Facebook post will be shared on the Town of Pendleton and the Urban Forestry FB Pages in the near future
- Information will also be shared in the Town's Newsletter and with staff at the Times Post

B. Indiana DNR Arbor Day Poster Contest – Pendleton Intermediate

McKee reported the following information on the schoolwide “Oak Trees: Superheroes of the Forest” Poster Contest as follows: (presentation included sharing of the four (4) top classroom winning posters)

- Schoolwide “Oak Trees: Superheroes of the Forest” Poster Contest
 - Pendleton Intermediate to set Award Presentation in April, TBD
 - Huge thanks to the following Pendleton Intermediate Staff Members
 - 5th Grade Classroom Teachers: Kim Collier, Bethany Beaver, Beth Lanman, Sara Ragan
 - Art Teacher: Kirsten Gray
 - School Principal: Melissa Hagerman
 - 5th Grade Students Award Recognitions
 - 8 Honorable Mention Award Winners: Kendyl Blair, Scarlett Myers, Mila DeShong, Judd Roberts, Wrigley Colson, Jayne Ginther, Brady LeBeau, Abby Buettner
 - 4 Top Classroom Award Winners: Nora Bishop, Izzy McAlarney, Ava Wills, Ameila Purdue
 - Top Schoolwide Award Winner: Nora Bishop
 - Top Schoolwide Winner entered into Indiana DNR, Division of Forestry statewide poster contest March 1st
 - Indiana DNR to select 1st, 2nd & 3rd Place Winners by April 12th
 - Coverage - Facebook (PUFC & Town of Pendleton);Times Post; Town of Pendleton May Newsletter
 - Prizes courtesy of: Community Sports & Wellness, Mystic Waters, 3 Rivers Federal Credit Union, Twisters Soda Bar and Ohanalulu

C. Madison County Stormwater Quality Partnership Earth Day/Arbor Day Project

McKee advised that there was not enough interest from local schools to participate in the Rain Barrell project. Out of 13 community schools, only 2 were able to participate due to timing of Spring Breaks. The MCSQP made decision to wait until the 2025-2026 calendar year to host rain barrel project. McKee reported that the Partnership still planned on participating in the Arbor Day Celebration as hosted by the Anderson Parks and Recreation as did in 2023. McKee invited all Urban Forestry Members to attend as will not only educate the importance of stormwater management, but also how trees vastly benefit the environment in the control of stormwater runoff. McKee share the following details about the program opportunity:

- Event Details
 - Event hosted by Anderson Parks & Recreation
 - Location - Citizens Plaza in Anderson, Indiana
 - Date - Friday, April 26th
 - Time - 11:00 am - 2 pm (time to be confirmed soon)
 - MCSQP Booth to educate the importance of trees and the role they play in stormwater management
 - Materials to be distributed: MCSQP pamphlets, dog poo bags, water bottles, coloring sheets & crayons, and tree/stormwater educational materials
 - Rain Barrel Program - Fall 2024 - Spring 2025
- Hayes Arboretum Visit
 - Owner Stephen Hayes to provide 2-hour personal tour, sharing about the Arboretum, how it was established and how it has grown over the years
 - Morning tour w/ Q & A Session to assist with mini-arboretum preparations
 - May opt as committee to take lunch and extend tour/hike into afternoon
 - Arboretum located in Richmond, Indiana
 - Available Wednesday, June 19th (back-up Wed. options - July 10th, 24th, 31st)

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. Indiana Tree City/Campus Forum – June 4th

Denise McKee reported the Indiana DNR, Division of Forestry extended invite to all Tree City USA recipients, including Town/City Staff and Urban Forestry Committee Members to attend one of the two forums scheduled for this summer. McKee shared the following details:

- Event Details
 - Hosted by Indiana DNR, Division of Forestry
 - Purpose - Acknowledge Indiana Tree City Recipients, learn about local projects and invasive pests and provide opportunity for networking and roundtable discussions among attendees
 - Option #1 - June 4th at Morgan Monroe State Forest Training Center (Martinsville, Indiana from 12:30 pm - 4 pm)
 - Option #2 - July 23rd at McNaughton Park Pavilion (Elkhart, Indiana from 12:30 pm - 4 pm)
 - Town of Pendleton Urban Forestry Committee Members and Staff invited

B. Tree Inventory – Certified Arborist Service 2024

Denise McKee reported the following:

- Tanya Dodson, Certified Arborist - Plant Growth Management
- Year 2/5 = Southeast quadrant of Town boundaries
- Section will complete Park System - Falls Park Golf Course
- Inventory Assessment May 2024 - October 2024

C. Tree Campus K-12 Community

Denise McKee reported that the Town of Pendleton and Urban Forestry Committee wishes to explore the opportunity to become a Tree Campus K-12 Community. McKee further advised that plan is to have initial meeting to introduce the program to the school system at end of 2023-2024 school year or first of 2024-2025 school year. McKee stated that the goal is to develop the program in 2024-2025 school year and to have in place for the 2025-2026 school year. McKee further went on to provide the following details:

- West Lafayette only municipal led Tree Campus K-12 Program in State
- Connected with Bryce Patz, former City Forester for West Lafayette, now AmeriCorps Program Director for Indy Parks Improvements and Beautification Projects
- Offered to meet with Town Staff and PUFM members to share experience and answer questions about the requirements/structure of the program
- Available Thursday, April 11th between 1 pm - 2:30 pm; Virtual option

D. Community Health Network Landscape Plan

McKee shared with the Urban Forestry Members that the Community Health Network recently submitted their landscape plan for approval and that the lot, once developed will provide a beautiful site, full of a variety of beautiful trees and shrubs. McKee stated that this property/service will not only be a great asset to the community, but will look park-like with its diverse selection of trees offering a variety of colors and blooms. McKee also provided the following details about the landscape plan developed by Context, the same landscape company that Falls Park recently hired for its new playground:

- Rezoned to Institutional Zoning District (I) approved by Town Council June 2023
- Currently under Site Development Plan Review by Technical Review Committee

- Variance from Development Standards approved by Board of Zoning Appeals March 2023
- Project to break ground 2024 with grand opening 2025
- Tree canopy, shrubs & landscape planned for perimeter of lot, parking lot perimeter landscape/islands, foundation plantings, detention pond landscape, public right-of-way trees and 3 feet hedges along Enterprise Drive
- Overall approximately 200 trees comprising of approximately 20 different tree species (maximum 10% of each species)
- Tree stock all native to Indiana, maples to be replaced with Ivory Silk Lilac and variety of small-medium-large at maturity as well as both deciduous (93%) & conifers (7%) plus about 20 chokecherry and 475 other shrubs/grasses

E. Denise McKee also shared:

- Pictures, courtesy of President Carol Hanna, of a couple of trees on Franklin Street
- Carol Hanna's great idea for future pruning project, after spring growth season and after flowers/blooms have fallen off the tree
- Committee agreed that pruning these young trees in early fall will be an excellent idea
- McKee further mentioned that Main Street was looking at hosting the Porch Parties Event again this year, with this year's focus on Franklin Street

Members present discussed dates that would work well for their schedule. Members advised that either June 5th, June 12th or June 19th would be good options, with June 12th being the best overall. McKee to communicate these dates with Mr. Hayes to confirm a date/time for the Arboretum visit.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned by President Carol Hanna at 7:15pm

Next meeting April 18, 2024 at 6:00 pm.