

**GREEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMISSION**  
**MEETING MINUTES**

**Meeting Date:** February 1, 2021

**Location:** Zoom Meeting

**Called To Order:** 5:15 p.m.

**Adjourned:** 5:55 p.m.

**Next Meeting Date: Monday, March 1, 2021 5:15 p.m. ZOOM MEETING**

**ROLL CALL:**

NAME	PRESENT	ABSENT
Ann Omura	X	
Annie Russell	X	
Bill Hoss		X
Carrie Coyne, Chairperson		X
Ginger Garrett	X	
Jerry Pinkner	X	
Laura Jordan	X	
Lynnda Greene	X	
Pam Bliss, Council Liaison	X	
Tessa Wasserman	X	
Yvonne Steingrubby, Staff Liaison	X	

+ Michelle Clemens (staff)

A reminder was given to those participating via ZOOM that the meeting was being recorded. Due to Carrie's absence, Tessa agreed to serve as acting chairperson for this meeting.

**Approval of Minutes:**

The January GSAC meeting minutes were approved as amended, with one change noted.

**Old Business:**

**Future Trees of Distinction Program/Public Trees Update:**

Carrie Coyne has been working on a presentation to be given to City Council regarding the proposed changes to the current Trees of Distinction . She is seeking volunteers from the GSAC to review the presentation and that they should email her directly if they are interested. Implementation of the program will require much discussion with the Public Works Department and City Council before it can move forward as a final plan, after first meeting with the City Manager. Several GSAC members expressed interest in looking over the presentation and will email Carrie. (Ann Omura, Annie Russell, Ginger Garrett). It was noted that the City recently hired a full-time arborist for the Street Department so the timing of this new program might be right.

**Bee City USA:**

Tessa informed the GSAC that she recently received an email from Bee City USA indicating they have revised their application process in applying for the program. As a result, she will now have to start over. She can begin the process once Bee City USA approves her access to their website. She hopes to have it finalized by the end of March and the annual fee of \$200 will have to be paid. There is \$300 in the City's budget allocated for GSAC projects but Yvonne cautioned that she did not think the City would agree to pay for this program. They feel the money should go toward some items / programs that show direct benefit to the residents. Ann Omura offered to pay for the Bee City application fee; however, Yvonne indicated that the City would not support the idea of a resident paying the fee and suggested they focus on trying to obtain a grant to cover the fee instead. She noted that we already are a "bee city"

as we meet all the criteria required from that organization. In comparison, Tree City USA is a well-known organization and does not charge for annual accreditation. After discussion, a motion was made to table discussion of the Bee City USA and use the money in the budget for other things that could be of benefit / interest to more people .A comment was made that there are grants available from the Department of Conservation for the possibility of using goats in the City to control the euonymus invasive plants. The goats eat the plants and then the City can go back in to that location and replant with native plants.

### **Webster Tree Walk:**

Tessa updated the commission on the status of the proposed Tree Walk at Larson Park. Mark Halpin of Forest ReLeaf has agreed to host the walk on either February 20<sup>th</sup> or 27<sup>th</sup>. A maximum of 15 people will be allowed for social distancing and masks are required. The time is to be determined but Tessa will keep the GSAC informed as to all the details. This walk, which will identify and discuss the various park trees, can be promoted on Green Keepers, the City's website and Facebook. If all goes well we can plan another walk at a different park in the future. Those interested in participating can sign up through the Deer Creek Alliance Green Keepers. Lynnda Greene has spoken with the Webster-Kirkwood Times and they are willing to work with the GSAC to promote various programs. We do have to be aware of their deadlines, however, and it is too late to include this upcoming event. She will be sure to forward the walk information details to them, once they become available as they might be interested to doing an article on the program.

### **Arbor Day Planning:**

This event will take place at Blackburn Park on Tuesday, April 27, 2021. The program will begin at 5:30 pm. It will include the planting of 200 trees in recognition of Missouri's Bicentennial and include the Trees of Distinction and Tree Steward awards. The 2020 winners will be carried over to this year. Tree planting will begin by 3:00 pm and GSAC members were encouraged to help out. Ginger will take care of having Scouts in attendance for the flag ceremony. Other program highlights will include the Mayoral Proclamation for Tree City USA and possible tree give-aways if we are able to obtain them from Forest ReLeaf.

### **SG Collaborative Potential Meeting:**

Tessa indicated that Carrie has reached out to SG Collaborative to express the GSAC's interest in meeting with them regarding the proposed redevelopment plan near Shady Creek. The plan has not been presented to the Planning Commission so there has not been any public input requested yet. Development Strategies is handling the impact study (economic, school, environmental). The plan is still very much in the beginning stages and has not been reviewed or discussed by the City Council yet. The GSAC will be notified when a ZOOM meeting has been setup with SG Collaborative so they can participate. There is preliminary information on SG Collaborative's website that the GSAC can view and come to the ZOOM meeting with any questions.

### **Council Updates: Pam Bliss**

Council is still waiting on numbers from the impact study regarding the redevelopment process. Nothing is defined or decided at this point and things are very preliminary. Council will also be a considering a new ordinance allowing use of golf carts in the City within certain criteria.

### **Staff: Yvonne Steingrubby**

The Sierra Club has asked that she put together a honeysuckle sweep day potentially in March.

**NEXT MEETING:** Monday, March 1, 2021 5:15 p.m.

**ZOOM MEETING**

### **ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting adjourned at 5:55 p.m.