

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

**Meeting Date:** March 1, 2021  
**Location:** Zoom Meeting  
**Called To Order:** 5:07 p.m.  
**Adjourned:** 6:25 p.m.  
**Next Meeting Date:** Monday, April 5, 2021      **5:15 p.m. ZOOM MEETING**

**ROLL CALL:**

<b>NAME</b>	<b>PRESENT</b>	<b>ABSENT</b>
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.

**Approval of Minutes:**

The minutes from the two February GSAC meetings (February 1 and February 16) were approved as written.

**Old Business:**

**GSAC / SG Collaborative Meeting Recap:**

On February 16<sup>th</sup>, a ZOOM meeting was held with the GSAC and representatives from SG Collaborative regarding the Douglass Hill Development Proposal. A recording of the meeting was sent to GSAC members who could not attend.

The link to that meeting is <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KEO6HOKQRnE>

Council Person Pam Bliss mentioned that she just received information regarding the impact study that is being put together by Development Strategies. Once the report is complete, it will be reviewed by City Council and then by the Planning Commission. The Planning Commission will send to Council their recommendations on the project. The report should be completed by April and she hopes to have more information at the next GSAC meeting.

**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 Program. She should have something ready by the next meeting. Lynnda Greene mentioned she has talked to contacts at the Webster-Kirkwood Times regarding promoting the program when it's been finalized. It was suggested that Carrie update City Council on all the GSAC projects (past and present) when she presents the Trees of Distinction Program.

### **Webster Tree Walk:**

It was agreed that the Tree Walk at Larson Park in February went very well. Mark Halpin of Forest ReLeaf hosted the walk and did a great job. Participants indicated they would have an interest in attending future tree walks if they are offered. Tessa will check with Mark regarding his availability this spring or summer. Options could be to do the same walk/park in different seasons or choose a different park for each walk.

If Mark is not available, discussion was held as to whether we could charge a fee for those participating and then be able to pay for a speaker / guide. Registrations can be taken through the City's website and fees could be assessed if that is what is needed. The registration system also can be setup to only allow residents to register, as well as limit the number of registrations. This will help with social distancing. It was agreed that only residents would be allowed to sign up at this time. When the pandemic further eases gathering restrictions, we could open it up to non-residents at a future date.

It was agreed that we will include a tree walk with the Arbor Day event. The walk-through Blackburn Park will take place at the end of the ceremonies. Carrie will ask Mark Gruber if he is available to host the walk.

### **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 (prior to the ceremony) in recognition of Missouri's Bicentennial and the presentation of the Trees of Distinction and Tree Steward awards. The 2020 winners have been 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. Following the ceremony, there will be a Tree Walk through the park. Carrie will put together a flyer for the event and let Tessa know if Mark Gruber is available for the tree walk.

### **Douglass Hill Development:**

Since City Council has not seen or given any endorsement of a development plan, there is little to discuss in detail until a direction is given by Council. They are currently waiting on the feasibility and sustainability study. Carrie mentioned that the MO Department of Conservation has developed a manual to assist cities preserve wild life areas while still developing new areas. The manual includes planning tools that cities can utilize to minimize impact on wild life and green space. She will send the GSAC members a link to the manual so they can look it over. Carrie suggested that the author of the manual could be invited to speak at the next GSAC meeting about how we can involve the City in preservation and to emphasize the value of wild life and green spaces. There was a recent study done and documentary made that includes three areas in Webster Groves and the wild life in those areas. One of these areas is the Shady Creek area, near the proposed development. Carrie said that we need to be an advocate for things we know exist but are not being talked about. She has seen developments that have included preservation and conservation with success. She will contact the author of the manual and invite her to the next meeting.

### **Volunteer Projects:**

- There will be a honeysuckle removal day along Shady Creek on March 13<sup>th</sup>.
- Yvonne mentioned that it would be a good idea if the GSAC can develop a preferred list of plantings for developers to reference when planting a landscape, etc. The emphasis should be on native plantings. The list could include links to various sites as Bring Conservation Home

and Grow Native. The GSAC was asked to look at various sites, such as the Botanical Garden, to see what their preferred list looks like. This could be discussed further at a future meeting.

- Tessa Wasserman mentioned she had recently attended a MODOT webinar regarding their new program to promote native plantings. She suggested it might be nice if the GSAC could “adopt” an area and install native plantings. There is no cost to pursue this as everything is furnished through the program. She will try to send the GSAC the link to the webinar. This could be a beautification project the GSAC might want to pursue in the future.

**Grant Opportunity Discussion:**

The GSAC should always be on the look-out for various grant opportunities that could potentially fund things such as Bee City, USA, speakers for walks and seminars, etc. After discussion, it was agreed that the GSAC will request \$400 in the City’s new budget to cover other expenses such as July 4<sup>th</sup> parade candy, a speaker, etc.

**Staff Updates: Yvonne Steingrubby**

- The Parks Department will be doing a prairie burn at Lockwood Park soon
- Other projects include renovating the walking trail at Blackburn Park by replacing the asphalt with concrete

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

**ZOOM MEETING**

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.