

WEBSTER GROVES GREEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMISSION

MEETING MINUTES

Date: October 4, 2021
Location: City Hall
Called to Order: 5:30 p.m.
Adjourned: 6:30 p.m.
Next Meeting Date: November 9, 2021, 5:30 p.m. Council meeting room

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

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Approval of minutes

- IV. Old Business:

A. Carrie Coyne (chair) announced that she has arranged to have the Deer Creek Watershed Alliance’s Technical Advisory Committee meet with SG Collaborative reps to review and analyze potential problems in their proposed Douglass Hill Development. The DCWA-TAC—which includes representatives from government agencies, consulting firms, and non-profit organizations with technical expertise relevant to issues concerning to us—will meet with Phil Hulse on October 28th. The meeting will be virtual, and only Carrie, a member of the TAC, and Council member Pam Bliss will take part. However, the meeting will be video-recorded and made available to GSAC members shortly thereafter.

*At the time of this writing, GSAC had not yet learned that the City Council has asked GSAC to submit our assessment of the project to them by November 9th.

Carrie has since notified the commission that she'd like each member to submit a summation of their thoughts to her by November 3rd. She will then refine/edit these responses into a summary document, and submit to the Council.

- B.** Trees of Distinction Tree Renewal Program Update. Carrie asked members to consider whether we should plan to continue our long tradition of recognizing a local "Tree of Distinction" with an award for certain outstanding characteristics such as age, condition, species, or unusual structure. All members indicated they feel the program is worthwhile and should continue, and discussed how we might better solicit the public's help in nominating trees for consideration. Tessa Wasserman suggested we might broaden qualifying categories to include innovative use of a native species—or a group of several trees--in an attractive landscape setting, etc. Historically, these special trees are either public or residential. Homeowners or caretakers are awarded a certificate of distinction at the annual Arbor Day Celebration each April. Pam Bliss suggested we make an effort to involve more of the outlying neighborhoods, particularly Northwest Webster. Other suggestions included advertising the program on the city's monthly "Friday" page of the Webster-Kirkwood Times, and soliciting suggestions for such trees from the various tree care companies that regularly work in Webster.
- C.** Mayors for Monarchs Pledge. Little to update. Jerry Pinkner reiterated Mayor Welch's intention to officially launch the program locally on December 21st. She has previously indicated she wants to work with GSAC early in the new year to help design specific projects, to include pocket gardens in public spaces, and hosting at least public education event to explain and promote both the program, and to educate residents about the importance of pollinator/habitat support.
- D.** Tree City Luncheon, to be held on October 8th, will be attended by Annie Russell, Laura Jordan, Carrie Coyne, and Tessa Wasserman.

V. New Business

- A.** Update on partnership with Webster Groves Public Library. Lynnda Greene reported that the library is now open in the evenings again, and thus able to host gatherings in the Meeting Room, which seats 40 people. Members discussed possible educational talk topics GSAC might offer through the winter into spring, in support of the Trees of Distinction Replacement Program the Council has recently approved—as well as the Mayors for Monarchs program. Ideally, members indicated they'd like to host a talk in January, February and March. Possible topics and speakers discussed include Victoria Hatfield, on native pollinator support plants in January, and a local tree specialist/arborist on residential tree selection, care, troubleshooting, etc. Lynnda will work with the

library's Debbie Ladd over the next two months to determine possible dates. Carrie will approach potential speakers.

- B. Make A Difference Day, October 23rd. Green Keepers activities will include a Stream Team Trash Bash at Lorraine Davis Park, tree planting in Larson Park, and seed collection and processing (to be included in the library's new Seed Exchange) at Larson Park, Lorraine Davis and Lockwood Parks. Jeremiah of the Parks Department staff, will help organize and oversee seed collecting volunteers.

VI. New Business

- A. Carrie presented a few more detailed plans for the Trees of Distinction Replacement Program. She'd like to plant between 75 and 100 trees the first year, purchased from area suppliers yet to be selected. Members discussed announcing the program in local media and soliciting applications from qualifying residents. Carrie is unsure how many would be selected as first receivers from this pool, or by what criteria. She also discussed the need to train volunteers, arrange for tools/supplies and schedule routine first year care—all of which we need to firm up early in 2022.
- B. Council: Council member Pam Bliss reported on several issues.
 - a.) The Council will host a "listening session" with SG Collaborative concerning the Douglass Hill proposal. The public will be able to express their opinions about the development at a later meeting scheduled for November 19th.
 - b.) The Council will hold a strategy session during its annual Council Retreat on October 15th.
 - c.) The Public Works Department is now offering free woodchips and firewood to residents at the Public Works depot on Waymire Avenue.
 - d.) The Council has hired Gloria Carter Hicks, of Hicks-Carter-Hicks Ltd, to conduct a community opinion/satisfaction survey in 2022.
- C. Staff: Yvonne Steingrubby elaborated on the availability of firewood and chips. The next GSAC meeting will be on Tuesday, **November 9th, at 5:15** in the City Council conference room.

VII. Adjournment 6:30 p.m.