

Urban Forest Board meeting minutes January 2022

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Bruce at 1:06 PM. Members present were Bruce, Phil, Sharon, Linda, and Charlie constituting a quorum. Matt and Kriss were excused. Arborist Trevor Peterson was out with Covid. Kelly McClosky, a student, was also in attendance.

Minutes for our last meeting in November of 2021 were reviewed and approved by motion of the board.

Treasurer Charlie presented the financial report and the audit report for the year 2021. We have spent the \$3000 given to us by the Council of Commissioners, via the economic development levy, for 10 tree grates which have been built and installed. We have \$3000 left in the tree grate fund as a result of donations from Mainstreet Uptown, NWE, several banks, a Kiwanis club and a couple of individuals. There is still some money in the Dewey Street area fund, and in our undesignated fund. The \$500 donation by board member Sharon Chebul is designated for trees on Harrison Ave. A motion was made and passed to approve the financial report and the audit.

Have Steel has been given four addresses for new tree grates and the sidewalk cuts have been measured. Have reports that the grates are in production. We hope to spend the remaining \$3000 on grates and see them installed by June 1st of this year. At that time we will assess the need for additional grates.

Bruce shared a grant prospect available through the Montana Tourism Bureau's bed tax fund. He will discuss this with George Everett from Mainstreet and Shelley, the grant writer from B-SB.

Bruce reviewed the 2021 goals, which covered things like raising money for replacement trees, media presence, ordinances, tree grates, inventory reports, tree watering along streets, and more. Generally, we made good progress on these goals but more work needs to be done.

The board discussed soliciting corporate donations as a way to buy more trees. It is unclear at this time how much money B-SB has in the current fiscal year budget for tree purchases. Charlie is exploring a possibility to transplant small Doug Fir trees from a nearby ranch. These could be planted along Rowe Road.

Bruce asked all members to send to him some suggestions for 2022 goals. Meeting adjourned at 2:40 PM. Next meeting will be February 15th 2022.