

Urban Forest Board minutes from the January 21st, 2020 meeting.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Bruce at 1:10 PM. Other board members present were, Phil, Sharon, Linda, Charlie, and Kriss, constituting a quorum. Dan Olsen was absent. Staff attending the meeting were JP Gallagher, Karen Byrnes, and newly hired arborist Trevor Peterson.

The minutes from the December meeting had been e-mailed to the board and no changes were requested. A motion was made, seconded, and passed unanimously to approve those minutes.

Charlie gave the financial report and explained the 2019 year end audit. No changes were requested. A motion to approve was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

Trevor Peterson, the new arborist, was introduced and welcomed by the board. He brings a wide variety of knowledge and experience to Butte and has been working with other key staff toward a busy year in the urban forest. He will be helping Jeremy Grotbo with the finalizing of the inventory, making plans for Arbor Day, and other efforts. He has an interest in working on the local tree related ordinances. He handed out a tree species sheet for later review and recommendation by the board. An around town driving tour of past projects for Trevor was offered and will be scheduled later.

We have two applications in the works with DNRC for an Arbor Day grant and a program development grant to make improvements to Fr. Sheehan Park. The Arbor day grant would be for new trees by the uptown fire station. Prep work will be discussed with the Parks Dept. Butte will be hosting the State Parks and Rec, conference at that time and JP would like to see a project that attendees can assist in doing.

Our request for funding from the Economic Development Mill Levy has been submitted. No word was available at the meeting on when we might present our project to the committee. (Post meeting phone call suggested it might be Feb 4th or Feb 6th).

Bruce reminded all newly reappointed members to get their Code of Ethics agreement sheet to Kareniesa soon.

Bruce shared an article which featured Butte's urban forest efforts over recent years. The article appeared in the November edition of the magazine "Council of Western States" and was written by Jamie Kirby of DNRC. (Good work everyone!)

Other lengthy discussion followed on East Butte, Brownfields planning and construction, uptown master planning, and funding available for some urban forest improvements. Karen Byrnes oversees these efforts. The \$6286.25 in the EBRRA account that is earmarked for forestry related projects will remain there until the appropriate time.

Tree ordering and street tree funding was discussed but nothing is definite yet.

Meeting adjourned at 2:45 PM. Next meeting will be Feb 18th, 2020