

City of Hot Springs
Urban Forestry Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, August 2, 2022
Annex Conference Room, City Hall

Members Attending:

Ed French, Regine Skelton, James Moore, and Roxanne Wallace

City of Hot Springs Staff Attending: Allen Bates (Urban Forester), Ronald Sievwright (Public Works Director), Freddy Padilla (Urban Forestry Crew), and Candace Shepherd (Public Works)

The meeting was called to order by Ed French at 5:30 p.m.

Committee Business Section:

1. *Roll call*
2. *Approval of Agenda:* The agenda was approved.
3. *Approval of Minutes:* The minutes from the October meeting were approved.
4. *Recognition of Guests:* None

New Business:

5. *Overview of 2022:*

Allen reported that the new parking lot at 348 Malvern has two new spaded Cherrybark Oaks that are currently being watered daily. He also put in 3 Crape Myrtles and 8 Okame Cherry trees. The Okame Cherry actually bloomed this spring. He put in one Possumhaw Holly near the raingarden and a row of Vitex up on the hill.

The Gateway entrance on Malvern Avenue in front of the Police Station was another planting project. Allen has gotten a lot of positive feedback on that. The sweet potato vines are doing so well they have had to prune them back a bit. Someone did hit the median not long after they were installed, and two decorative lights and some trees had to be replaced. There were 10 Lacebark Allee Elms that were put in planters. Taylor Juniper Cedars were planted in the medians because of their upright form.

Another planting project was at Kimery Park where a screening was done. There were 27 Green Giant Arborvitae trees planted on the west side of the tennis courts. Allen watched them closely during the dry period since they were not getting irrigated, but in less than a week's time, they had turned brown. They installed a water spicket near the bathroom and began irrigating them with 400' of hoses. He is still unsure if they will survive.

Family Park is a location for an upcoming planting project. Allen is coordinating this project with the Parks Department and our Sister City in Japan. They will be planting some Cherry trees in the park this fall. They will need to make sure they follow FAA regulations and keep the trees under 10 feet tall.

The Pump Track that will be going in on Valley Street is the location for another upcoming project. The Phase 1 groundbreaking for the bicycle track

and parking lot will be next week. Allen passed out an image of the proposed phases and presented the landscaping plan.

Other upcoming projects are along the Greenway, at the Baseball Park on Whittington, and at the old Greenwood School at Richard Street. Allen explained that a screening of Eastern Red Cedars will be planted at the new Southern Trailhead of the Greenway. There is a subdivision on TV Hill and the screening will be planted between those houses and the new trailhead. The Baseball Park lost several small trees along the perimeter, and he is looking at putting in a few larger trees to help shade that area. There has also been a large donation from Oaklawn to build pickleball courts at the Greenwood and Richard streets. Allen talked about the landscaping plan for that.

6. *Tree Giveaway:*

There were two tree giveaways this year at the Garland County Library. Arkansas Forestry Council also does a Re-Leaf program that goes into cities that have experienced tornadoes or natural disasters and gives away trees. They did one in northeast Arkansas in Jonesboro. There is talk of another one to be done in Fayetteville. A total of 1400 trees were given away at the two events at the library and included Shumard, Mulberry, Chinkapin, Persimmon, and Bald Cypress.

Sub-Committee Reports Section:

7. *Marketing and Education:*

a. Arbor Day 2022 was a big event with 300 kids from various schools. The Forestry Commission had a booth there along with the Stormwater Department, Arkansas Game and Fish, Entergy, the West Tree Service, and the Corps of Engineers. There was a sawmill set up and displayed for the kids that was well liked.

8. *Tree City USA:*

Allen reminded the committee of the following four criteria to be a Tree City: (1) Arbor Day, (2) Tree Board, (3) City Ordinance for Trees, and (4) Spend at least \$2.00 per capita in some type of Urban Forestry situation. Allen reported that we spend around \$10.00 per capita.

Other Business:

9. *Consider Urban Forestry Working Crew Report:*

Freddy reported the current challenge is to try to bushhog without starting a fire. Currently, his crew is bushhogging 10-12 miles a day with two guys. They will mow until about October and then start pruning again. Allen explained that the Urban Forestry Crew works out of the Street Division. Part of the Street crews job is raising the canopy.

10. *Consider Advisory Committee Members' Items for Discussion:*

Regine announced that she has some severely root-bound trees that are available if you have a field that needs some trees. They are not safe to plant around people because they may fall.

Adjournment:

Ed adjourned meeting at 6:15 p.m.

The next meeting is Tuesday, October 25th, 2022, at 5:30 pm in the Annex Conference room.