

Tree and Park Committee Meeting Minutes
November 21, 2013

Call to order 10:00 AM Council Chambers

Present: Ann Gosline, German Quiroga, Yunghi Choi, Caleb Weaver, Kelly Fleming, Cornelia O'Connor

Excused: Bethany Brandt

Absent: Andy Wood, Kaz Workizer

Public: Barbara Ellis, Karla Espinosa

Approval of minutes of meeting 9/18/13 passed

Call to public: Both members of the public participated in the meeting.

Agenda items taken out of order.

1. TreeCityUSA application. Gosline and O'Connor will work together to complete the application before the deadline of Dec. 31, 2013.

2. Application for a Patagonia Regional Community Foundation (PRCF) grant for cisterns to collect rain water from the Community Center roof. Choi pointed out the rain can be harvested passively rather than by cisterns. O'Connor then proposed submitting a grant to PRCF for benches, movable chairs, and other "public furniture" for the park, and for recycling bins. This grant application was approved by the committee. O'Connor will consult with Town Manager Dave Teel, as the town would be the applicant. Weaver and O'Connor will write the grant. The grant cycle opens Jan.2, 2014.

3. 5 Year Plan. Still in development. Choi presented her architectural drawing of the park. She will make some over-lay drawings to help the public visualize possible ways to enhance our park. Areas on the drawing show where replacement trees and small gardens naturally fit. Weaver described the vision of a small garden with plants similar to the Pollinating Garden by the handicap parking on Quiroga Lane. O'Connor suggested park benches in the following locations: Pollinating Garden, pine grove by Butterfly Garden, and near public restrooms. These areas would not interfere with large public events. O'Connor also suggested creating a sitting area, including using moveable chairs, by the rear door of the Community Center.

The idea of collecting rain passively by water harvesting and plantings around the Community Center will be our first public hands-on project. Weaver and Choi will prepare drawings and photographs to illustrate what the project will look like to be presented for approval to the Senior Board and the Town Council. O'Connor will bring the idea to the next Senior Board meeting on 12/09/13 and we will seek approval from the Town Council on 12/11/13. The date for the work day set for 01/11/14, to begin at 10:00AM. Espinoza recommended having a pot-luck on that day to draw in the public. She reminded the committee to have designed leaders to supervise the volunteers. Espinoza will spearhead the pot luck. Ellis contributed ideas for organizing pot lucks. She may work with Espinoza in the planning. We may have a grill ready. Weaver will mobilize the youth and Espinoza will entice the public to participate. We have funds with the town for incidental costs. We will track hours for the Community

Challenge Grant if awarded.

There are trees and limbs of diseased, stunted and weed trees that need to be removed from the park and a plan needs to be developed for replacement trees. Small limbs and small trees could be removed with hand saws by adult volunteers without using ladders or climbing in trees. Large trees will be by contracted labor. This will all need council approval.

All existing and future trees need wide basins of mulch. This will be volunteer labor as part of the anticipated Community Challenge Grant. Almost every tree in the park shows extensive damage from string trimmers.

4. It was suggested that the public have input into how the park evolves. We will start seeking input on the first public work day and the architectural drawing will be on display in the Community Center. We will also consider a public workshop held on an evening before a regular council meeting. O'Connor will approach the Town Manager with this idea. We can also have an article and photos in the Patagonia Regional Times about our efforts and encouraging public comment.

5. The following will be presented to the council 12/11/13:

- a) The architectural drawing of the park prepared by Choi. This will be used as a starting point to proceed to future visions of the park. This drawing to be displayed in the Community Center on the work day and we will encourage public input for the 5 year plan.
- b) Rain water harvesting and more plantings by the Community Center. This will be the first hands on public work day, planned for 01/11/14.
- c) Barbara Ellis and Karla Espinosa nominated as committee members.
- d) Approval to apply for a PRCF grant for park benches, recycling bins, and other "public furniture".

6. Next meeting Dec. 5rd at 10:00 AM Council Chambers.

7. Adjourned at 12:00 PM

8. After the meeting several committee members walked the park to visualize our plans. We looked at the area around the Community Center and Choi explained how the water could be channeled to prevent run off and instead benefit the trees. O'Connor indicated where moveable chairs could be by the rear door of the Community Center. Espinoza pointed out that the rear door is utilized by the Food Bank truck, but that movable chairs would work.

Choi suggested we investigate having ADOT remove the diseased cottonwood. Choi identified the trees that are in too poor a condition to salvage, or are invasive weed species. She also indicated areas for planting replacement trees.

Submitted: Cornelia O'Connor, chair

