

Park and Tree Committee Minuets of
February 1, 2013

Called to order at 10:00 AM. Present: Cliff Hirsch, German Quiroga, Cornelia O'Connor. Absent: Andy Wood, Jeff Evans, Kaz Workizer. Excused: Kelly Fleming.

Also present: Prospective members Ann Gosline and Vince Pinto.

Minutes of 12/12/12 approved.

1. **Sonoran Institute grant.** We may be eligible for a grant from the Institute for water harvesting and planting native species.

Action step: German to get in touch with Emily Brott at the Institute to learn more.

2. **New committee members.** Ann Gosline, Yungchi Choi, and Vince Pinto have expressed interest on being on this committee. By unanimous vote their names will be submitted to the Council.

Action step: Cornelia to submit this as an agenda item for the next council meeting.

3. **Tree City USA.** Ann Gosline has been researching Tree City USA with the idea that Patagonia could have this designation. Arbor Day is a well-known function of the organization. We could have our Arbor Day on Earth Day/ Trail Day, which we will be celebrating for the fourth year this April. We envision the youth being part of Arbor Day. Vince has a list of native plants and trees that could be planted in the park. The plants he has chosen also function as a refuge and food source for wildlife. He is aware that plantings have to take into consideration that the park serves many functions, including festivals, and that the Council and Town Manger oversee the park. He offered to give us a copy of his list.

Ann is in touch with the Alix Rogstad, program manager for urban and community forestry of the Arizona State Forestry Division. Alix has offered to come to Patagonia to see the work we are doing and to provide assistance to us for becoming a Tree City USA. The benefits of belonging to this organization including protecting our trees, public image, citizen pride, and being eligible for financial assistance. We hope to become a Tree City USA this year to be eligible for the grant cycle of 2014. There are certain criteria to meet and we are very close to filling these requirements. An important step is having a tree care ordinance. We agree that the ordinance should be kept as simple as possible. We will gathered the information we need, including a draft tree care ordinance, to present to the Town Manager, preferable in a meeting. With his approval, we will present the idea of becoming a Tree City to the Council.

Action steps: 1) Cliff and Ann to draft a tree care ordinance. 2) Ann to see when Alix can come to Patagonia.

4. **Formalizing the Park and Tree Committee.** Having a tree care board is one of the requirements of Tree City USA. Our committee meets this requirement. Cornelia suggested a name change.

Action step: Cornelia will submit an agenda item to the Council to change the name from "ad hoc Park and Tree Committee" to "The Park and Tree Committee".

5. **Current projects.** a) Landscaping around the bird sculpture is complete, thanks to Cliff, the youth from the Patagonia public schools, and to Jorge Ruiz, Youth Coordinator at the school.

b) The water retention project for the sycamore trees by the hilo pad is still in the design stage. Kate Tiron has offered to give advice about this project. Kate has also volunteered to give us suggestions about improving the soil in the park.

Action step: German to get in touch with Kate to set a date for a walk-a-about.

6. **Other business.** a) Put an article in the Patagonia Regional Times about the work we are doing.

Action step: No one volunteered to do this.

b) Identify trees in the town of Patagonia that are remarkable for their size and/or history. Cornelia thinks it would be fun for the local youth to be involved in identifying these trees.

Action steps: Cornelia to get in touch with Jorge at the school to see if the students would be interested in a project like this.

7. **Adjourn.** 11:30 AM

Respectfully submitted by Cornelia O'Connor, chair