

Gretna Arbor Society
Tuesday, January 10, 2023, Meeting Minutes

In attendance: Jim Keepers, Missy Ragatz, Jerry Imig, Dave Kovar, Marshall Jaros, John Wolken, Dan Hansen, City Council President Bill Proctor, and Member Lauren Liebenritt.

Meeting was held in Gretna Main Public Library Conference room.

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Jim Keepers. Minutes of November 8, 2022 meeting were approved.

Board Officers for 2023 were approved, Jim Keepers, President and John Wolken, Secretary.

The paperwork for Tree City USA and Growth Award were submitted by Jim to Graham Herbst, NFS.

Amy is working on the Grant for NRD tree planting funds. She will meet with Travis from the City at Lincoln Place Park to choose specific locations for the trees.

The budget for 2023 was shared by Jim, we will not be paying for membership in the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum this year. Other items will be discussed as actual costs are determined.

The Annual Poster Contest is underway with all seven elementary schools. Paper was delivered by Jim to the art teacher in each school. Missy sent an email to the teachers with the theme “Plant Trees for Wildlife” with a graphic to illustrate the concept. The award ceremony is scheduled for April 27th at Harvest Hills elementary school. We set a due date for the poster submissions of April 7th. Discussion was held regarding a similar contest for the High Schools; no action taken tonight.

The Annual Gretna Tree Talk is scheduled for March 4 at a location TBD. Three speakers have confirmed that they will be available. One sponsor has expressed interest in participating.

A teacher at Harvest Hills Elementary School has expressed interest in sponsoring a tree planting event with students, this would be during the school day.

The 2023 Arbor Day Program will be held at Gretna Elementary School on April 28th.

We plan to have a float entered in the Gretna Days Parade this year. John will lead this project.

We will host the annual Nebraska Forest Service Tree City USA conference. We are seeking sponsors and a location; looking at several area churches for space to host.

Several members have an interest in the NAA arborist school this year. Estimated cost is around \$220.

The new park and lake area that is being built near 204th and Schram Road will be named by the NRD.

We discussed the Grandest Tree Award, with any tree within the Gretna School District to be eligible for the award.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:14 p.m. Next meeting February 14, 2023

Respectfully, John Wolken, Secretary. February 8, 2022

