

Gretna Arbor Society
Tuesday, March 14, 2023, Meeting Minutes

In attendance: Jim Keepers, Missy Ragatz, Amy Nakai, Jerry Imig, Dave Kovar, Marshall Jaros, John Wolken

Dan Hansen, City Council President Bill Proctor, Guest Tim Vala

The meeting was held in Gretna Main Public Library Conference room.

Meeting called to order at 7:02 p.m. by Jim Keepers. Introductions for all including guest Tim Vala.

The Gretna Tree Talk had a total attendance of 115. Four full totes of food and \$65 cash were collected and donated to the Gretna Food Pantry. There was a total of 42 door prizes from 17 businesses. Amy donated the coffee. The student volunteers from Harvest Hills elementary were Daegan Butler, Mila Schoonveld, Addison Poppema, Claire Kinnan, Evelyn Bring, Nash Perlebach, Maddie Fitch, Maddox Fleming, Lainey Eyman, and they were accompanied by staff member Ms. Ellis. Thanks so much for all the help!

The NRD Grant application was approved, planting will be Saturday April 29th, 9:00 a.m. at Lincoln Place Park. With funds donated from memorials for Ron Sawyer, we will also plant trees at Leo Royal Park on the same day. Amy will work with Travis to identify the locations of the new plantings. On Friday evening April 28th, we will remove the stakes from last year's planting at Lincoln Place Park.

Poster Contest judging will be held at 6:00 p.m. on April 11th just prior to the regular meeting at the library. Jim is contacting sponsors for the prizes. The awards ceremony will be held on April 27th at Harvest Hills Elementary at 7:00 p.m. Award amounts will be \$30 1st, \$25 2nd, and \$20 3rd.

The Arbor Day event will both be held on Thursday, April 27th as there is no school on Friday the 28th. Arbor Day celebration will be at 2:15 at Gretna Elementary. We will announce the names of the three Poster Contest from that school during the afternoon event. Jim is working on making an emeritus award presentation for Mike and Sharon Kauss.

No update on an elementary school involved in a specific tree planting event. We also decided not to participate in the Business Fair this year.

The Gretna Days parade will be Saturday, July 29th, John has contacted the organizers to register.

The September Tree Giveaway will be scheduled pending UNL football dates. We discussed the registration and publicity for the event.

Nebraska Arborist Association summer field day will be Thursday and Friday August 10 & 11. We are waiting for specifics on the agenda for each day.

The NSA has a grant available for fall tree planting, for up to 10 trees. Jim is working with this. No news on marking ash trees or on the NFS TCUSA conference. The tentative date is September 29. We tabled discussion on Arborist School pending updated schedules.

Jim sent drafts for the programming at the Nebraska Forest Service Community Forestry awards we will host in September, no response as yet. The date of the event is September 29, 2023.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:08 p.m. Next meeting April 11, 2023

Respectfully, John Wolken, Secretary. April 6, 2022