

Gretna Arbor Society
Tuesday, April 11, 2023, Meeting Minutes

In attendance: Jim Keepers, Missy Ragatz, Amy Nakai, Angie Lauritsen, Jerry Imig, Dave Kovar, Marshall Jaros, John Wolken
Dan Hansen, City Council President Bill Proctor
The meeting was held in Gretna Main Public Library Conference room.

Meeting called to order at 7:02 p.m. by Jim Keepers. Minutes for the March meeting were approved.

Jim provided a list of sponsors for the Poster Contest. The posters were judged prior to the meeting this evening. The awards program will be April 27th at 7:00 p.m. at Harvest Hills Elementary school. Missy will photograph the winning posters and produce the PPT for the evening. John W. will operate the AV systems at the school that evening.

The Arbor Day program will be at Gretna Elementary School at 2:15. We will present an emeritus honor to Mike and Sharon Kauss, students will read the winning poems they wrote, the Mayor will read the proclamation of Arbor Day. The three poster contest winners will be recognized (without divulging 1st 2nd or 3rd) and after the program we will plant a tree in front of the school.

On Saturday, April 29, we will plant the memorial trees (six) for Ron Sawyer and the 21 trees purchased with the grant funds from the NRD. The trees are scheduled to arrive from the nursery at 8:00 with planting starting at 9:00. The locations of the trees will be selected by the city (Travis) and Amy; the holes will be dug in the days preceding. Amy is working on media coverage; we have many volunteers committed and Marshal is bringing a water tank in his truck.

The City of Bellevue has invited any members from Gretna who may be available for Earth Day on April 22nd.

We discussed a call from a resident regarding a tree that appears to be on city property near the Lakeridge estates area. Jim and Travis will inspect and evaluate the tree.

John offered a date to build the float for the Gretna Days Parade of July 22. We are registered with the Gretna Days Foundation to enter the parade.

The annual NAA field days are August 10 and 11 at Carol Joy Holling near Ashland, we are waiting for details on the program and itinerary.

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

We are waiting for info from NFS and TCUSA about the September event.

The NSA has a grant available for fall tree planting, for up to 10 trees. Jim is working with this.

Dates for the NAA arborist schools are set in September, October, and November. They have different requirements for their scholarship program this year.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:50 p.m. Next meeting May 9, 2023

Respectfully, John Wolken, Secretary May 4, 2023