

Gretna Arbor Society
Tuesday, June 13, 2023, Meeting Minutes

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

Meeting called to order at 7:03 p.m. by Jim Keepers. Minutes for the May meeting were approved.

Jim updated his conversation with the mayor regarding adding another member to the Board. At this time we will not add a member, but we may find a way to have an alternate or non-voting member.

We discussed the coverage of the Arbor Society in this year's Gretna Green Book, we had a mention in the mayor's message and in the directory in the back but no articles or photos as in past years. We will consider ongoing membership in a future meeting later in the year.

We discussed the impact of the severe drought on trees planted this spring and last fall. It appears that several of the trees planted in Lincoln Place Park have not survived. We will evaluate later this year to determine if we will allocate our funds to replace any of them.

Jim checked with the NRD to see if funds will be released for the trees we planted in May.

We agreed that when we discuss the use of commercial products with members of the public we will use the generic name of those products and not mention the brand name. For example, use "Glyphosate" instead of "Roundup"

We have a firm date scheduled for the Tree City USA awards on September 29th. Jim has an agenda for the day, we have a sponsor, Black Hills Energy will cover the cost of the noon meal. We will continue to seek additional sponsors for other costs. Members of Gretna Arbor Society will be able to attend at no cost.

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.

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 September Tree Giveaway will be September 9th. We discussed the availability of inventory from Great Plains Nursery, they have offered us first choice from their inventory when we place the order. The number of trees we purchase will be determined soon pending availability of funds.

The NSA has a grant available for fall tree planting, for up to 10 trees. Jim is working with this, the application deadline is July 1, 2023.

Dates for the NAA arborist schools are set in September, October, and November. They have different requirements for their scholarship program this year. The costs will be paid from the 2023 funds.

Jim will compile a list of hazard trees within the city and send to city hall so they can notify the homeowners.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:05 p.m. Next meeting July 11, 2023

Respectfully, John Wolken, Secretary June 29, 2023