

Gretna Arbor Society
Tuesday, August 8, 2023, Meeting Minutes

In attendance: Jim Keepers, Amy Nakai, Angie Lauritsen, Dave Kovar, Marshall Jaros, Missy Ragatz, Jerry Imig, 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 7:04 p.m. by Jim Keepers. Minutes for the July 11 meeting were approved.

The Gretna Days Parade float entry was well received, Amy purchased candy that was handed out.

The city received reimbursement of \$2456.00 for the NRD grant trees that were purchased. Mulch was provided by the city for the park planting.

John W. will be attending the NAA Arborist school this fall, with two days in each of September, October, and September. Course materials will be mailed to John by the NAA.

Members attending the NAA Summer Field Day in Ashland will be Jim, John, Marshall, Amy, Dave, Missy, and Dan will attend as Angie has another commitment that day.

The annual Tree Giveaway is scheduled for September 9. The trees and mulch are to arrive at 8:00 a.m. John obtained the paperwork with the school district on August 10. Jim has the tree guards. Check in time for residents is 9:30, the planting seminar will start at 10:00.

The dedication of the Gretna Crossing Park (GXP) will be Saturday, September 16th at 10:00 a.m.

The application for 10 free trees for fall planting is approved, we will schedule it for late September. Some of these will replace trees in Lincoln Place Park that did not survive the dry spring, and any of the trees planted in Ron's memory will be replaced if needed.

We have obtained pledges for \$1400 toward the Tree City USA Awards programs on September 29th. Any other sponsorships will be welcomed. We will meet the evening before to set up the room. The event will run from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. Each city is invited to send one representative at no cost to them. Our members will attend at no cost as well. The keynote speaker is Dr. John Ball.

Jim reported on trees in the city that need pruning or removal. This is the responsibility of the property owner; the city can notify the owner and require pruning or removal.
There is a dead tree in Peterson Park and one in Plum Creek Park with major wind damage/failure.

Missy will work on a theme for the poster contest for next spring.

Jim gave a detailed review of the budget for the remainder of the fiscal year. We will have funds available to replace the trees mentioned above for Lincoln Place Park. Any remaining balance will be used for additional trees to be planted along with the 10 covered by the grant funds this fall.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:26 p.m. Next meeting September 12, 2023

Respectfully, John Wolken, Secretary September 6, 2023