

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

In attendance: Jim Keepers, Amy Nakai, 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 7:01 p.m. by Jim Keepers. Minutes for the September 12 meeting were approved.

The fall Tree Planting event on September 23 went well, with volunteer help from Makovicka Physical Therapy and others. Jerry reported hearing positive comments from a nearby resident regarding the number of trees we have planted at Lincoln Place Park.

The Eastern Nebraska Tree City USA and Nebraska Forest Service awards conference on September 29<sup>th</sup> went well. Thanks go to Mayor Evans for his presentation and attendance. We had a total of about 48 at the event. Jim will send thank you notes to sponsors and donors. There were 22 communities recognized with Growth Awards this year, up significantly from previous years. The facilities at Journey Church were very good, and fit the meeting well.

No new information on the proposed video program by an outside vendor.

Jim sent a new letter to the mayor regarding treatment or removal of ash trees in the city. He will follow up.

We discussed whether to pay to run a full-page advertisement in the Chamber of Commerce Green book for next year. The cost would be in the range of \$795 to \$850. We decided to pass on spending that amount.

Missy is working on the theme for the Poster Contest, to be finalized at the November Meeting.

Our budget is based on the current population, Bill offered to research how often the number is updated. We finished the fiscal year with \$42 remaining. For the 2024 year, we expect to have around \$18,000.

We will hold the 2024 Tree Talk at Harvest Hills Elementary School on March 2, 2024. Jim is working on scheduling new speakers for the event, focusing on trees in our area.

The city has created a new position of Events Coordinator, she will have an office at the YMCA and will work to assist us with publicity and locations for our events.

We decided to choose Lincoln Place Park for any trees we can purchase based on the NRD Grant funding in 2024. We may also consider Leo Royal Park in the future, pending construction projects in the surrounding area.

Angie is working on the possibility of amending our current tree ordinance. We discussed whether to consider requiring arborists working within Gretna to have a license issued by the city. We do require arborists to have a certification. We also discussed the means of enforcing such requirements.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:32 p.m. Next meeting November 12, 2023

Respectfully, John Wolken, Secretary November 9, 2023