



City of Grand Island

Tuesday, March 15, 2016

Study Session

Item -1

Discussion Regarding Creating a Tree Board

Staff Contact: Todd McCoy, Parks & Recreation Director



Considering a City Tree Board

Why Trees?

Trees intercept and store rain water, relieving stress on municipal storm-water systems and reducing flooding.

Trees increase property values and improve mental health.

Trees provide a barrier to noisy traffic.

Trees shade buildings, reducing the need for air conditioning.

Trees provide habitat for wildlife.

Trees act as a windbreak.

Trees cool outdoor temperatures and protect us from UV rays.

Trees remove carbon dioxide from the air and store it in their wood, leaves and roots.

Trees filter pollutants from the air we breathe and release oxygen.

What is a Tree Board?



A tree board (committee, commission or council) is a group of people responsible, usually by ordinance, for overseeing management of the community trees, also known as the urban forest. It may be made up of municipal staff, local citizens and/or tree care professionals.



What Does a Tree Board Do?

- Assess the community urban forest situation using some type of inventory to determine short- and long-range program goals and objectives.
- Develop and review annually a comprehensive community forestry plan.
- Advise the Mayor, City Council, and various departments on matters concerning trees and related resources. Recommendations may include policy changes and specific urban forestry projects.

What Does a Tree Board Do? (continued)

- Educate residents on matters concerning the betterment of trees and related resources.
- Coordinate or conduct special projects for the betterment of the urban forest. Such projects should be included in annual plans.
- Keep abreast of current trends and issues in urban forestry through appropriate training and development.



Urban Forestry Issues Facing Grand Island

- Needed planning and education regarding looming diseases and threats to trees in Grand Island.
 - The Emerald Ash Borer, Pine Wilt, Oak Wilt, and other diseases have or soon will have a dramatic impact to the our communities urban forest.
- The City is not heavily involved in promoting or managing street trees. That is an important issue that a tree board could help wrestle with.
- Tree inventory: The City does not have a recently updated tree inventory. That could be a responsibility of the tree board.
- Overreliance on Hackberries as a street and park tree in Grand Island.
 - As time goes forward it would be very important to start increasing species diversity.

ORDINANCE NO. 6260

An ordinance to amend Chapter 23 of the Grand Island City Code by adding thereto Article IV pertaining to the creation of a Tree Board, its composition, its duties and responsibilities, and operation thereof; to repeal conflicting ordinances; and to provide the effective date hereof.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GRAND ISLAND, NEBRASKA:

SECTION 1. That Chapter 23 of the Grand Island City Code be amended by adding thereto Article IV to read as follows:

"Article IV

CITY TREE BOARD

"Sec. 23-13. CREATION AND ESTABLISHMENT

There is hereby created and established a City Tree Board for the City of Grand Island, Nebraska, which shall consist of six members, citizens and residents of the City who shall be appointed by the Mayor with the approval of the Council, which board shall act in an advisory capacity to the Mayor and Council."

"Sec. 23-14. TERM OF OFFICE; COMPENSATION

The term of the six persons to be appointed by the Mayor shall be three years, except that the term of two of the members appointed to the first board shall be for only one year, and the term of two of the members of the board shall be for two years. In the event that a vacancy shall occur during the term of any member, his successor shall be appointed for the unexpired portion of the term.

Members of the board shall serve without compensation."

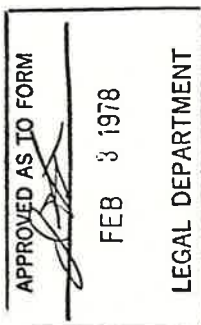
"Sec. 23-15. DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

It shall be the responsibility of the board to study, investigate, counsel, and develop a written plan for the care, preservation, trimming, planting, replanting, removal or disposition of trees and shrubs in public ways, streets and alleys. Such plans shall be presented to the City Council and upon their acceptance and approval shall constitute the official comprehensive city tree plan for the City of Grand Island, Nebraska. The board shall review annually and update if needed, the comprehensive city tree plan. The board shall prepare and present an annual work plan to the City Council for their acceptance and approval.

The board when requested by the City Council shall consider, investigate, make findings, report and recommend upon any special matter of question coming within the scope of its work."

"Sec. 23-16. OPERATION

The board shall choose its own officers, make its own rules and regulations




ORDINANCE NO. 6260 (Cont'd)

and keep a journal of its proceedings. A majority of its members shall be a quorum for the transaction of business."

SECTION 2. Any ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith, be, and hereby are, repealed.

SECTION 3. This ordinance shall be in force and take effect from and after its passage, approval, and publication within fifteen days in one issue of the Grand Island Daily Independent, as provided by law.

Enacted FEB 6 1978.



President of the Council

ATTEST: 
City Clerk