



CITY OF ELY

501 Mill Street Ely, Nevada 89301

City Hall (775) 289-2430

Cityofelynv.gov

CITY TREE BOARD REGULAR MEETING

June 8, 2023, 2:00 p.m. – Ely Volunteer Fire Hall – 499 Mill Street – Ely, Nevada

1. Chairman Bill Wolf called the regular meeting of the Ely City Tree Board to order at 2:00 P.M., led in the Pledge of Allegiance, and asked for roll call.

Members present:

Chairman Bill Wolf
Member Gene Trask
Member Harry Rhea
Member Tami Church

Members absent:

Vice Chairman Candice Campeau

City Officials and staff present in the building or via video conference:

City Clerk Jennifer Lee
City Treasurer/HR Director Janette Trask
City Attorney Leo Cahoon
City Public Works Supervisor Mike Cracraft
City Administrative Assistant Patti Cobb

Also, in attendance: Members of the public in attendance at the Ely Volunteer Fire Hall signed in (appears below) and the following persons attended via video conference:

John L'etoile

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

No Public Comment

3. REPORTS

➤ **CITY CLERK**

City Clerk Lee stated we got some letters of support from elected officials for the NDOT grant application and got those sent in.

➤ **MEMBER RHEA**

Member Rhea stated I have received a catalog regarding our research for greenhouses. I have gone and looked around at the Landfill.

Chairman Bill Wolf stated we were researching greenhouses in hopes of getting those under the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) grant, but they said that is not something we could do so this research may come in handy in the future.

4. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION OF THE TREE BOARD.

A. CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION: Move to approve the Consent Agenda item 4A-1 Minutes.

Moved by: Member Church Second by: Member Rhea Vote: Unanimous

1. Discussion/For Possible Action –Minutes.
 - April 28, 2023

B. NEW BUSINESS

1. Chairman Wolf – Nevada Department of Transportation Landscape Architect Supervisor John L'Etoile – Discussion Only – Presentation regarding the Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT)'s application to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) – Forest Service (FS) Urban and Community Forestry Program Inflation Reduction Act grant program for the Downtown Ely Landscaping and Green Infrastructure Project.

Nevada Department of Transportation Landscape Architect Supervisor John L'Etoile stated I wanted to get with you on the tree species we have listed, and I think for the most part they are great trees and will do great in the climate. Some of the sizes could be a little challenging in the years to come. I wanted to hear from you if there was anything on the plans you want to walk through. It may be a little heavy on the maintenance side just because of the amount of plants going in.

Chairman Wolf asked the landscape plan does not include planting in front of Hotel Nevada because of the overhang, correct?

Nevada Department of Transportation Landscape Architect Supervisor John L'Etoile stated correct.

Chairman Wolf stated how about in front of the middle school?

Nevada Department of Transportation Landscape Architect Supervisor John L'Etoile stated I don't think so, but I don't recall for sure.

Chairman Wolf stated across from the middle school is the park with some very mature trees, but I think the lowering of the water table around here has really stressed all of those poplars out. I am assuming once those are taken out, we will have the trees you guys are recommending.

Nevada Department of Transportation Landscape Architect Supervisor John L'Etoile asked would it be possible to mark up the handouts after review and email them back with any concerns or recommendations?

Chairman Wolf asked Nevada Department of Transportation Landscape Architect Supervisor John L'Etoile do we want to address this at our next meeting and what is your timeline on getting clarity on this.

Nevada Department of Transportation Landscape Architect Supervisor John L'Etoile stated a couple of weeks if that is possible.

City Clerk Lee asked can you expand a little bit more on what you said earlier in that the plan would require a lot of maintenance because initially when NDOT introduced all these plans they stated the irrigation would be installed and that wasn't quite my vision.

Nevada Department of Transportation Landscape Architect Supervisor John L'Etoile stated there will be irrigation and it will be automatically watered. They will be planters so there will be weeding and may need some plants replaced in the future, so it is much more than just a tree maintenance plan. It will definitely take an effort to make sure they are maintained and looking good.

Chairman Wolf asked will the irrigation line be in a chaise so if the line fails, they don't have to dig up the sidewalk to replace it, but will just be able to pull the line through a chaise?

Nevada Department of Transportation Landscape Architect Supervisor John L'Etoile stated yes, everything will be sleeved including the wiring and irrigation so it can be repaired without removing sidewalk. We are hoping to get silva cells which provides for you to put a sidewalk over planter soil so the planter soil doesn't get overly compacted, and the oxygen depleted which will be a huge plus.

Chairman Wolf asked, have we gotten a copy of the grant application or did we just send letters.

City Clerk Lee stated I don't believe we have received a copy of the application.

Chairman Wolf asked can we get a copy of that? I am going to be up front with you, my biggest reason I am asking for a copy is when we go to write grants and your grant gets funded, we will know what a good one looks like.

Nevada Department of Transportation Landscape Architect Supervisor John L'Etoile stated yes, it will be a good resource for you.

Chairman Wolf stated we will put you on our agenda for the next meeting to discuss this more in depth after the Tree Board members have a little more time to review it.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Levi Garcia with LG Tree Service stated it appears in the plans there will be planters along the sidewalk at Veteran's Park and one thing to keep in mind there is that entire sidewalk down the length of that park is actually a box culvert. That is part of the issue with those big poplar trees is they become root bound in the box culvert and they are all dying. I believe there is a five-year plan with the County to remove all of those are either in bad health or are dead. It looks like they are going to be putting smaller trees in, but putting planters too close to the box culverts does cause problems later on.

Chairman Wolf asked will those box culverts be going away?

Nevada Department of Transportation Landscape Architect Supervisor John L'Etoile stated I don't think those are going away, but I will double check on that. If they do end up going that gives us the freedom to plant some different kinds of trees there, but if they remain, we will discuss the tree species we put there.

Levi Garcia with LG Tree Service stated I have talked to the County, and they are interested in planting new trees there so I don't think that will be much of an issue.

3. Member Campeau – Adam Strouse of the Nevada Division of Forestry (NDF) Discussion/For Possible Action – Update on Nevada Division of Forestry (NDF) tree sale and approval for Tree Board participation.

Adam Strouse of the Nevada Division of Forestry stated I talked to the nursery. We actually have two nurseries in the State; there is one in Washoe Valley and one in Las Vegas. They are more than willing to do a satellite tree sale here. It sounds like sometime in the spring would be the best for them because they just opened up and that will give them time to see what they have in their inventory between the two to send here. We will need to coordinate a date and then figure out all the logistics. I have a pricing list, but with the beginning of the fiscal year starting soon I am sure the prices are going to go up. They do a fall sale in Elko, and they have been doing them in Winnemucca, Las Vegas, Reno.

Chairman Wolf asked if it would be an issue for the local bike club to buy the trees from the Tree Board and then sell them for a couple dollars more as a fundraiser.

Adam Strouse of the Nevada Division of Forestry stated I will find out and let you know.

Chairman Wolf stated White Pine Mainstreet is going to be doing a community native plant garden and they have asked if we would cooperate with them on that. One of the questions they asked me to find out was, if we get native plant seed can you guys grow some of that out for us to put into our native plant garden?

Adam Strouse of the Nevada Division of Forestry stated I will ask about that and get back to you. They are currently working on building a greenhouse in Pioche.

Member Rhea moved to approve the Tree Boards participation in the tree sale with date of tree sale to be determined. Member Church seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Chairman Wolf – Cayenne Engel, Urban and Community Forester (UCF) with the Nevada Division of Forestry (NDF) – Discussion Only – Update on City of Ely Tree Data/Tree Inventory and NDF grant programs.

Urban and Community Forester (UCF) with the Nevada Division of Forestry (NDF) Cayenne Engel stated I would like to say we are able to offer tree inventory software as of this morning. Our grant specialist got approval for my wording in the contract to where we should be able to have Statewide tree inventory software available to anybody that is interested in using it. It would come with training, but we are unsure how we would provide tablets for our partners to be able to take their own measurements; that is something I am still working on. In regard to NDF's Grant Program we hope to by mid to late July release a grant request for proposal that will be available to anyone in the State and any entities that qualify which are typically municipalities, non-profits, or those doing tree planting work. We are going to use the Inflation Reduction Act Funds that we got, where we will have about \$2.4 million to distribute across the State. It will be competitively released. We are going to have different categories that are different intensities of the grants that are going to be available. We will have a less than \$10,000.00 category which will largely be targeted towards individually tree planting projects, something like improving the irrigation on a site, or hazardous tree removal on public properties and we could expand to private if you show the need is ultimately for a public good. We are going to have a category that is \$10,000.00 to \$50,000.00 that will be a one-to-two-page application for a one-year project, and then we will have a large project category that will ultimately be for funds available from \$50,000.00 up to \$500,000.00. We have up to five years to spend the \$2.4 million so I expect it is not all going to go out in the first year.

Member Rhea asked will the inventory be able to be updated and account for the tree loss as we go?

Urban and Community Forester (UCF) with the Nevada Division of Forestry (NDF) Cayenne Engel stated absolutely, anyone with the log in will have access to edit data. It

will be able to be customized how people enter information. We should have the inventory software up and going within three to four months.

4. Member Rhea – Discussion/For Possible Action – Approval of City Tree Board Landfill Planting Project to include but not limited to selection of species of trees, location, and water provision.

Public Works Supervisor Cracraft stated I like the map and that is really the only place you could put them.

Member Rhea stated I did walk around a little bit and look around. I was thinking the purpose of planting trees is to block some wind and dust and provide some shade. We would be looking at species that would satisfy those items. I would suggest junipers because they don't get that tall and they do make a good windbreak. They could be put close together and almost make a hedge out of them.

Chairman Wolf asked would a solid hedge be better or putting in flowering crab apples or something that had space underneath?

Public Works Supervisor Cracraft stated I think having space under the trees would be better.

Member Church stated I will check at Bath Lumber and my sources for pricing and see what we can get for a fall planting. What do you think about lilacs? They don't get very tall and stay close to the ground.

Member Rhea moved to table approval of City Tree Board Landfill Planting Project to do further research of species of trees, cost of project, location, spacing, date of planting, and water provision. Member Church seconded the motion. The motion carried with three ayes as Member Trask left the meeting.

5. Chairman Wolf – Discussion Only – Update on White Pine County's Urban and Forestry Inflation Reduction Act grant application, including planned grant components.

Chairman Wolf stated in the information it shows where we stand in the Justice 40 Initiative. The City of Ely, Lund, Preston, and Ruth are all in the area. The reason that is important is because any grant we put in for we do not need a match for which is a crucial point because as you can see on the budget, we are going for \$3.3 million to do this. We are looking at several components; one is the tree maintenance and part of that would be to hire an urban forester to see what trees need to go and which ones could be saved. Theoretically how I think it is going to work is if we get the grant, and they let us know in October, then at that time we can put out a contract to hire an arborist that is well versed in tree maintenance. If we did this in the other communities such as McGill and Baker, there would be a one to one match and nobody has that kind of money. I think this is really exciting because if we get this it is going to have such a huge impact on all the public trees within our community. As part of that we are putting in for

training, which would be career development for City, County, or anyone interested in getting advanced arborist training. We have some really great partners and one of the partners we are looking at is the Southwest Agricultural Research Station out of Santa Fe. They are very closely tied to climate change so they would be able to give advice on tree species that maybe we haven't thought of before. The School District, The Charter School, the County, the City, and White Pine Mainstreet will be partners too. I think we have a real strong chance of getting this grant, but we will not know until October or November.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Levi Garcia with LG Tree Service stated I would like to comment on trees and branches that are in the City right-of-way. When we were talking about the price, I forgot to mention there are quite a few trees that are in the City right-of-way that are hazardous. For instance, the one on North and Ogden is lifting the sidewalk up two feet off the ground and also hanging over the house. There is also a line of poplars on Nevada Avenue. I was thinking that would be something we could add into this grant.

Chairman Wolf stated I am glad you brought that up, if you look at the budget table you will see a subgrant for \$787,000.00 for work to be done on private ground. If we get this part of the grant, people will apply to have those types of trees removed. We know people don't have the money to get these huge trees taken out so this program would be a way to take care of them. People will have to show a tax return as it will be based on income level and also sign a waiver of liability. Can we get a map of the overlay of trees in the City for the next meeting?

City Public Works Supervisor Cracraft stated yes, we can have B.J. print that out.

Levi Garcia with LG Tree Service stated on behalf of LG Tree Service I would be willing to give discounts on projects of this size because it is needed.

Chairman Wolf stated the way that would work is it would be open to bid and there would be certain specifications.

7. ADJOURNMENT: THE MEETING MAY BE ADJOURNED BY APPROPRIATE MOTION OF THE CITY TREE BOARD.

Member Rhea moved to adjourn the regular meeting of the Ely City Tree Board at **3:24 p.m.** Member Church seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.



ATTEST



CHAIRMAN

