Minutes of the Centerville City Tree Board meeting held Wednesday, November 20, 2019 at 8:00 p.m. in the Centerville City Hall Administrative Conference Room, 250 North Main Street, Centerville, Utah.

MEMBERS PRESENT
Joy Chambers, Chair
Grant Chavez
Gary Smith
Gary Woodward

MEMBERS ABSENT
Brooke Holman
Anne Linton
Scott Zeidler

STAFF PRESENT
Bill Ince, City Council Liaison
Tyler West, Parks and Recreation Supervisor
Connie Larson, Recording Secretary

NEW MEMBER
Grant Chavez was introduced as a new member of the Tree Board. Mr. Chavez was a park arborist for the Salt Lake County Parks Department and he recently retired. His responsibility was to choose trees for parks. He lives in Centerville on 200 North by the carwash.

PURPOSE OF TREE BOARD

Bill Ince, City Council Liaison, explained there is a problem with sidewalks being damaged by tree roots. Tree roots are also causing utility problems in the park strips. The insurance carrier for Centerville has stated the City must do something about buckling sidewalks or lose their insurance coverage. The City needs a tempered approach for dealing with this problem while continuing to beautify the City.

MINUTES REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Minutes of the October 23, 2019 meeting were reviewed. Gary Woodward made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Gary Smith seconded the motion, which was passed by unanimous vote (4-0).

PREPARE FOR JOINT WORK SESSION WITH CITY COUNCIL

Chair Joy Chambers said on Tuesday, December 3rd, there will be a work meeting with the City Council at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall. Dinner will be served at the work session. Bill Ince, City Council Liaison, said this will be an opportunity to go through the Board’s recommendation
with the City Council, and answer questions and attempt to lobby support for the proposed Tree Ordinance. Five weeks ago in the northwest section of Centerville, a contractor for the City re-trimmed trees which the homeowner believed were trimmed within the statute of the current Tree Ordinance. An updated Tree Ordinance needs to be in place that can be enforced. Gary Smith reported the Centerville Commons Homeowners Association asked him to walk through their development for suggestions on trees that could be planted. He did this, but not as a member of the Tree Board.

The City Attorney has reviewed the proposed Tree Ordinance, and she made four minor changes in the language. Bill Ince, City Council Liaison, explained the City can legally remove trees that are buckling sidewalks over one-inch. Letters were sent to homeowners several months ago stating the City would split the cost of removing trees, but there was little response. One of the problems was that there were trees causing damage to utilities in a park strip, and when the trees were removed, the root structure damaged the sprinkling system. The homeowner wanted the City to pay for the utility damage.

At the work session, a member of the Tree Board will give a presentation on the work that the Board has accomplished. An explanation of trees that will work close to sidewalks will be given. Gary Woodward will take the lead for the Tree Board at the work session. Mr. Ince explained the Tree Ordinance will be subject to a public hearing in January, where Tree Board members will be required to answer questions from the citizens. Leah Romero will provide copies of the proposed Tree Ordinance for attendees at the work session. The next area of focus for the Tree Board will be problems that trees cause, and how they will be remediated. Grant Chavez told about a man in Salt Lake County who was in violation of their tree ordinance. He is a war veteran and unable to pay for the tree removal on his property. Volunteer tree removal experts were asked to help the man with his trees, and he allowed them on his property to remove the trees.

NEXT MEETING

The next Tree Board meeting will tentatively be held on Wednesday, December 18, 2019 at 8:00 p.m. This date may change, depending on the outcome of the work session with the City Council on December 3rd. The January Tree Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 15, 2020 at 8:00 p.m.

ADJOURN

At 9:25 p.m., Chair Joy Chambers made a motion to adjourn. Gary Woodward seconded the motion, which was passed by unanimous vote (4-0).