

AGENDA
April 15, 2025

Conference Room	Public Works Building	12:15 PM
	601 S 26th St Bismarck, ND 58504	

The regular meeting of the Forestry Advisory Board (FAB) is scheduled for Tuesday, April 15, 2025, at 12:15 PM in the Conference Room of the Public Works Building.

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Public Comment
3. Approval of January 21, 2025 Meeting Minutes
4. Chairman and Vice-Chairman Election
5. Forestry Activities/Staffing Update
6. 2025 Planting Projects and Grants
7. 2025 Contracts
8. 2025 Arbor Day
9. Other Business

ADJOURN

FORESTRY ADVISORY BOARD

MEETING MINUTES – January 21, 2025

In attendance:

Greg Zenker	Mitch Becker	Brian Houle	Dawn Kopp
Amy Sakariassen	Kate Herzog	Dave Mayer	Eric Gabbert
Christy Ames-Davis			

Vice-Chairperson Amy Sakariassen called the meeting to order at 12:20 p.m.

Approval of the minutes from the October 15, 2024, regular meeting of the FAB:

There were no questions or comments on the minutes. Kate Herzog moved to approve the minutes. Dawn Kopp seconded motion. All were in favor and the motion carried.

2024 Recap:

- Staffing - Christy Ames-Davis was hired to fill the City Forester position. She started in her new role on November 11, 2024. Eric Gabbert was introduced as the new Forestry Programs Coordinator. Eric has been with the Forestry Division since 2011 as an Arborist and began his new role on January 6, 2025. We also recently filled an open Forestry Tech position that we had.
- Tree Pruning - 3,192 total trees pruned (1,595 by forestry staff, 998 by annual pruning contract, and 599 through street improvement projects).
- Tree Removal - 422 total trees removed (289 by forestry staff, 133 by contract ash tree removal).
- Stump Removal - 419 total stumps ground/removed (85 by forestry staff, 334 by contractors).
- DED final numbers - 136 elm trees throughout the city tested positive - a record year.
- Tree Planting - 1,046 total trees planted (386 of the trees planted were done with grant funds or special projects/replacements).
- Partners In Planting - 198 trees rebated, 102 participants, \$16,882.86 in rebates. Jap Tree Lilac, Crabapple, and Linden were the top 3 species planted through the program.

2025 Outlook/Plans:

- Staffing: - We have an open Arborist position that is currently listed and will close on Sunday, January 26. Once that position is filled, we will be fully staffed with full time employees.
- Forestry Crew Work Plans: - Our crew continues to work on street tree pruning and removals over the winter months. Annual elm firewood inspections will begin in late March, weather permitting.
- Grant Projects: - We will be completing our second year of the IRA (Inflation Reduction Act) Grant planting project. Planting locations are yet to be determined, but there two areas of town that we can focus on based on amount of tree canopy coverage each area has. Those areas were shown to the group.
- Parks and Rec also received an ATB Tree Planting grant for Normandy Park. Forestry will assist with tree planting on that grant. This will include street trees and trees within the park.
- Contracts: - Contracts for 2025 are still in the works, however, we have \$130,000 allocated for street tree pruning, and \$30,000 allocated for stump grinding. We will also continue with contracting removal of poor condition ash trees in preparation for EAB.

FAB Member Terms:

Mayor Schmitz re-appointed Brian Houle and Doug Prchal to the Forestry Advisory Board for 4-year terms ending in 2028. Carolyn Godfread and Dawn Kopp have terms ending in December of this year. Doug Prchal has been our Chairman and Amy Sakariassen has been our Vice Chairman for several years. It is time we select a new Chairman and Vice Chairman. Christy will send out an email asking for nominations prior to our April meeting.

2025 Arbor Day:

The Arbor Day committee will have its first meeting January 22, 2025. Dawn Kopp, Kate Herzog, & Brian Houle are on the committee. Arbor Day is Friday, May 2nd this year.

Other Agenda Items:

Christy stated that there is a FAB handbook that we haven't really been using. It was last updated in 2017. She plans to go through it and make some changes and bring to the board for approval.

Meeting Adjourned at 12:50 pm