

FORESTRY ADVISORY BOARD

MEETING MINUTES – October 21, 2025

In attendance:

Greg Zenker	Brett Gurholt	Mitch Becker	Dawn Kopp
Doug Prchal	Kate Herzog	Dave Mayer	Carolyn Godfread
Brian Houle	Christy Ames-Davis	Eric Gabbert	Eric Dietrich
Mike Miller	Jenny Wolmuth		

Brett Gurholt called the meeting to order at 12:15 p.m.

There were no public comments.

Approval of the minutes from the July 15, 2025, regular meeting of the FAB with a correction:

- Brett called for a correction to the July 15, 2025 FAB minutes. It was noted in the July 15 minutes that the only place EAB has been found in North Dakota is in Fargo; however, Eric Gabbert made the correction stating it was actually found in Lamoure County.
- We had a revised motion to approve July 15, 2025 minutes. Doug Prchal moved to approve the minutes. Greg Zenker seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion carried.

2025-2026 Grants Update:

- Christy reported The Memorial Hwy Grant- 2023 Fall ATB (America the Beautiful) grant from the North Dakota Forest Service was completed this spring. The total number of trees planted is 61, including the 5 planted this year.
- The Inflation Reduction Act Grant was also completed. It was a no match grant administered by the ND Forest Service. There were 124 trees planted with this grant in 2024. An additional 143 trees were planted this year; for a total of 267 street trees planted through this grant.
- Christy reported she will be applying for an EAB Mitigation Grant through the ND Forest Service. This grant is for removal and replacement of ash trees in preparation for EAB. The grant is funded with state dollars and will award up to \$25,000 with a 20% match; the application is due October 24, 2025. Christy stated she is targeting South Washington Street between Reno Dr and Munich Dr for ash tree removals and replacements. There are 118 trees in this area, with over 50% ash species. Christy proposes the removal of 20 green ash trees and the replanting of 40 new trees of varying species, for a 2:1 replacement ratio. She will notify the board if the grant is approved.

2025 Contracts Update:

- Christy reported that Beaver Creek Tree Service has almost completed the pruning contract for the year. Under this contract, 1,000 trees were pruned. They are currently pruning in the Sunrise School area. Their contract for this year was \$130,000. Forestry will re-bid the contract before the end of the year. The contract will be for up to 3 years (2026 – 2028). \$135,000 is budgeted for contract pruning in 2026.
- The stump grinding contract is done for the year. Don's Stump Grinding removed 237 stumps. It was a \$30,000 contract which will be re-bid in the spring of 2026 for up to 3 years (2026-2028).
- EAB preparedness removals of poor condition ash trees are nearly complete. The budget for this year is \$87,500 for ash tree removal and stump grinding. Tree Max has the removal contract and Beaver Creek Tree Service has the stump contract. 101 trees and stumps will be removed through this project. Funding will allow for one additional year on this project.

2025 Dutch Elm Disease Report:

- Christy reported we had fewer DED trees this year than the previous two years.
- 52 elm trees tested positive for DED this year and 18 elm trees over 50% dead were also removed. Of the trees testing positive for DED there were 37 street trees, 14 private property trees, and 1 on parks property. There were over 130 positive DED trees found last year.

2025 Tree Planting and Partners in Planting Program Update:

- Eric Gabbert reported there were 231 planting permits issued for homeowners and landscapers in 2025. So far there have been 82 participants in our Partners In Planting Program. There were 173 trees rebated totaling over \$15,000 in rebates.
In addition to tree planting done in residential and commercial areas, approximately 200 trees were planted on South Washington Street through the street improvement project that took place there last year. Around 50 new trees were planted on East Century Ave through the street improvement project taking place there this year.

2026 Arbor Day:

- Christy stated the need to get a committee formed for planning of 2026 Arbor Day and get volunteers. Arbor Day is always the 1st Friday in May. In 2026 that will be May 1st. She asked for volunteers and any suggestions for honorees. Katie Herzog volunteered along with Dawn Kopp, Brian Houle and Brett Gurholt. Eric will contact the committee members to set up a meeting in November or December.
- Christy stated she has received one nomination for 2026 Arbor Day honoree, and that was Keith Hunke. Kate mentioned David Blackstead as well.

2025 Term Expirations (Carolyn Godfreed and Dawn Kopp):

- Christy stated Carolyn Godfreed and Dawn Kopp's term is up at the end of this year. If either are interested in staying on the board, there is an application to fill out online. Applications for all city boards open in November and are accepted through the month. Carolyn stated she is interested in staying on the board. She has been a FAB board member since 1985. Dawn also expressed interest in staying on the board. Christy will email them a link to the application.

Land Development Code Update -Landscaping, Buffering, and Screening:

- Jenny Wollmuth, Senior Planner with Community Development, updated FAB on proposed changes to landscaping, buffering and screening requirements outlined in Title 14. The entire Title 14 ordinance is undergoing a revision and will be called the Land Development Code. This is the first major update to the ordinance since 1982.
- A link to the draft document was included in the agenda packet for this meeting. FAB members may view the document and make any comments they might have. Jenny can also be reached for comment. The revised ordinance is expected to be adopted in the first part of 2026.

Other Items:

- Christy reported we will be getting disaster assistance from FEMA for the June 20th storm. Public Works Director of Service Operations, Steve Salwei applied for assistance after Governor Armstrong declared a state of emergency state wide due to damage from the storm.

Meeting Adjourned 12:45 pm