

**MINUTES  
TREE BOARD  
August 19, 2021**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Zach Hendrix called the in-person/virtual hybrid meeting to order at 6:05 pm on August 19, 2021.

**ROLL CALL**

The following members were present for roll call:

Members Present: Lisa Paige, Co-Chair  
Zach Hendrix, Co-Chair  
Jo Anne Teeple, Member  
Britni Johnson, Member

Town Staff Present: Mike Callas, Town of Carbondale Staff Liaison  
Marty Silverstein, Board of Trustees Liaison  
Kae McDonald, Boards and Commissions Clerk

**CONSENT AGENDA**

***Motion Passed:*** Britni ***moved*** to approve the July 2021 Tree Board minutes. Jo Anne ***seconded*** the motion, and it was ***unanimously approved***.

**PERSONS PRESENT NOT ON THE AGENDA**

There was no one present, not on the agenda, to address the Tree Board.

**TREE BOARD MEMBER APPLICATION: SKY QUARTO**

The board members reviewed Sky's application and proceeded with interview questions.

Jo Anne asked Sky to elaborate on her statement concerning invasive trees.

Sky responded that she has observed many Siberian Elms throughout Carbondale. Sky stated that this species is designated as a noxious weed in other communities, and she is concerned about their presence here.

Mike noted that Carbondale has been a Tree City for 27 years.

Lisa asked Sky if she had had a chance to read the Tree Ordinance.

Sky responded that she hadn't read it yet but indicated she would make a point to read it.

Lisa pointed out that the Tree Ordinance was written in 2002 and created the Tree Board as a citizen advisory board that provides feedback on plans presented to the board by Mike.

Sky noted her willingness to learn and added that she wants to get involved in a small way.

The board members discussed Sky's application amongst themselves.

***Motion Passed:*** Lisa ***moved*** to approve the recommendation of Sky Quarto to the Board of Trustees for approval as a member of the Tree Board. Britni ***seconded*** the motion, and it was ***unanimously approved***.

### **ARBOR DAY DISCUSSION, CONTINUED**

Zach opened the continued discussion on the Arbor Day discussion by reminding the board members that there was interest in planting trees at the Dog Park, but that follow-up was needed with the Parks Department.

Mike informed the board members that planting trees within the perimeter of the dog park is not approved. He noted that a large Kentucky Coffee Tree dies just outside the perimeter and that the Arbor Day celebration would be an opportunity to replace that tree. Mike also announced that he had been approached by the Bertard family to plant a celebration tree in honor of Rusty Bertard. They would like to locate the tree outside the senior gardens and include a memorial bench (which would be handled by the Parks Department). Mike thought this might be a good compromise, as well.

Jo Anne asked Mike what the reasoning was for not being able to plant a tree inside the Dog Park perimeter.

Mike responded that it is primarily the way the irrigation is plumbed within the Dog Park.

Britni and Zach thought the celebration tree would be a good compromise.

Mike noted that he would like to plan the Arbor Day planting for a weekday in early-to-mid September. He noted that Tree City, USA, is not requiring an in-person Arbor Day celebration this year. Once the date is selected, Mike will get the proclamation issued by the mayor.

Jo Anne noted that Margaret is still interested in producing the flyer and Dan usually prints them. She noted that the three Thursdays in September that might work are the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, and 16<sup>th</sup>—the 16<sup>th</sup> being the regularly scheduled Tree Board meeting for that month.

### **MAIN STREET/DOWNTOWN NORTH DESIGN CHARRETTE**

Mike asked if anyone had been able to attend the Comprehensive Plan update meetings held earlier in the week.

Jo Anne noted that she attended Monday's meeting and it was more of general discussion. Items that were discussed were pedestrians versus cars/ease and safety of transportation, the high cost of living, the lack of housing, and where development should take place. She noted that areas with greenspace were the most often selected for additional development.

### **MICHAEL'S TREE REPORT**

Mike noted that he didn't have much to report that was different from the last few months. He did report that a Parks Department mower got stuck between a tree and an abandoned vehicle, and since the Police were unwilling to move the vehicle for 72 hours, the tree was cut down. He added that the tree that was cut down was the 100<sup>th</sup> planted through the Kay Brunnier fund and he will solicit her input on what to replace it with.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

Marti informed the Tree Board that there have been discussions amongst the Board of Trustees concerning water usage and an effort towards water conservation.

Mike was in favor of the concept and suggested one way to reduce water usage would be to limit the number of streetside gardens the Town maintains. He pointed out that, in this climate, young trees have a better chance of survival if they are irrigated.

Jo Anne noted that while the Tree Board is only responsible for trees with the Town right-of-way, she is very concerned about the trees and landscaping installed at 1201 Main Street. She pointed out that the "cobbles" are quite large, and the plants are very small; she also noted that a series of large evergreens were planted under the eaves and in front of the windows. She noted that that

limits egress, it could be considered a fire hazard, and given their location in front of the windows and near the bus stop they could promote crime. She wondered how these details slipped through the inspection and how citizens can advocate for more safety. She is also concerned about conversations about water conservation and is concerned that the green strips along Highway 133 might be ripped out. She pointed out that green space serves a good purpose and xeriscape is not just rocks.

Marty replied that the discussion about water is more about making people using the town ditch system to water pay for what they use. He also noted that given the current environmental conditions, it is a discussion that needs to be had.

Mike responded that he would follow-up with the Building and Fire Departments to make sure that the plantings are consistent with the plans.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The August 19, 2021, regular meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled on September 16, 2021 at 6:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kae McDonald  
Town of Carbondale  
Boards and Commissions Clerk