

Minutes of the Connell Tree Board
Meeting on December 9, 2015

**Present: Ken Sellereite, Kim Phanthavong, Manuel Galvez, Linda Bailie,
Becky Daggett**

The meeting was begun with introductions. The members are community volunteers except for Kim Phanthavong who is employed by the city to help maintain city parks and any trees/ vegetation on city property. The mayor of Connell approved the formation of this volunteer board.

Discussion began about the purpose of this board. Ken Sellereite explained that this group would develop a tree ordinance for the city. This would be part of a process that will ultimately result in grant money from the U.S. Forestry Service. After we develop this ordinance, it will be submitted to the city attorney for further review then go to the mayor and city council for approval. The city will be responsible for enforcing the ordinance.

This board must also conduct some type of arbor day celebration once a year. This could be an educational event or a simple gathering to do some new planting or tree maintenance on city property.

The members of the board volunteered to serve in the following manner:

1-year term: Manuel Galvez, Becky Daggett

2-year term: Linda Bailie, Kim Phanthavong

3-year term: Ken Sellereite,

Ken Sellereite is chairperson. Becky Daggett is secretary.

We were informed that Garth Davis, from Spokane County, is our official certified arborist. This is a necessity as part of the grant application process.

We discussed the fact that this ordinance will pertain mostly for new plantings except in cases of a hazardous or dangerous situation. A grandfather clause will need to be included. We decided that the city attorney could help with the correct wording and inclusion of that in the ordinance.

Before the meeting we had opportunity to read the Arbor Day Foundation guidelines, Community Tree Ordinance FACT Template, and three sample tree ordinances from similar size towns.

We decided to use the sample ordinance from "Midwestern communities of average population" and adapt the document to Connell. The remainder of the meeting was spent going through this document and reworking it. The secretary will type it within the next 2 weeks and e-mail it to the other board members for their input.

After we have finalized the ordinance, Ken will deliver it to the city attorney and the mayor. The next step would then be approval by the city council, probably sometime in January.

Respectfully submitted,
Becky Daggett