



**PAROWAN CITY SHADE TREE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 6, 2025 – 6:00 P.M.
PAROWAN CITY OFFICES - 35 E 100 N, PAROWAN, UT 84761**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Linda Smith, Justin Dalley, Vern Fridley, Councilmember John Dean, Heidi Toia, Ron Roth

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: Charlene Busch (excused)

ADMINISTRATION AND STAFF PRESENT: Mayor Mollie Halterman, Callie Bassett

PUBLIC PRESENT: Ryan Johnson

1. Call to Order

Linda Smith called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM on February 6, 2025, at the Parowan City office.

2. Welcome New Shade Tree Board Member Heidi Toia

Linda Smith welcomed Heidi Toia as the new board member. John Dean asked Heidi to introduce herself. Heidi provided a brief bio, stating that she grew up in Henderson, Nevada, graduated high school in 2022, and has an associate's degree in business. She is currently pursuing a bachelor's degree in plant science at SUU and has a love for agriculture. Heidi mentioned that she raises chickens and has a backyard garden. She expressed her desire to become a micro farmer after obtaining her degree and her love for serving in the community.

Linda Smith asked about micro farming, and Heidi explained that it's farming on a smaller scale. Ron Roth mentioned that they had recently adopted a chicken and asked Heidi some questions about chicken care.

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes from November 7, 2024

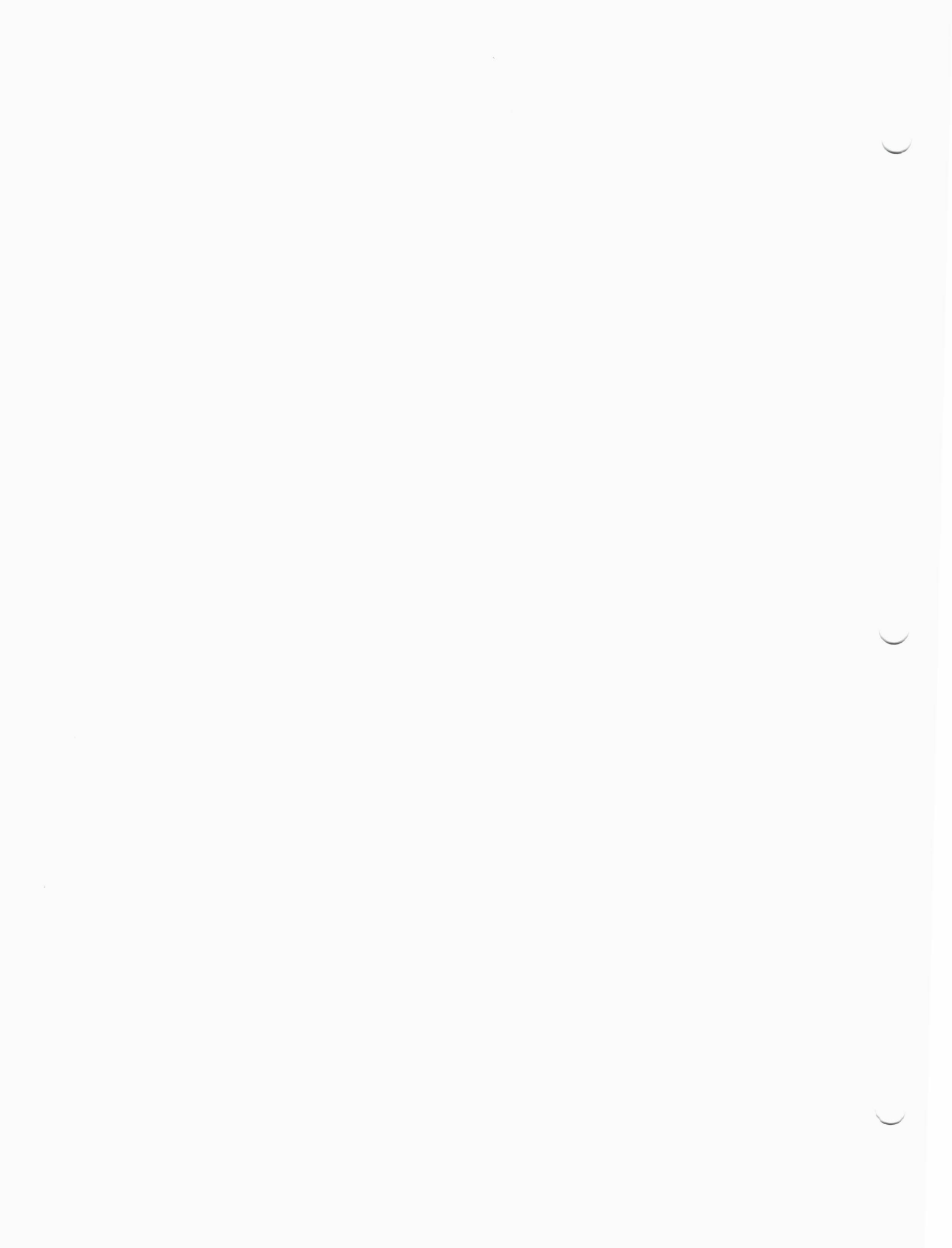
Ron Roth made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from November 7, 2024. Justin Dalley seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. New Chairman

John Dean announced that they would like to encourage everyone to vote for Charlene Bush as the new chairperson of the Shade Tree Committee. He mentioned that Charlene was not present at the meeting because she was celebrating her mother's 80th birthday. John described Charlene as having a wealth of information and good ideas.

Linda Smith asked for a motion to approve Charlene as the chairman and then have a second.

Justin Dalley made a motion to approve Charlene Bush as the new chairman of the Shade Tree Committee. Heidi Toia seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.



Linda Smith provided additional information about Charlene, mentioning that she has been on the committee for two years, works with the extension in the science field, and is involved with 4-H. She also mentioned that Charlene grew up in a farming community near Bishop, California, and has some great connections to help with community outreach regarding trees.

5. Changes to Parowan Municipal Code 2.24.040(F)(2) by Ordinance 2025-02

John Dean reviewed the changes made to the city ordinance 2.24.040(F)(2) that were voted on at the last city council meeting. The updated ordinance now states:

"All owners and occupants of each parcel of real property within the city shall be responsible for watering and general care of trees located in public streets, which front on that parcel of real property. All pruning of such trees shall be done at the expense of the homeowner, with the city reserving the right to maintain trees, including removal and its own option when necessary. All pruning and proper maintenance shall be completed using verified techniques, and in no event will be pruning be allowed, which will be detrimental to the healthy growth of said trees."

John explained that the changes were made to clarify responsibilities and mentioned that the vote at the city council was four in favor and one against.

6. "Request for Tree Removal" Form Process

John Dean explained the process for tree removal requests. He mentioned that the forms are available in the office, and when people fill them out, a copy should be sent to both him and the chairperson. They will then discuss the request with Justin instead of going through a more time-consuming process.

7. Tree Removal Request – Ted Smith, 7 North 200 West

Justin Dalley reported that he inspected the ash tree at Ted Smith's property. He noted that the tree had been trimmed up and some branches were damaged in a recent snowstorm. Justin stated that the tree still looks healthy and just needs some cleaning up.

John Dean mentioned that he had also visited the site that morning and observed a large area where part of the tree had broken off in the storm. He suggested that the tree might not look like much of a tree anymore.

Linda Smith asked John to follow up with Ted Smith and make a decision about whether the tree needs to be removed or just trimmed. Justin reminded everyone that the tree is on city property, so the decision is at their discretion.

8. Bids for 2025 Tree Spraying

Justin Dalley reported that he met with Beaver Landscape to discuss tree spraying for the upcoming year. He mentioned that this would be the fourth year of spraying. Justin is waiting on a quote but said it would be around the same time as last year. He explained that the areas to be sprayed include parks, Main Street, the cemetery, and other areas the city is responsible for.

There was a discussion about whether to continue spraying ash trees throughout the city, given the recent change in the ordinance making homeowners responsible for trees in front of their properties. Justin asked for guidance on how to proceed.

Linda Smith provided some history on how the spraying program started, mentioning that it began with the high school area and expanded to other parts of the city over time.

Ryan Johnson, an expert present at the meeting, advised that keeping the spraying program in place could be beneficial, especially with the potential threat of the Emerald Ash Borer. He suggested that having a plan ready would be helpful when the pest eventually arrives in the area.

The committee discussed the possibility of including the spraying costs in Justin's budget and potentially applying for grants to support the program.

9. 2025 Meeting Schedule and Items for Next Meeting

Arbor Day 2025

Linda Smith mentioned that Arbor Day would be a significant upcoming event. She noted that it falls on a Friday in April and that Charlene, the new chairperson, already has something planned with the school. Linda reviewed past Arbor Day activities and suggested that Charlene would likely present ideas at the next meeting.

John Dean mentioned that the meeting schedule would be worked out on a quarterly basis to accommodate everyone's schedules. He also noted that the Arbor Day celebration doesn't necessarily have to be on the exact day.

10. Member Reports

Ron Roth shared several updates about Meeks Pond:

1. He mentioned the Fremont Cottonwood tree at Heritage Park, which is over 200 years old and the only tree awarded by the Utah Board of Forestry.
2. Ron and his wife donated benches to Meeks Pond, and two more benches were donated by George Hartlmaier.
3. Gate posts were installed to prevent cars from driving to the shoreline, with a chain to be added soon.
4. He discussed the pollinating perennials planted a couple of years ago, which are dormant for winter but should bloom in spring.
5. Ron expressed concern about children playing on the ice at Meeks Pond, citing recent deaths in Utah due to similar situations. He suggested educating the community about the dangers.
6. He also mentioned issues with children rolling boulders and throwing rocks in the pond area, damaging the landscape.

John Dean acknowledged Ron's concerns and said they would work on addressing these issues separately from the Shade Tree Committee.

Ryan Johnson, the state arborist, offered assistance with grant applications and mentioned that there might be funding available through various programs. He also invited Heidi to consider joining SUU's tree board as a student representative.

Mollie Halterman suggested exploring the possibility of using funds from the Parowan Prevention Coalition for tree-related projects involving youth.

Ron mentioned that he had created a map of the new part of the cemetery, showing tree locations, which he had given to Mollie.

11. Public Comments (if any)


There weren't any comments from the public.

12. Adjourn

Ron Roth made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Heidi Toia seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

The next meeting was tentatively scheduled for the following month, with future meetings to be held on a quarterly basis.

The meeting adjourned at 6:52 p.m.



Callie Bassett, CMC
City Recorder

Date Approved: 03/06/2025