

CITY OF SCOTTSBLUFF, NEBRASKA
Scottsbluff City Hall Council Chambers
2525 Circle Drive, Scottsbluff, NE 69361
PARK, CEMETERY, AND TREE BOARD



Wednesday, December 10, 2025

6:00 PM

Welcome and Call to Order: Meeting was called to order by Megan at 6:03 PM

Nebraska Open Meetings Act: For all interested parties, a copy of the Nebraska Open Meeting Act is posted on the bulletin board at the south wall of the Council Chambers.

Roll Call: Megan, Larry, Ashlee, and Carolyn Present. Dan and James Absent. City staff present Matt and Tevia.

Notice of changes in the agenda by the Park Board President: no changes

Citizens with business not scheduled on the agenda: none

Minutes: No action taken, two board members present weren't at the October meeting, so no motion could be made to approve the minutes.

Financial Reports: Larry provided financial reports.

- a. Park Foundation - \$5,919.68
- b. Cemetery Foundation - \$440.23

Megan talked about Rotary still wanting an account set up for the new park funds. They are leaving it up to the Park Board on what they want to set up. Megan didn't have exact amount that was being moved. Motion made by Ashlee to have Megan and Larry set up an account for the Rotary Funds. Bank and type of account to be reported back to the Board. 2nd by Carolyn, motion carried.

Motion made to accept the financial report by Ashlee, 2nd by Carolyn, motion carried.

Park and Cemetery Updates:

Matt

- Veterans Park – The Ten Free Trees grant trees were planted. The irrigation ditch has been filled in and all trash removed. Dirt work around the pitch has been completed. Lights on the pitch are still not operational, waiting on a part from Musco to get them working.
- 18th Street Plaza – City Council approved shade structures for the plaza. Four Hypar Umbrella shades have been ordered. Bathrooms will be a separate building and has been approved by City Council.
- Riverside Campground – Moving away from Campspot booking system to a new reservation system called Set Your Sites. The campsite signs have been installed and

contain a QR code for people to scan to purchase the spot. Power monitoring will be coming as well which will allow us to see who is using power and if they have paid for their site. Could go forward without a host, but have posted a job on Kamperjobs.com. Advertised it as a volunteer position, get the campsite free for the summer in exchange for cleaning restrooms, campground and some other duties. Have started to look into possible upgrades and revisions to improve the campground.

- Cemetery –New office work scheduled to begin in March. Urban & Community Forestry Grant report completed. Planted 18 trees in October. Removal of 28 trees scheduled for January.
- Tree City USA application completed and submitted last week. We were also eligible to apply for the Growth Award again this year. We received both awards last year and should again this year. Carolyn asked how many years we have been Tree City USA, Matt to find and report back to the board.

Trevor – Presented by Matt as Trevor was unable to attend

- Compost application has been completed at all parks.
- Tree work has been the focus the past couple of weeks, mainly removals and stump grinding.
- Picking up broken picnic tables to start replacing boards and staining.
- Equipment – received 3 wide area mowers, had 2 budgeted but were able to purchase 3 with the amount we had in the budget. ¾ Ton truck will go to council on Monday. Got a new Kubota UTV to replace the totaled UForce.

Tevia

- Husker party in the Plaza was well attended. Lot of comments that it was a great idea. Food trucks did well and had Heights Tavern and Flyover Brewing as drink vendors. We had heaters, but they didn't work great. It got cold and the game was bad, so people started leaving before the game was over. Ashlee suggested doing a volleyball game as well. ALLO did show the volleyball game before the football game started.
- Kite Festival was a great event even if the wind didn't cooperate. People didn't know what to expect and they were really impressed. Have already scheduled it for next year, will have to check with the soccer teams before the date can be finalized. The kite company has a lot more kites that they were unable to fly. Vendors did really well and many mentioned that they did better than at the Beef, Beans & Bluegrass Festival. Amy Westphal helped with sponsors and got the bounce houses fully sponsored. It was great to see so many people staying in the park and really utilizing it and making a day of it.
- Parade and Christmas tree lighting was a partnership between DSA and the City. It was a packed with people and seemed to move faster than previous years. Some asked about it being a week early, but the DSA group prefers it as Thanksgiving weekend is busy for them with the holiday and shoppers. Many people travel for Thanksgiving, so the earlier date could have helped increase attendance.
- Christmas tree lighting is a work in progress, looking at making it a better event.

- Jingle Jog – Had a total of 115 runners. Big increase over last year, created the event on Facebook in August, so this might have helped with increased attendance. We also lowered the price this year. Late registrations are difficult and need more help on race day for day of registrations. Route was good and will look to keep it the same next year.
- Looking at the next events which will be the Easter Egg Hunt and Arbor Day. Will put together a 2026 calendar to get the events out as early as possible.

Other Business:

- New Board Member – Advertised for a new board member on Facebook. Had two reach out right away, Ryan Scharf and Taylor Blomenkamp. Matt sent them the Board Application and will share them with the Board once received back. Board can then decide to bring them to the next meeting to meet them and ask questions and then make their recommendation to City Council from there.
- Tree Inventory Report – Kaden Vowers was going to attend and present the report, but was sick and unable to make it. Matt walked through the report highlights and provided copies of the report to the Board. NE Forest Service will present the report to City Council in February; Chrissy Land is on maternity leave and should be present when going in front of council.

New Business:

None

Schedule Next Meeting: Meeting will be February 11, 2026

Adjournment: Ashlee made motion to adjourn at 7:19 PM, 2nd by Larry. Motion carried.