

Gretna Arbor Society Tree Board
Tuesday, January 13, 2026 Meeting Minutes

This meeting was conducted in compliance with the Nebraska Open Meetings Act. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Gretna Main Public Library Conference Room. Roll Call was taken; present were Jerry Imig, Amy Nakai, Angie Lauritsen, Dave Kovar, John Wolken, Marshall Jaros, Missy Ragatz, Lauren Liebenritt, City Council Representative and Kevin O'Brien, Gretna Public Works Director. Minutes of the November 11, 2025, meeting were approved, motions by Missy and Dave. Public Comments on any Agenda Items: None, closed public comments.

Financial Update: Dan Hansen, Board Member, will assume the role of Finance Coordinator. Our budget for this fiscal year has been set at \$21,215. Expenses reported by Amy were \$740 for the winter NAA Conference. Kevin informed the board that he has asked a member of the Public Works Department to attend our meetings.

Member Dan Hansen completed Arborist School in November and successfully passed the exam to be a NAA Certified Arborist. Thanks and congratulations to Dan!

The City is finalizing the process for memorial trees, benches, and other park amenities. Any trees funded by memorial donations will be planted at one of two annual planting ceremonies. Planting will be done by and supervised by city personnel. Volunteer assistance will be welcome as well.

The City website will be updated soon with information on the program. Residents will be asked to submit a form for processing the memorials.

Members will work on compiling information to be included on the City website, including recommended tree selections and links to the City's tree ordinances.

The Annual Gretna Tree Talk will be held on Saturday, March 7, 2026, at Harvest Hills Elementary School. We discussed topics for speakers and presentations. Amy has secured donations from local businesses; Fareway will provide snacks, and Scooters will provide the coffee. We will accept donations to the Gretna Food Bank in place of an admission charge. Members are asked to plan arrival at 7:00 a.m. to set up.

John will complete the grant submittal for the NRD for the 2026 tree funding program. The request will be for trees to be planted along the east side of Gretna Crossing Park (GXP). Pending approval, we plan to plant trees on April 11. For the USA's 250th anniversary, we plan to plant a tree at the new City Hall facility after construction has been completed.

The annual Poster Contest award ceremony is scheduled for Thursday, April 23, at 7:00 p.m. Missy has purchased paper for the schools, and she will work with Amy to get it delivered to everyone. Amy secured donations from Walmart for the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place prizes (gift cards), and Marshall will donate the Grand Prize Award. We will judge the posters before our monthly meeting on April 14 at 6:30 p.m.

The Arbor Day Program will be held on April 24th. We will ask the Mayor to read the proclamation.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:54 p.m. Next meeting January 13, 2026

Respectfully, John Wolken, Secretary. November 19, 2025