

President Cory Williams called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. at Goodrich Middle School.

Attendees: Cory Williamson, president; Jacob Hartwig, vice president; Brian Jung, Treasurer; Anne Pamperl, secretary; Wendy Morrissey, Gloria Kuebler, and Cheryl Wells Board members. Cheryl had Brian Jung's proxy for the portion of the meeting he had to miss. Jacob had Robert Henre's proxy, and Wendy had Janet Emery's proxy.

Secretary's Report: Anne read the minutes of the September Board meeting and asked if there were any revisions. No one had any. Cheryl made a motion to accept the minutes as read, Jacob seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: The bills presented at the meeting were as follows:

Grafton & Associates	\$378.50 (bookkeeping expenses for 2 months)
Lincoln Electric System	\$32.50 (light by basketball court)
T&D Mowing	\$1,180.00 (5 commons mowings, 2 Superior ROW mowings, empty trash containers)
Hamilton Equipment	\$330.15 (rental of dump trailer and grapple bucket for commons cleanup in September)
Casey's	\$16.80 (gasoline purchased for commons cleanup)

Wendy moved the Treasurer's report be accepted and bills paid as read, Cheryl seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Addendum to the Treasurer's Report: The receipt from Dean Machine for renting the bobcat and its diesel fuel for the commons cleanup was emailed to all Board Members after the meeting. Wendy made a motion the bill be paid, Jacob seconded the motion, and Board members voted to pay the bill via email. Cory will meet with Brian to get a check to pay the bill before the end of the month.

Business:

Item 1, Future Board meeting locations – Wendy reported that she had reserved a meeting room at Eiseley Library for the November meeting. Goodrich Middle School isn't available due to parent/teacher conferences on the Board's meeting night. She also reported that the Media Center of the School is reserved for the December through May meetings.

Item 2, September commons cleanup – Cory reported the cleanup was a success. A bobcat rented from Dean Machine was used to move brush, limbs, and logs. Two trailers and pickups were used to transport brush to the landfill for recycling. One truck/trailer set was provided by a resident, BENA rented a dump trailer, and Cory's father provided the other truck. 18 adults and 2 children worked on the cleanup. Some stated they came to help after seeing the equipment working/moving around the commons. Brian Jung pruned trees behind Bunker Hill and around the playground before and during the cleanup. He also borrowed a small dump truck for the day of the cleanup that was used to transport limbs and brush piles from behind Bunker Hill to the more accessible brush pile beside Boston. Jacob cut down 3 dead pine trees behind Old Glory, which were moved to the Boston brush pile. 11 loads of brush and limbs were taken to the landfill on the day of the cleanup, which weighed approximately 14,000 pounds. Cory pointed out the amount of brush generated was due to the commons not having much maintenance for 20 years or more because of the lack of volunteers to perform the work. A few small brush piles are still scattered around the commons – 2 near Gloria's house on North 25th, 1 behind Preamble, and 1 behind Old Glory. Gloria reported she and her husband had cleared volunteer trees from around evergreens near her house and put into one of the piles. Gloria reported a city crew removed a low, live limb from a cottonwood tree by North 25th in

order to get a large, tall truck into the commons. Cory reported the city crew and a local plumbing company were working on the city sewer lines that run through the commons and under Old Glory. Gloria also reported she had picked up piles of leaves and filled 10 large bags that she and a neighbor were putting out for their weekly yard waste pickup. She is now picking up small limbs and disposing of those properly. Gloria also reported someone had dumped a PetsMart cart in the commons. She and her husband returned it to the store.

Item 3, Boston brush pile – Vernon Clark, who lives on Boston, posted a message on FaceBook expressing concern about the Boston brush pile and wondering why it was still there after the cleanup. Cory responded and let him know about the extent of the cleanup (more pruning and dead tree removal as well as hauling of a lot of limbs and brush to the landfill). Cory and Mr. Clark spoke on the phone as well. Cory pointed out the cleanup work was performed by volunteers and that the landfill closed before more of the brush could be hauled away. He invited Mr. Clark to volunteer to help with future cleanups and assured him the brush pile will be dealt with this fall. Cory presented information to the Board on the cost of renting chippers and a dump trailer. He estimated it would take 2 volunteers 2 full days working with a large chipper to dispose of the brush pile. The Board discussed whether this was the best option because so much volunteer time had already been put into the cleanup. Board members wondered if the Tree Guys would chip the pile. Anne stated the Board had budgeted \$13,000 for tree work in the commons (pruning and removal) and so far \$12,400 of that had been spent. Cory said he could call his contact at the Tree Guys and see about getting an estimate for chipping the pile. Wendy made a motion Cory check into the costs of removing the brush pile and proceed with its removal. Jacob seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Cory told the Board he will send an email to everyone letting them know about the estimated cost of chipping the pile and its disposal from the Tree Guys and whether this is how the pile is disposed of.

Item 4, Potential grants – At the September meeting Anne had done a quick run through of potential grants BENA may apply for in the future. Cory asked the Board if they had any thoughts on applying for more grants next year. Anne stated that some of the grants might be used for fixing erosion areas adjacent to the flow liner and that the flow liner work was on hold for a while. The Greener Towns Grant Program, while it can pay for a lot of things, requires quite a bit of planning, so that one should be saved for a future year. The Lower Platte South NRD's Community Forestry Program has a grant program for planting trees, which could be applied for. Gloria objected to planting any trees in the commons. Anne said planting areas and types of trees should be chosen carefully and any new trees should be sited away from areas where trees will be removed so as to not be in the way. The Board talked briefly about planting things other than trees and mulching around existing trees. Cheryl asked Anne to please send information on each potential grant to Board members to review when they had time. The Board agreed to table further discussion until the February meeting.

Item 5, Qualifications for an arboretum associated with the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum – Cory had asked Anne to look into the qualifications to see if the commons might qualify as an arboretum. Anne reported on the requirements for a site to become either a Landscape Steward or Community Arboretum and the benefits of such a designation, e.g. easier access to grant money. A long term plan for types of commons plantings and a maintenance plan are needed, which BENA does not have at this time. The Board agreed this is related to Item 4 and tabled this discussion until the February meeting.

Item 6, Landscaping in the commons – Cory put this on the agenda because he wants the Board to consider whether to reduce the amount of mowing by putting in landscaping items other than turf

grass. Mowing costs are sure to increase sharply in future years. This is related to Items 4 and 5, so the Board agreed to table this until the February meeting.

Item 7, Secure hangers for the swings – Cory reported the swing that Brian reported missing in September is still missing. He said the paint on some of the playground equipment is beginning to chip, too, but that can wait until next year. He would like to replace the swing hangers with torque bit hangers, which are more secure than carbiners, before long. Cheryl made a motion Cory purchase a replacement swing and torque bit hangers for all swings. Wendy seconded the motion. Cory asked if his purchases should be capped, and Cheryl said no, the needed repairs needed to be done. The Board then passed the motion unanimously.

Cheryl moved the meeting adjourn, Jacob seconded the motion, and the meeting adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

Note: Cory told everyone the November Board meeting agenda will include the draft 2020 proposed budget and the 2019 holiday lights contest.