



Tree Planting Partner Biannual Meeting

Notes

Date: Friday, July 14, 2023

Time: 9 a.m. – 9:59 a.m.

Attendees: PKW: Michael Karam, Brittany Mulla McGovern, Liam Kraus, Hailey Bowen, Michael Dennis, Amanda Walker

ORS: Zach Monroe

GNOF: Roy Williams

HCS: Dr. Angela Chalk

NOLA Tree Project: Connie Uddo

SOUL: Emily Stieber

Treemendus Love: Editha Amacker, Tim Benton

GroundWorkNOLA: Todd Reynolds

Agenda

1. Welcome & Introduction of Liam Kraus, PLA Michael Karam
Michael welcomed and thanked the tree planting partners for their continued efforts and support in reaching PKW's tree canopy goals. Michael introduced Liam, PKW's newly hired landscape architect.
2. Review of 2022 Tree Planting Project Award Brittany Mulla McGovern
 - a. Successful tree establishment
Brittany reminded the 2022 award recipients that they are to "water...tree[s] at least twice a week for a minimum of one-year for successful tree establishment" per the award parameters and signed cooperative endeavor agreement. Project trees will be inspected by PKW arborists in December 2023 to confirm a successful tree establishment unless alerts are submitted to PKW regarding the health of the plantings prior.
 - b. Submissions required at the project close
Brittany reminded the 2022 award recipients that Parkways requires the submission of all expenditures affiliated with the project, pre- and post-installation photographic documentation of tree installations, and documentation of all press releases and marketing collateral by December 23, 2023.
3. Review of 2023 Tree Planting Project Award Roy Williams
Roy announced that The Greater New Orleans Foundation is excited to manage the 2023 Tree Planting Project Award with funding and guidance provided by PKW. There will not be a lot of change to the grant making process, mostly augmentation (such as the establishment of an online portal for grant application, online submittal support with automatic reminders, etc.). GNOF, with

PKW, is in the final stages of finalizing the design of the application and timeline. GNOF will send notification once finalized and advertise the to the public.

Angela inquired if the 2023 grant will be competitive; Roy responded that the grant will be competitive and open to the public. Angela also inquired if there will be a grading matrix and if points would be given to those who successfully participated in the 2022 award program or for those who have demonstrated ability to plant and maintain trees; Roy responded that it will be determined in the final stages of the application design.

Todd inquired if credentials for competency would be acknowledged; Roy responded that knowledge would play into the selection discussion.

Connie inquired about the parameters of the 2023 grant application in comparison to the 2022 award where partners were invited to apply for a certain financial amount; Roy responded that GNOF will announce the total funding available and will look at where things are scalable and how many applications are received.

Editha inquired about the application timeline; Roy responded that GNOF's goal is to release by early August 2023.

4. Planting Project Requirements

Hailey Bowen, PLA

Hailey reviewed planting requirements and information available on the PKW website: (1) the [Permitting Checklist for ROW Planting Projects](#), with emphasis on the appropriate tree species selection and if/when a [sidewalk cut permit](#) is necessary; (2) the [Tree Planting Permit](#) application; (3) the [Tree Planting Detail](#), with emphasis on the arbor guard and tree staking placement; and (4) [Section 32 90 00 Planting](#), with notice of the new water retention polymer recommendation and emphasis on how PKW prefers to know the nursery source to see quality, and the requirements for a watering bag, mulching, etc. critical for the success of the tree.

Tim stated that there could be a higher tree survival rate if the planting season window is shortened, inquired about requirements for heavier mulching to conserve soil moisture, and asked for guidance on best watering practices specific to New Orleans' climate; Hailey responded by sharing that PKW is considering shortening the planting window due to climate change and suggested reviewing the requirements for watering¹ and mulching² in the Planting Specifications (Section 32 90 00), which addresses the watering and mulching concerns noted.

Angela requested that PKW consider heavy fog and rain days and the availability of trees which prevent tree planting when PKW is considering reducing the planting window.³

Emily inquired about a recommendation for a water retention polymer; Hailey responded that PKW is open to exploring brands utilized by tree planting partners. Emily also inquired if mulching is required or recommended; Hailey confirmed mulching is required.

Angela inquired about the usage of doughnut watering bags vs watering bags; Hailey responded that PKW will consider requests for alternative slow-release tree watering products.

Todd requested streamlining the tree planting permit process within OneStop, specifically when doing projects including multiple department approval; Hailey responded that PKW will provide coordination assistance for applications that require multiple department approval and welcomes any suggestions in streamlining the process.

¹ Section 32 90 00 Planting, Part 4.01, Section F - One Year Plant Watering, includes watering requirements, including instructions not to overwater. The intent of the specification is to ensure that trees are receiving adequate water to establish in healthy condition, either through physical watering or rainfall.

² Section 32 90 00 Planting, Part 3.10 - Mulch contains mulching requirements, including 3 inches of aged ground pine bark mulch with a top dressing of 1 inch pine straw, to be maintained throughout the duration of the one year establishment period.

³ Parkways encourages planting between the months of November and January.

5. Tree Inventory Coordination

Amanda Walker

Amanda thanked the tree planting partners for their voluntary inclusion of trees planted from the 2022 award in the Tree Inventory and announced inclusion of trees planted from the 2023 grant will be mandatory.

6. Planting Partners’ Year 2 & Beyond Plan

a. Mulching & stake removal requirements

Hailey Bowen

Hailey emphasized that removing stakes and replenishing mulch at the end of the one-year establishment period is required in [Section 6](#).

b. Removal of unhealthy or dead trees

Hailey Bowen

Hailey emphasized that it is the responsibility of the planter to remove and replace stressed or dead trees. The replacement is in-kind and includes a subsequent one-year establishment period of watering, mulching, etc.

c. Requirements for volunteer tree maintenance projects

Michael Karam & Amanda Walker

Amanda stated that PKW has received requests for approval of tree maintenance by volunteers; PKW is reviewing the requests, however must consider that any tree work must be supervised by a licensed arborist.

d. Partners share their orgs. plan for trees planted post 1-year

HCS

Angela stated that HCS continues to assess their trees post 1-year, in partnership with NOLA Tree Project and a licensed arborist, as part of their ongoing urban heat island resource study. HCS is interested in pruning and shaping trees to produce the ideal canopy.

NOLA Tree Project

Connie stated that NOLA Tree Project has been in discussions with PKW about possibly leaving stakes inground for 2 years due to increasing weather events and looks forward to the final edict. NOLA Tree Project continues to mulch and trim trees in Year 2. Connie added that it is challenging planting 30G trees, as they are at a higher risk of not surviving, their higher replacement costs, and their logistics of planting and acquiring, and requested PKW review that requirement.

SOUL

Emily stated that SOUL cuts their ties at the 1-year mark, however leaves the stakes in case they need to be re-tied prior to a weather event. SOUL is currently developing a maintenance policy for Year 2.

Tremendus Love

Editha stated that Tremendus Love continues regular maintenance and watering trees in Year 2.

7. Looking Ahead

Brittany Mulla McGovern

a. PKW Training on tree maintenance & inspection (ex. girdling, staking, etc.) – November 2023

b. Next Biannual Meeting - January 2024

Michael concluded the meeting by stating that it was helpful to share challenges and best practices when planting assets in the public domain.

Chat commentary:

Michael wrote “Note to all: further detailed conversation of best practices can take place on a subsequent call, this is a great start and shows how overdue our group call is. Best practices, shared info., etc.”