

Tree Commission Minutes

Thursday, June 27, 2019

Public Works Conference Room- 7:00

Attendees: Matt South, Susan Kowalske, Phil Butto, and Casandra Strudwick

Guests: Alex Kelemen, Marilyn Olzmann, Dan Burkholder, Eric Hutchinson, Jody Roberts, and Charles Walton

Absent: Dave Faiman

Introduction of Dan Burkholder, New City of Hudson Arborist: Mr. Hutchinson introduced Mr. Burkholder and noted that he has done an excellent job in getting up to speed quickly. Mr. Burkholder previously worked for the City of Beachwood for the previous twenty-one years.

Approval of Minutes: Mr. South moved that the minutes of the February 21 meeting be approved as submitted. Mrs. Kowalske seconded. All voted in favor. Mr. South moved that the minutes of the April 25 meeting be approved as submitted. Mrs. Kowalske seconded. All voted in favor.

Reports/Presentations:

Tree Commission Orientation- Mr. Hutchinson introduced Jody Roberts, City of Hudson Communications Manager. Ms. Roberts noted that she has been tasked to visit with all of the City's Boards and Commissions to discuss proper procedures and roles. Her presentation also included information on the Sunshine Laws and the Open Records Act.

City Council Liaison- Mr. Kelemen asked about the dead Main Street trees which front the Clock Tower green. Mr. Hutchinson and Mr. Burkholder provided an update on the replacement of the trees. This is the second time that these trees have died and may not be the best species for the location. Mr. Burkholder reviewed the pros and cons of four alternative species. Mr. South moved to replace the dead trees with Frontier Elm. Mr. Butto seconded. All voted in favor. Mr. Kelemen also noted that City Council will be discussing the budget in the near future. Mr. Burkholder will provide a brief budget update at the next meeting.

Hudson Garden Club Liaison- Mrs. Olzmann reminded staff of the grant funds available for tree planting and noted how the Garden Club would prefer those funds to be spent.

Urban Forestry Update- Mr. Burkholder stated that he has lots of new ideas to improve levels of tree care. Efforts will be made to provide the biggest bang for the buck. This includes the vertical mulching of key trees on the Greens and in other locations.

New Business:

Arbor Day Event Recap- Mr. Hutchinson summarized the Arbor Day event held on April 26 at the Hudson Montessori School. He thanked Davey Tree and Hudson Public Power for participating. He also thanked Mrs. Strudwick for her participation and assistance in planning the event. While the weather did not cooperate, all activities were held inside and the students had fun while learning about the importance of trees.

Tree Commission Goals and Objectives- Commission members noted a strong interest in participating in the Farmers Market Community Day. Staff will reach out to the Market to get those dates. It was also suggested that staff develop a list of good vendors that could be provided to Hudson residents when requested. It was suggested that a preference could be placed on Hudson businesses.

Closure to Meeting:

Next meeting is scheduled for August 22 at 7:00 pm at the Public Works Conference Room.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55.

Minutes were submitted by Eric Hutchinson, Assistant Public Works Director

Matt South, Tree Commission Chairman _____