

Tree Commission Minutes

Thursday, August 27, 2020

“Zoom” Conference– 6:30 P.M.

Attendees: Matt South, Jason Brumbach, Dave Faiman, Megan Ward

Guest: Dan Burkholder, Beth Weiser, Skylar Sutton, Janice Lindstrom

Absent: Phil Butto

Introduction of Jason Brumbach, new Tree Commission member. Mr. Burkholder introduced Mr. Brumbach and noted his professional background with Davey Tree. Mr. Burkholder noted Mr. Brumbach’s desire to serve the community.

Approval of minutes: Mr. South moved that the minutes of the June 25th meeting be approved as submitted. Mrs. Ward Seconded, all voted in favor.

Public Comment:

None

Reports/Presentations:

Tree Commission Discussion- Mr. Burkholder noted the city’s 40th anniversary as a participant of the National Arbor Day Foundation. In honor of this celebration five Tree City USA signs were ordered, coordinated with Public Works and installed at city limit borders throughout the city. Including Rt.91, Rt. 303 and Valley View Road. Mr. South offered thanks for having these signs installed as it identifies the city’s commitment to the importance of a quality urban tree program.

City Council Liaison – Mr. Sutton provided financial updates. The hope is the impact of COVID-19 will not be as much of a strain to the city as initially thought. However, he cautioned to still be sensitive to the budget when possible.

Hudson Garden Club Liaison – Mrs. Lindstrom updated the committee on the impacts of COVID-19. As we know, the 2020 popular Hudson Garden Club tour had to be suspended. However, plans are developing for a return tour in 2021. Mr. Burkholder offered thanks to the Garden Club for another outstanding job maintaining the community gardens located on the Clock Tower Green and the BP Green. Mrs. Lindstrom will pass along the thank you and noted she appreciates the kind words.

Urban Forestry Update- Mr. Burkholder provided an update on the coordination of the fall tree planting program. (51) locations throughout the city have been marked for fall tree planting. A three- year waiting list for residential replacement trees no longer exists. Mr. Burkholder noted that the combination of the fall 2019 and spring/fall 2020 programs includes the installation of approximately (213) newly planted trees. Mr. Burkholder provided a maintenance pruning update. This season to date, over (700) trees have been pruned in the public right of way and on public properties. The maintenance accomplishes the clearing of branches encroaching streets and sidewalks, speed limit and stop signs, as well as the removal of deadwood to encourage and promote tree health as well as public safety. Mr. South noted those are impressive numbers and thanked everyone for the hard work.

New Business:

Mr. South made mention of exploring early plans for Arbor Day 2021. Future discussions will take place in the coming meetings.

Tree Commission Goals and Objectives:

Mr. Burkholder expressed a strong interest in maintaining the newly installed root therapy program on the public greens. Applications are being scheduled for the fall. The program promotes long term tree health. Mr. South agreed. However, inquired if the budget would allow treatment to continue? Mr. Burkholder noted as of the time being, funds have been allocated for treatment.

Closure of Meeting:

Next meeting is scheduled for October 22, 2020 at 7:00 P.M. at Public Works Conference Room.

Meeting adjourned at 6:57 P.M.

Minutes were submitted by Dan Burkholder, City Arborist/Urban Forester

Matt South, Tree Commission Chairman

