

Tree Commission Minutes

Thursday, February 25, 2021

6:00 PM

“Zoom Meeting”

Attendees: Phil Butto, Dave Faiman, Megan Ward, Jason Brumbach

Guest: Skylar Sutton, Janice Lindstrom, Dan Burkholder

Absent: Matt South

Public Comment:

None

Approval of minutes: Mrs. Ward moved that the minutes of the December 17th meeting be approved as submitted. Mr. Faiman seconded. All voted in favor.

Meeting Schedule 2021:

Upon review of the 2021 meeting schedule, the Commission agreed to change the scheduled Date of Dec. 23rd 2021 to Dec. 16th.

Reports/Presentations:

Tree Commission Discussion- Mr. Burkholder opened the floor for discussion regarding the School Board issue involving four large oak trees at the old Middle School and their potential removal due to construction plans. Mr. Sutton has reviewed and shared emails from concerned residents. Mr. Butto offered some insight. The School Board was approached by Liberty Development regarding the project. After reviewing concerns from residents, Liberty Development has gone back to the drawing board to revise said plans. Mr. Butto will provide future updates. Mrs. Ward suggested the possibility of exploring the option of sending a letter to the School Board requesting them to consider preserving the trees. Mr. Brumbach expressed concern that if an unsolicited opinion could potentially be an issue if the matter should be formally sent to the Tree Commission. Mr. Sutton will reach out to Mr. Vazzana, City Solicitor. Mr. Sutton, periodically, will provide any ongoing residential concerns.

City Council Liaison – Mr. Sutton updated the Commission on residential concerns regarding uprooted City Park trees. Specifically, Maple Grove and Cascade Parks.

Hudson Garden Club Liaison – Mrs. Lindstrom updated the Commission of plans for an outdoor garden living space tour. A final decision should be made in the coming months.

Urban Forestry Update – Mr. Burkholder informed the Commission that the City's 2021 Merry Mulch program concluded at the end of January. The four- week program ran smoothly as the contractor was on schedule throughout the month. Collected trees were transported to Sagamore Soils where they have been recycled into a useful byproduct, mulch. Mr. Burkholder updated the Commission regarding the Davey Tree forestry crew. The City's oak wilt preventative pruning program has commenced. Mr. Burkholder mentioned the City has received Regional Approval regarding Tree City USA recognition.

New Business:

Tree Commission Goals and Objectives:

The Tree Commission wishes to follow any progress/development pertaining to the Historical oak trees at the former Middle School. While this topic warrants further discussion, several items were noted.

Closure of Meeting:

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

Meeting adjourned at 6:38 P.M.

Minutes were submitted by Dan Burkholder, Urban Forester

Matt South, Tree Commission Chairman