

Tree Commission Minutes

Thursday, June 24, 2021

Public Works- Conference Room

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

Guests: Dan Burkholder,

Absent: Skylar Sutton, Janice Lindstrom, Phil Butto

Public Comment:

Mr. Sutton previously noted a public comment for Tree Commission review regarding a proposal for Council to consider amendment to Hudson City Code prohibiting Cottonwood trees. Mrs. Ward noted that the Eastern Cottonwood (*Populus deltoides*) is native to Ohio and is not considered to be an invasive species by the Ohio Department of Agriculture. Moreover, neither the Ohio Invasive Plants Council nor the Midwest Invasive Plants Network consider Eastern Cottonwood to be an invasive species. Mrs. Ward noted that the pollen of this species is considered only a moderate allergen. Furthermore, the white "fluff" that Cottonwoods release is not pollen but are in fact white tufts that surround seeds. What blows through the air and accumulates on the ground are the seeds with their white, "cottony" tufts rather than pollen. Mrs. Ward noted these species are prolific seed producers. However, she does not know of any scientific studies that demonstrate a clear link between exposure to Cottonwood trees and allergic reactions. Additionally, the most compelling explanation regarding allergy flare ups when Cottonwoods are releasing seeds is that it coincides with the production of allergenic pollen in other species such as Mulberry.

Mr. Burkholder noted he has fielded the same comment several times, filed an ISA Tree Risk Assessment regarding the tree in question and found the tree to be healthy. All members agree no action should be taken. Mr. South (Tree Commission Chairperson) will provide comments to Councilman Sutton for City Council update.

Approval of Minutes: Mr. South moved that the minutes of the April 22, 2021 meeting be approved as submitted. Mr. Faiman seconded. All voted in favor.

Reports/Presentations:

Tree Commission Discussion- Mr. Burkholder opened the floor regarding community outreach at the Hudson Farmers Market. Mr. Brumbach previously suggested this may be something the Commission would want to explore. Tree Commission Members are intrigued by potential opportunities. All members agree that the upcoming EAC Green-on Green Event is an excellent opportunity to participate in community outreach. Further discussions/plans will take place. All Commission members thanked Mr. Brumbach for an excellent suggestion.

City Council Liaison- Mr. Sutton previously forwarded a public comment. Mr. Sutton advised he will be happy to share follow up notes/comments from the meeting with council.

Hudson Garden Club Liaison- Mrs. Lindstrom was not in attendance, no update was provided.

Urban Forestry Update- Mr. Burkholder provided an update regarding the downtown silva cell infrastructure. Six locust trees have been planted to replace the declining elms within the sidewalk cutouts. A soil test has been taken. The results of the test offer salt measurements as well as soil Ph levels. Mr. Burkholder provided a brief description regarding the silva cell infrastructure and how it correlates with trees and storm water runoff. Mr. Burkholder noted that the subframe around the cells consists of limestone. Limestone may be raising PH levels caused from leaching although results are not indicating extremely high Ph levels. Results are indicating higher than normal salt levels. Mr. Burkholder noted that the Honeylocust tree offers the best opportunity for canopy establishment in relation to withstanding high impacts of aerial road salt and sidewalk de-icing material.

Mr. Burkholder thanked Mr. Faiman for his four years of service as a Tree Commission Member. All Commission members congratulated Mr. Faiman. Mr. Faiman shared he has learned a lot over his tenure.

#### New Business:

The Commission members look forward to ongoing discussions regarding future community outreach opportunities, including city social media avenues. In coming meetings, city policies and chain of commands will be addressed and followed to accomplish getting messages out to the public.

Tree Commission Goals and Objectives- Commission members briefly discussed future Arbor Day plans. Mr. Brumbach noted he had a productive Arbor Day Event at Cascade Park with the Boy Scouts. Opportunities may exist for continued plantings at the Middle School. Future discussions will take place.

#### Closure to Meeting:

Next meeting is scheduled for August 27, 2021

Meeting adjourned at 8:02 PM

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

Matt South, Tree Commission Chairman \_\_\_\_\_

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