

Tree Commission Minutes

Thursday, August 26, 2021

Public Works- Conference Room

Attendees: Matt South, Megan Ward, Jason Brumbach, Jacob Graessle

Guests: Skylar Sutton, Janice Lindstrom, Dan Burkholder

Absent: Phil Butto

Introduction of Jacob Graessle, new Tree Commission member. Mr. Burkholder introduced Mr. Graessle and noted Mr. Graessle is a longtime resident and former Hudson Parks employee as well as a Hudson High School graduate. Mr. Burkholder noted Mr. Graessle graduated from Miami University with degrees in English Literature and Creative Writing and currently works for Polar products, a family business.

Approval of Minutes: Mr. South moved that the minutes of the June 24, 2021 meeting be approved as submitted. Mrs. Megan Ward seconded. All voted in favor.

Public Comment:

None

Reports/Presentations:

Tree Commission Discussion- Tree Commission members expressed disappointment regarding the cancellation of Hudson's Green on Green Event. All members look forward to future community outreach opportunities. The Commission is now exploring an opportunity to attend Farmers Market before season's end. Mr. Brumbach will coordinate. Mr. Burkholder opened the floor for discussion regarding the recommended trees in Hudson list on the Urban Forestry webpage. At the suggestion of Mr. Brumbach and Mrs. Ward, a review and discussion took place. Previously, revisions were made to remove the corkscrew and callery pear trees. Additionally, Mr. Sutton suggested adding an invasive species list of trees the Commission does not recommend. All members agree this is an outstanding suggestion. Mrs. Ward offered to compose the list as this is her area of expertise. Mrs. Ward will reference the Department of Agriculture-Invasive Species.

City Council Liaison- Mr. Sutton provided an update regarding the Barlow Community Center Dam Improvement Project. Unfortunately, the project is running behind schedule. Mr. Burkholder informed the Commission that all removed oak trees had their stumps sealed in efforts to control Oak Wilt Disease, as stump grinding did not commence. Mr. Sutton advised the Commission that some minor tree clearing has taken place behind American Fireworks and close to Hines Hill Road for a storm

detention improvement project. Mr. Sutton advised regarding several other projects to report tree clearing is not scheduled at this time. Mr. Sutton reported that Council has heard the argument to consider amendment to City Code prohibiting cottonwood trees. Council agrees, no action will be taken. The matter is closed.

Hudson Garden Club Liaison- Mrs. Lindstrom updated the Commission that as a result of the 2021 Garden and Outdoor Living Tour, the Hudson Garden Club will be donating \$5,500.00 for tree planting in Hudson. Mr. Burkholder stated that the City will be able to plant (18) trees given the current contractor rate. Mr. Burkholder suggested planting improvements be made at Barlow Community Center. Mr. South inquired if this is an area the Garden Club would approve of. Mrs. Lindstrom agrees, the location would be well received. All Commission members agree as well. Evergreen tree planting will be scheduled.

Urban Forestry Update- Mr. Burkholder provided an update pertaining to landscape improvements. The city's landscape contractor has installed 251 yards of mulch this season to improve tree health and aesthetics on public grounds and properties. The city's tree contractor has recently provided maintenance pruning on E. Case & W. Case respectively. Mr. Burkholder noted that 127 trees recently received appropriate street and sidewalk clearance. Additionally, 40 trees on Brentwood received major deadwood removal pruning regarding the locust tree canopy to promote tree health.

#### New Business:

The Tree Commission expressed an interest in continued use of City social media avenues. Mr. South suggested a friendly "Tweet" be sent out by the City's Communications Department regarding topics discussed at TC Meetings. Mr. Brumbach has developed an impressive spreadsheet, as this is his area of expertise. Mr. Graessle suggested considering a paw paw-paw tree patch. A native tree that deer avoid with unique fruit. Commission members were intrigued. Ongoing discussions will take place.

Tree Commission Goals and Objectives- Commission members noted an interest in exploring other possibilities regarding community outreach.

#### Closure to Meeting:

Next meeting is scheduled for October 28 at 7:00 pm at the Public Works Conference Room.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 PM.

Minutes were submitted by Dan Burkholder, Urban Forester

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

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