

Tree Commission Minutes

Thursday, December 16, 2021

Public Works Conference Room – 7:00 PM

Attendees: Matt South, Megan Ward, Jason Brumbach

Guests: Skylar Sutton, Dan Burkholder

Absent: Jacob Graessle, Phil Butto, Janice Lindstrom

Approval of Minutes: Mr. South moved that the minutes of the October 28, 2021, meeting be approved as submitted. Mr. Brumbach seconded. All voted in favor.

Public Comment:

None

Reports/Presentations:

Tree Commission Discussion- Mr. Burkholder deferred to Mr. South to lead the discussion regarding the TC 2022 meeting schedule. It was suggested, that perhaps, the Commission consider changing the standard bi-monthly meeting format. The Commission generally meets on the fourth Thursday of even-numbered months. Commission members expressed interest in changing to odd-numbered months as this could be beneficial with coordinating Arbor Day Events. A very productive discussion was the result with outstanding input by all Commission Members. The end resolution, the Commission has decided to meet in odd numbered months in 2022. Additionally, Mr. Brumbach mentioned the potential benefits of carbon credits. Purchasing credits from companies or programs that plant trees is an interesting concept. Mr. South noted his activity regarding the topic. Future discussions will take place.

City Council Liaison- Mr. Sutton provided an update regarding the Connectivity Vision Design Program. The sidewalk improvement project on Rt. 303, Stow Road, and Middleton Road will have minimal impact on the urban canopy. A conscious effort was made to preserve trees. The plan is officially moving forward. Mr. Sutton updated the Commission regarding future talks for additional connectivity trails as it pertains to abandoned railroad tracks near Ellsworth Golf Course. The location seems to be ideal as the location has previously been cleared for the old railroad, hence, the mature canopy will not be impacted. Mr. Sutton mentioned talks of a future Public Works facility are underway, located on Hudson Industrial Pkwy, across from Barlow Farm Park. Mr. Sutton updated regarding the property around O'Brien Cemetery now being protected under Western Reserve Land Conservancy. Mr. Sutton noted site plans for the Western Reserve Hospital- Cancer Center have gone to the Planning Commission. There would be some tree clearing required. Mr. Sutton noted a potential water line expansion on Seasons Road would have a limited amount of tree clearing.

Hudson Garden Club Liaison- Mrs. Lindstrom was absent, no update was provided.

Urban Forestry Update- Mr. Burkholder provided a 2021 recap of forestry accomplishments. "Root Therapy" applications to promote long-term tree health continued. Several trees received inoculation within the critical root zone in areas where root loss was the result of construction projects. A high level of residential service was provided regarding private property consultations/inspections to offer expert advice and point folks in the right direction upon request. Same day or next day service was the standard. A high number of generated public property work orders in areas of tree pruning, removal, trees mulched, recycled, and planted were points of emphasis. Again, same day or next day service being the goal. Mr. Burkholder thanked the dedication of city contractors. Mr. Burkholder noted the support of the community has not gone unnoticed.

New Business:

Ongoing discussions regarding the Tree Commission coordinating the 2022 Arbor Day Event are warranted.

Tree Commission Goals and Objectives- Commission members noted an interest in exploring options pertaining to Arbor Day.

Closure to Meeting:

Next meeting is scheduled for January 27, at 7:00 pm at the Public Works Conference Room.

Meeting adjourned at 7:59 P.M.

Minutes were submitted by Dan Burkholder, Urban Forester

Matt South, Tree Commission Chairman _____