

MUNICIPAL TREE COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
September 8, 2020 at 4:30 p.m.
Council Chambers, City Hall, 900 Quay St.

Commissioners Present: Todd Holschbach (Zoom), Glenn Pfeffer, Al Schema

Staff Present: Dan Koski, Billy Hutterer, Alvin Rehme, Nick Mueller (joined about 5:00 p.m.)

Others: Barry Pankratz

Call meeting to order

T. Holschbach called the meeting to order at 4:36 p.m.

Annual election of officers

T. Holschbach made a motion to nominate G. Pfeffer for Chairman. A. Schema seconded the motion. G. Pfeffer accepted the nomination. Motion passed unanimously.

Schema made a motion to nominate T. Holschbach as Vice Chairman. G. Pfeffer seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of the minutes from the 11/19/2019 and 2/25/2020 meetings

A. Schema made a motion to accept the minutes. T. Holschbach seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Public input session

Barry Pankratz is appealing a Street Tree Removal Permit invoice on behalf of Mr. Patel at 1807 Washington Street. The property owner removed 4-D trees, but the terrace was marked as re-plantable, so since the property owner did not replace the trees within six months, he is subject to a \$50/tree fee. The property owner does not feel that the terrace should be considered a re-plantable space as planting trees would cause visibility issues. Mr. Pankratz showed a presentation with photos of several trees and stumps in the area that have or had difficulty growing in the terrace area and are subject to decay. Mr. Pankratz stated that Mr. Patel would be willing to do a seasonal floral display, such as petunias, geraniums, mums, etc. which would not impede motorists. This issue will be placed on the next agenda.

Report on tree maintenance since last meeting

- 374 locations since 2/24/20
- 189 removals
 - 77 trees were ash
- 192 locations pruned
- 6 callouts
- 15 loads of firewood
- 36 total plantings
- 11 removal permits granted
- 3 planting permits granted
- 40 requests for trimming remain
- 120 requests for removals remain

- EAB treatment injections continue (every two years for each tree)
- The Community Development Department had 32 trees planted on 8th Street (north and south). They are also working on a program to obtain sponsors for the trees through donations with the installation of memorial plaques.
- The following tree donations were received for City property:
 - N. 6th St. & Maritime Drive – Izaak Walton League (for Arbor Day)
 - Miracles Park – Miracle League
 - Red Arrow Park – Silver Creek Nursery, Friends of Red Arrow Park (13)
 - Union Park – Silver Creek Nursery, Izaak Walton League (for Arbor Day)
 - Washington Park – Kiwanis & Garden Club

Update on the forestry fund

The current balance is \$7210.98. It does not include revenues or expenses from 2019 or 2020. Funds from 2019 will be transferred once auditors complete their work in March or April.

T. Holschbach asked if the fund was working as the Commission expected. Al and Dan stated that it was working well.

Trees on 8th Street

N. Mueller said that they added about 30 trees on 8th Street with grates that could include a future tree sponsorship. The program may include a 3-year sponsorship with different tiers. The cost of the tree with the metal grate, medallions, etc. comes to approximately \$4,500 per tree. Any funds received would help to offset the costs of the current trees and potential future trees. If after the 3-year sponsorship the business or individual no longer wants to participate, they would be able to keep their medallion.

(Recording ended.)

Urban forestry grant opportunities

Not discussed.

Revisions to the Tree Maintenance & Removal Policy

Tabled. A meeting needs to be set up with staff to discuss tree maintenance and removal related to sidewalks.

Tree ordinance violations over the street & sidewalk

Tabled. This issue is regarding the height clearance.

Addition of the Tree Planting Plan into the Street Tree Planting Policy

Tabled. Staff is working on a rough draft.

Revision of the Street Tree Planting Permit to a Street Tree Planting/Treatment Permit

Tabled. This is related to record keeping for people who treat terrace trees for EAB. We don't want to cut down trees people are treating, and we want to be sure that people are treating them correctly.

Forestry assessments

The proposed forestry assessments were discussed and approved unanimously.

Annual review of forestry fees

Forestry fees were reviewed. A motion was made and seconded to increase the fee for a one-ton load of wood to \$65 and the fee for a two-ton load to \$115. Motion approved unanimously.

Adjournment

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 5:37 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

SMSR