

**MINUTES  
CITY OF ST. CHARLES, IL  
TREE COMMISSION  
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13, 2013**

**Members Present:** Co-Chair Bill Bangs, Co-Chair Ron Ziegler, Valerie Blaine, Jon Duerr, Ralph Grathoff, Suzi Myers, Pam Otto

**Members Absent:** Phil Zavitz

**Others Present:** Peter Suhr, Chris Adesso, Nicole Wang

**1. Opening of Meeting**

The meeting was convened by Co-Chair Bangs at 7:02pm.

**2. Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call**

**3. Introductions of Visitors - Comments and Concerns:**

No Visitors Present

**Omnibus Vote**

**4. Recommend approval of January 9, 2013 Minutes**

**Motion** by Commissioner Duerr second by Co-Chair Ziegler to accept the January 9, 2013 Minutes as presented.

**Voice vote:** unanimous; Nays – None; Absent: Commissioner Zavitz  
- Motion carried.

**5. Old Business**

**A. Discussion on City Forestry/Ordinance Plan**

Mr. Suhr explained the budget for the Urban Forestry Plan has been discussed and appears to be similar to last fiscal year. Request for growth in budget dollars for the Urban Forestry plan for the upcoming fiscal year will most likely be declined. Therefore, the Commissions hope to hire companies like Graf Tree Care will not be in the budget this year. Mr. Suhr met with Commissioner Bangs earlier in the week regarding the impact to the Urban Forestry Plan.

Graf Tree Care has been hired with our limited funds to address diversity needs during the spring planting. They are working with our planting service and they are reviewing tree sites for us. Their work this spring may be a base to move into an Urban Forestry Plan in the future. Mr. Suhr asked if there were any questions:

Commissioner Duerr expressed that the Grand Victoria has Environmental Economic and Education Grants that are small but worth looking into possibly for the Urban Forestry Plan.

Co-Chair Ziegler reviewed the Tree Commission ordinance and stated that this should be a 5 year plan. They need to begin to look at steps to build toward the plan over time. Our Commission has been active for over 10 years and the City has operated without an Urban Forestry Plan that whole time. Mr. Suhr mentioned that our staff has operated responsibly written documentation in a formal plan. It would cost \$10,000 per year for 4 years to draft a solid plan.

Co-Chair Bangs expressed his concern with the diversity and how many maples are currently in the City right of way. He stated the Committee can promote a lot of diversity through press releases that do not cost us anything. Searching for grant monies may be a viable idea. He spoke about the Commission giving direction so that a traditional 10%/5% rule is followed moving forward.

## 6. **New Business**

### A. **Update on the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB)**

Mr. Suhr explained our EAB commitment and Public Services continues to remove the approved EAB infested trees. Currently, the North East and South East quadrants have the majority of ash trees to remove. There are 710 trees planned for planting this spring. Our planting contractor is Pedersen Co and they have local nurseries to pull tree stock from in most cases.

### B. **News from Public Works:** None

### C. **Meeting Day Options:** The options for a new meeting day are the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday or the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month. The time of 7pm would not change. The 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday is the preference for all Commissioners. Ms. Wang will update the Commissioners at the April 10, 2013, meeting when the change is approved and the effective date.

### D. **Langum Woods Clean Up:** Commissioner Otto stated the event is scheduled for Thursday, May 9<sup>th</sup> this year. Laura Franklin, a teacher at Haines Middle School, has worked out two sessions for the students, 9:00am to 11:30am and 12:00pm to 2:30pm. There will be approximately 120 students with the plan to continue where they left off last year. She would like to meet with Dennis at the Park District and Public Works one week ahead of time to plan the work. All equipment, gloves and eye protection will be provided by the Park District as it was last year.

A press release notifying the community of the event would be valuable. Ms. Wang will contact Lisa Garhan to put together a press release for the event.

**7. Committee Reports**

- A. Education Committee:** Commissioner Myers presented a coloring book that was of interest. The materials are free; however, the City would need to pay for shipping. Ms. Wang will look into getting 50-100 coloring books. Commissioner Myers provided contact information. Mr. Suhr asked for Public Works to order the coloring books so that shipping costs would be covered.
- B. Publicity Committee:** Co-Chair Bangs stated that Commissioner Blaine has stepped down from the writing responsibilities of the group and another Commissioner will need to step into that role. A sub-committee will be assembled to fill the role.
- C. Arbor Day Committee:** The Commissioners reviewed the check-list for the upcoming Arbor Day Celebration and noted areas that still need attention during the planning phase for the event.

Stewardship Award Nominations were accepted: Commissioner Myers nominated the Kane County Farm Bureau for their Centennial Grove in celebration of their 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Commissioner Duerr seconded the nomination.

No other nominations were provided. A plaque has been ordered from Doc Morgans. Ms. Wang will contact them for the engraving. Commissioner Duerr will contact Steve at the Farm Bureau to have them present to receive the award.

**Motion** by Co-Chair Bangs to award the Kane Country Farm Bureau as the recipient of the Stewardship Award at Arbor Day on April 26, 2013, second by Commissioner Duerr

**Voice Vote:** unanimous – All; Nays – None; Absent: Commissioner Zavitz  
-Motion carried at 8:03pm.

**8. Communications**

**A. Electric Division/Tree Activity Reports**

January and February, 2013 Communications-Electric Division/Tree Activity Reports were presented.

**Motion** by Co-Chair Bangs to place January and February 2013 Electric Division/Tree Activity Reports on file, second by Commissioner Blaine

**Voice vote:** unanimous – All; Nays – None; Absent: Commissioner Zavitz  
- Motion carried at 8:10pm.

**B. Tree Species Requests Report**

Upon review of the report, the Commissioners discussed some of the species that residents have requested. Mr. Adesso addressed the Commissioners questions regarding available species. Co-Chair Ziegler reminded the group that we should do everything possible to accommodate residents requests where it makes sense. Commissioners commended the Public Works staff for their handling of tree diversity within the City.

**9. Comments**

A. Commissioners:

Commissioner Duerr – Stated that the change to our approach for diversity is working very well as the activity report shows.

Commissioner Blaine – Announced the “Big Tree Program” on March 30, 2013 at the Creek Bend Nature Center.

Co-Chair Bangs – The Tree Commission has an open chair and asked every Commissioner to think about someone to nominate for the opening. This will be a topic on the agenda for the next meeting.

Commissioner Blaine suggested Tim Rainey may be interested.

Co-Chair Ziegler suggested Phil Graf as he is an arborist.

Co-Chair Ziegler – Asked if anyone knew how Commissioner Zavitz was doing as he has not been to a meeting in quite some time.

B. **Staff** : None

**10. Adjournment**

**Motion by Commissioner Myers to adjourn meeting at 8:22 p.m. Second by Commissioner Blaine.**

**Voice vote:** unanimous – All; Nays – None; Absent: Commissioner Zavitz - Motion carried.

/nmw