

**MINUTES
CITY OF ST. CHARLES, IL
TREE COMMISSION
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2013**

Members Present: Chairman Bill Bangs, Ron Ziegler, Jon Duerr, Ralph Grathoff, Suzi Myers, Pam Otto, Phil Zavitz,

Members Absent: Valerie Blaine

Others Present: Caroline Wilfong, Peter Suhr, Chris Adesso, Nicole Wang

1. Opening of Meeting and Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting was convened by Chairman Bangs at 7:05 pm

- 2. Introductions of Visitors - Comments and Concerns:** Caroline Wilfong was introduced as the next Tree Commissioner. She will be affirmed at the upcoming Council meeting at the end of September, 2013. Chairman Bangs welcomed Caroline to the Committee.

4. Minutes Review and Approval

Motion to accept and place on file the minutes of the June 13, 2013, Tree Commission meeting as presented. Motion by Commissioner Duerr, second by Commissioner Ziegler to accept the Minutes.

Voice vote: unanimous; Nays – None; Absent: Blaine
- Motion carried at 7:15 pm.

5. Old Business

A. Discussion on City Forestry/Ordinance Plan

Chairman Bangs asked for comments or suggestion regarding the draft that was sent after the last meeting. Comm. Duerr asked if the group should be specific regarding parkway trees in the verbiage. Mr. Suhr stated the wording should be “public trees”. Comm. Ziegler asked for the wording of the mission statement to be broken up into shorter sentences or adding more punctuation.

Mr. Adesso suggested removing the word “native” from the vision statement. Comm. Duerr suggested that this significantly changes Comm. Blaine’s intent within the sentence. Comm. Otto suggested to move the word to “native flora and fauna” at the end of the sentence. Comm. Ziegler moved to table the review of “native” until the November meeting. Comm. Myers suggested all Commissioners provide their input regarding wording for the vision statement. Chairman Bangs will communicate the changes to Comm. Blaine.

Chairman Bangs asked for participation regarding the History section of the Plan. Mr. Adesso stated that there is general information about the History of St. Charles on the City website. Comm. Myers and Comm. Zavitz will pull together the History of the St. Charles Tree Commission information.

The Plan draft will be updated by Mrs. Wang and provided for the next meeting.

6. New Business

A. Update on the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB)

Mr. Suhr explained that we still have sites with EAB and are actively working alongside residents for the timely removal and replanting of those infested trees as it becomes necessary. Currently, the fall planting has 757 sites to replant with a large portion of those trees on the east side of the river. Mr. Suhr explained his plans to provide an update to the Government Services Committee November 18, 2013 (7 pm), regarding the EAB program. All Tree Commissioners are invited to attend that meeting. Staff is currently analyzing how we move forward with the ash trees that are left on City property. Mr. Adesso explained there are a few locations where treatment has been successful and we remain hopeful those trees will survive.

Comm. Grathoff asked how many ash trees will be left after the EAB program is complete. Mr. Suhr explained we are analyzing those sites and determining how to move forward.

Comm. Zavitz asked if we are removing stumps in-house. Mr. Adesso confirmed that in-house staff is responsible for the removal of stumps on City property.

B. News from Public Works: Mr. Suhr mentioned that Mark Koenen has now transitioned to the role of City Administrator. Therefore, there is now a vacancy in the role of Director of Public Works. Mr. Suhr communicated that he is the Interim Director of Public Works and has assumed that role with just recently transitioning into the role of Assistant Director of Public Works. Mr. Adesso has been promoted to the role of Public Services Manager and he will be more available for the Tree Commission.

C. Langum Woods Clean Up:

Comm. Otto stated that we are on target for another clean-up program in the spring of 2014. Her contact with the school district, Lisa Freeman, organizes the project for the 7th grade classes at Haines Middle school.

Comm. Zavitz stated that they have done a really nice job on the trail system. He commended the group for the work that was completed.

7. Committee Reports

- A. Education Committee:** None
- B. Publicity Committee:** None
- C. Arbor Day Committee:** None

8. Communications

A. Electric Division/Tree Activity Reports

Motion by Commissioner Duerr and second by Commissioner Myers to place the May through June, 2013, and July through August, 2013 Electric Division/Tree Activity Reports on file as presented.

Voice vote: unanimous; Nays – None; Absent: Blaine
- Motion carried at 7:50 pm.

A. Review of the Tree Species Requests Report for May 1, 2013 through August 31, 2013.

Chairman Bangs noted that staff is doing a good job handling the requests from residents. Comm. Duerr commented that it is clear from the information provided that the staff's actions are addressing the issue of providing native species for plantings as outlined in the draft of the Urban Forestry Management Plan's vision statement. Mr. Adesso stated that there are very few residents that demand a specific species to be planted at this time.

9 Comments

A. Commissioners

Comm. Otto inquired about an upcoming Joint Meeting with Batavia. Mrs. Wang stated that she has contacted the Public Works team in Batavia and has not heard back from them yet. Updates for the meeting will be provided as soon as possible to the Commissioners.

Comm. Myers stated she is pleased that the group has started working on the Urban Forestry Management Plan.

Chairman Bangs communicated that it is possible he and his wife will move to Colorado in the near future to be closer family. The move has not happened yet; however, it is inevitable. He asked the Commissioners to consider who would be able to move into the Chairman position for the group. He will give a 90 day notice when that time comes.

Mrs. Wilfong shared a native species article from the Chicago Tribune regarding Ginkgo species and the need to anticipate climate shifts expected to occur in future decades when planting new species today. Comm. Duerr commented that the City of Chicago has identified that need as well.

B. Staff : No comments

10. Adjournment

Motion by Chairman Bangs to adjourn meeting at 7:57 p.m. Second by Comm. Myers.

Voice vote: unanimous; Nays – None; Absent: Blaine
Motion carried at 7:57 pm.

/nmw