

**MINUTES
CITY OF ST. CHARLES
TREE COMMISSION MEETING
RON ZIEGLER, CHAIRMAN
NOVEMBER 13, 2014**

Members Present: Jon Duerr, Pam Otto, Caroline Wilfong, Ron Ziegler

Members Absent: Valerie Blaine, Ralph Grathoff, Raymond Hauser, Suzi Myers,

Others Present: Chris Adesso, Tony Bellafiore,

Visitors Present: Brian Lingard, Nathan Lingard

Please note: This meeting did not meet quorum; therefore items typically voted on were not part of this meeting. These minutes are just a documentation of items discussed during this public meeting.

1. Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting was convened by Comm. Ziegler at 7:05 p.m.

2. Roll Call

3. Introductions of Visitors - Comments and Concerns:

Visitors Brian and Nathan Lingard were present. Brian was attending the meeting to fulfill one of his Boy Scout Troop #5 badge requirement; attending at a public meeting is one of the initiatives to fulfill the Communications badge requirements. Nathan , Brian's father, was also in attendance.

The Commissioners introduced themselves to the visitors.

4. Minutes Review and Approval

Approval of September and October meeting minutes were deferred until the January 8, 2015 meeting. Meeting did not meet quorum.

5. Old Business

A. Funding of the Urban Management Forestry Plan

Mr. Adesso indicated that the City of St. Charles (City) will begin budgeting for next fiscal year in the next couple of week; approval of the finalized budget will occur at the April 2015 Council meeting. Chris Adesso stated that Public Works remains committed to the Urban Management Forestry Plan (UMFP). He is planning to propose Phase II of the UMFP for the upcoming budget year.

Mr. Bellafiore updated the committee on Phase I of the UMFP. He indicated the plan is currently in the administrative stage of development. At this point, Public Services has been working on gathering the City's current policies and ordinances regarding trees including the Tree Commission's role and responsibilities. Mr. Graf, who has been contracted for Phase I of the UMFP, will be reviewing all these policies/ordinances in the next couple of months.

Chair. Ziegler explained that Mr. Graf is an arborist and has been hired as a consultant in managing the city's urban forestry; urban forest being defined as the City owned parkway

trees. The City owns and is responsible for the maintenance, trimming, removal and replacement of all the parkway trees located within the city limits of St. Charles. Mr. Graf is currently assisting the Tree Commission and the City in developing an Urban Management Forestry Plan.

6. New Business

A. Update on the Emerald Ash Borer

The removal of the remaining 139 ash trees infested by the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) has been completed for fiscal year 2014/2015 with the exception of one tree. All associated plantings are almost complete; there are only a few more trees to re-plant. Mr. Adesso added the trees as Langum Park have also been planted. Moving forward into next year, Public Works will propose the same budget philosophy and management strategy related to EAB as was this current year.

There are only 165 ash parkway trees remaining to be removed. Mr. Adesso hopes that most will remain healthy so they will not need to be removed next year.

B. News and Concerns from Public Works

Mr. Bellafiore indicated the remainder of the Fall Planting Program involves the streetscape on Main Street. Residents may see barricades and black dirt at the streetscape spots. Seven trees on the south side of Main Street, along the downtown area, were removed and replaced. The linden trees did not fare well in the planters on Main Street. In preparation of the plantings, the streetscape areas were excavated 36" and the areas will be filled with 30% compost, 60% black pulverized dirt, 10% sand and mychorrhiza, which will promote root growth. Per Mr. Bellafiore, Mr. Graf recommended a good list of diverse trees to plant. These include: Japanese Zelkova, Columnar English Oak, Armstrong Maple and the Upright Pear.

C. Langum Woods Clean Up:

After the middle school indicated they could not participate in the Langum Park Clean Up program this year, Comm. Otto tried to reach Mrs. Tieche at Munhall School. Comm. Otto assumed that Mrs. Tieche was not available to participate in the program at this point in time since she did not receive a response.

Comm. Otto asked Mr. Lingard if the Boy Scout troop would be interested in participating in the Langum Park Clean Up project. Mr. Lingard indicated that the troop was always looking for community service hours. Comm. Otto briefly described the project which is typically conducted in the spring and fall. Mr. Lingard indicated he is a Scout Master, and would have approximately 14 to 15 scouts that could participate on the project; a Saturday would work best for all. Mr. Lingard and Comm. Otto will exchange contact information at the end of the meeting and set up a time and day for the project.

D. Commissioner Vacancy

Mr. Adesso indicated he had recently heard from the Mayor regarding Phil Zavith's resignation from the Commission. At this point, Mr. Adesso has asked that the Commissioners reach out to residents to see if anyone would like to participate. If they are interested, they would need to send a letter to the mayor expressing their interest. Kevin

Riordan, a resident that had attended a meeting last spring had expressed an interest in becoming a commissioner, but we have not reached out to him yet.

7. **Committee Reports**

A. **Education Committee.**

Comm. Myers was not present. No discussion.

B. **Publicity Committee**

No discussion.

C. **Arbor Day Committee**

Arbor Day festivities will be discussed at the January meeting.

8. **Communications**

A. **Electric and Public Services Tree Activity Reports**

Approval to place the September and October Tree Activity Reports for the Electric and Public Services divisions on file were deferred until the January 8, 2015 meeting. Meeting did not meet quorum.

9. **Additional Items – Comments**

A. **Commissioners:**

Comm. Duerr: Comm. Duerr stated that he was recently in Oregon. While there, he picked up a brochure published by the City of Portland which encourages tree planting, landscaping, bio-swales, etc. In addition, the Portland's Water department offers residents a small rebate for the purchasing and planting of an appropriate tree on private property. The amount of the rebates varied by the size of the tree purchased i.e., 50% of the purchase price up to the following: \$15 for a small tree, \$25 for a medium tree and \$50 for a large tree. A list of eligible trees was provided on the brochure. Comm. Duerr felt that this type of program would be an incentive for residents in St. Charles to plant trees on their residential property. States along the west coast are encouraging water conservation as the planting of trees would reduce the amount of lawn watering. Planting trees also improves air quality. Comm. Duerr requested Mr. Adesso discuss the prospect of starting such a program at one of the Public Works staff meetings.

Chair. Ziegler: Thanked the commissioners for attending the meeting and their continued efforts. It has been a pleasure to serve people those who are willing to do public service and promote a better community. The Tree Commission has strived to accomplish this since 1998. Thank you.

Comm. Wilfong: If Brian's troop was interested, their troop may be able to present the flag at the next Arbor Day event.

Comm. Otto: Comm. Otto thanked Brian and Nathan Lingard for attending the meeting. She was glad to have met the Lingard's and they will connect soon. For not having quorum, she felt it was a very resourceful meeting.

B. Staff and Visitors:

Brian and Nathan Lingard: Brian indicated that they recently had 14 ash trees removed on their private property. Mr. Lingard stated that he was very impressed with the commission and their focus on trees. Mr. Lingard added that there were several scouts that will need to complete their Eagle Scout project in the upcoming months and they were always looking for good service project opportunities.

Chris Adesso: Last night he was at Charles East High School and he saw Comm. Duerr's high school picture on the wall.

Tony Bellafiore: Mr. Bellafiore enjoyed being at the meeting again and he will continue to work diligently on maintaining the city's tree population.

10. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

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