



AGENDA ITEM EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Title: Tree Commission Minutes – Information only

Presenter: AJ Reineking

Please check appropriate box:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Government Operations	X	Government Services 03.28.16
<input type="checkbox"/>	Planning & Development		City Council
<input type="checkbox"/>	Public Hearing		

Estimated Cost:	N/A	Budgeted:	YES	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO	X
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If NO, please explain how item will be funded:

Executive Summary:

A duty of the Tree Commission is to advise and consult with the Government Services Committee. October 14, 2015 Tri-Cities Joint Tree Commission meeting minutes and January 14, 2016 Tree Commission meeting minutes are attached.

Attachments: *(please list)*

- * Tri-Cities Joint Tree Commission Minutes – October 2015 meeting minutes
- * Tree Commission Minutes – January 2016 meeting minutes.

Recommendation / Suggested Action *(briefly explain):*

For information only.

For office use only: Agenda Item Number: 3.b

MINUTES - UNAPPROVED
October 14, 2015
Joint Meeting of the
Batavia Tree Commission
St. Charles Tree Commission
Geneva Natural Resources Committee

PLEASE NOTE: These minutes are not a word-for-word transcription of the statements made at the meeting, nor intended to be a comprehensive review of all discussions. They are intended to make an official record of the actions taken by the Commission and to include some description of discussion points as understood by the minute-taker. They may not reference some of the individual attendee's comments, nor the complete comments if referenced.

1. Meeting Called To Order

Chairman Scott Haines called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. at the Peg Bond Center at the Batavia Riverwalk in Batavia, Illinois.

Batavia Tree Commission Present: Chairman Scott Haines; Commissioners Kathy Vranek, Robert Lootens, Kevin Summers, and John Dillon; City Arborist Frank Saupp

Members Absent: Commissioner Gary Holm

St. Charles Tree Commission Present: Chairman Ralph Grathoff; Commissioners Suzi Myers, Jon Duerr, Caroline Wilfong, Ron Ziegler, Valerie Blaine, and Pam Otto

Geneva Natural Resources Committee Present: Committee Member Tom Dickinson

Others Present: Isabel Soderlind, City of St. Charles

2. Introductions

3. Walking Tour of Batavia Riverwalk

The group took a walking tour of the Batavia Riverwalk and the current Houston Street streetscape improvement project.

4. Informal Discussion on Topics of Mutual Interest

Tom Dickinson reviewed the role of the Geneva Natural Resources Committee. It was formed about eight years ago to raise funds and provide the city with suggestions regarding tree issues. Geneva lost more than 2,900 trees from the Emerald Ash Borer infestation, but had no funds to replace those trees. Currently, Geneva will share the cost for replacement trees and special focus is given to replacing trees in high traffic areas. A list of 40-60 permitted tree species will help maintain diversity in the future. The group then discussed the shortage of suitable street trees. St. Charles has purchased trees from St. Aubin Nursery in Kirkland with good success.

Haines mentioned he had noticed some die back on hybrid elms that are about 10-15 years old and asked if anyone else had observed this issue. Vranek noted that the trees could be cultured to identify the cause.

Soderlind reported that Graf Tree Care performed an urban tree study for St. Charles and recommended more diversity. As a result of the assessment, trees in the poorest condition were

removed. Some St. Charles residents continue to treat their ash trees and are asked to notify the City when doing so. Haines reported that Graf Tree Care had also conducted the first phase of a tree survey for Batavia during 2015. The next phase will be done in 2016 and the survey will be completed in 2017. Haines said with the tremendous loss of ash trees, the percentage of maples is very large so he has limited the number of maples being planted. Myers recommended keeping the survey updated so it remains useful.

Haines told the group that in 2001 the City became responsible for planting parkway trees in new developments. He was pleased that the late Dr. George Ware, a noted tree expert, lived in Batavia and Dr. Ware's small neighborhood was home to at least 14 different species. In Batavia, parkway trees are paid through the building permit fee. Haines asked if anyone could recommend good parkway trees that were being used in their towns. Batavia has been planting hybrid elms, Marmo Freeman Maples, hackberries, locusts, Kentucky Coffeetrees, and lindens. Vranek noted that the silver linden is a nice alternative to the little leaf linden, and it is not as susceptible to Japanese beetles. The group discussed use of pin oaks and catalpas. Haines said he will consider trees not included on Batavia's acceptable species list on an individual basis. In new developments, it is difficult for trees to reach their full potential due to the poor quality of soil. He is very careful to protect existing trees when new sidewalks are installed.

Ziegler commented that tree commissions could teach the public how to better care for trees. For instance, pin oaks prefer acidic soil. The group then talked about the difficulty of preventing homeowners from using "volcano" mulching; many unknowingly over-mulch trees with the belief that it's beneficial. Another issue occurs when the planting contractor places the new tree too low.

Haines said that very few oaks were planted prior to 1998, but Batavia currently has between 1,000-1,500 oaks in the parkways. Batavia obtains its oaks from Possibility Place, and they are somewhat smaller and lower branched than the typical tree and some people don't like the form of the young oaks. Duerr commented that Bradford Pear trees were favored by developers in the past, but they turned out to be very weak. Haines said Batavia uses crabapples under power lines and also tried hop hornbeams this year.

Everyone agreed that the annual joint meeting offered a good opportunity for the tri-cities groups to exchange ideas, and they were pleased to see it continue.

5. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Saupp and seconded by Dillon to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 p.m. All were in favor and the meeting was adjourned.

Minutes prepared by
Kathy Montanari

**MINUTES
CITY OF ST. CHARLES
TREE COMMISSION MEETING
RALPH GRATHOFF, CHAIRMAN
JANUARY 14, 2016**

Members Present: Chair. Ralph Grathoff, Valerie Blaine, Raymond Hauser, Pam Otto, Caroline Wilfong, Ron Ziegler

Members Absent: Jon Duerr, Suzi Myers

Others Present: Chris Adesso, AJ Reineking, Isabel Soderlind

Visitors Present:

1. Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting was convened by Chair. Grathoff at 7:05 p.m.

2. Roll Call

3. Introductions of Visitors:

4. Minutes Review and Approval

- A. Motion to accept and place on file the minutes of the December 10, 2015 Tree Commission meeting. Motion by Comm. Otto second by Comm. Ziegler to accept and place the minutes on file as amended.

Voice vote: unanimous; Nays – None; Absent: Comm. Duerr, Comm. Myers

- Motion carried at 7:09 p.m.

5. Old Business

A. Urban Forestry Management Plan (Draft)

After the last meeting, Comm. Blaine's edits were incorporated in to the draft of the Urban Forestry Management Plan (hereafter referred to UFMP) and distributed via email to all the Commissioners late in December.

At the last meeting, Comm. Blaine recommended the City make some additional edits to the document so the document flowed more smoothly from general public information to the more technical/procedural information. Mr. Reineking stated that he incorporated some of these types of edits to the current draft. Comm. Blaine stated she read the UFMP draft and it was a good solid document.

Mr. Reineking requested that all the commissioners respond to him directly with any edits or comments via email by the first week of February. Once the document is finalized and approved by the Commissioners, he will take the draft to the Government Service Committee meeting for approval. He will include the Executive Summary, the UFMP draft and pictures of trees. He will present the item at one of Government Service Committee meetings in the near future.

B. Reorganization of the Tree Commission into a Natural Resources Committee

At the last meeting, the Tree Commission agreed to present the concept of renaming and transitioning this committee to a Natural Resources Committee to the Council members at the January Government Services Committee (GSC) meeting. Chris Adesso mentioned that there were several long presentations already on the agenda for the January meeting; therefore, this item was moved to the

February 22 meeting agenda. He felt it was best to wait so this item could be discussed allowing sufficient time for Council members to express their thoughts and feedback on the idea. He mentioned if there was anything the Commissioners would like him to include in the presentation please contact him or Isabel Soderlind.

Comm. Otto shared some information regarding the Environmental Commission in Glen Ellyn with the Committee. The Glen Ellyn Environmental Commission is comprised of a (10) person commission with (3) liaisons.

There are:

- 9 commissioners +1 high school representative
- 1 staff liaison
- 1 village board commissioner liaison,
- 1 park district liaison

This commission meets 10 times per year and their meetings run for approximately 2 hours. This group is divided into four subcommittees:

- Recycling: Their focus has been making recycling a requirement/option for downtown businesses; the city does not have any requirements for them at this time.
- Health, Wellness and Transportation: Their focus has been bike front, trail connections, bike lanes, promotion of public transportation, etc.
- Sustainable Landscaping: Their focus is native and perennial plants, rain barrels/gardens, permeable surfaces, lawn care issues, composting, etc.
- Arts and Outreach: They have various initiatives and incorporate businesses to promote these efforts. This year it was “Green Space” where local businesses decorated their storefronts with environmental messages and/or displays during a set month out of the year. Last year the focus was bicycle transportation; they requested businesses to decorate and display bicycles during the promotion of this initiative.

The Village is currently:

- Replacing light fixtures with LEDs with a shielded top to direct light downward and out.
- Working with the current waste hauler on a curbside composting pilot program.
- Electrical aggregate system to secure clean, sustainable energy.

Comm. Otto’s contact mentioned there are several people available on the committee that could assist in providing direction and ideas for this Commission if it is determined to move forward on this initiative.

In addition, Comm. Otto mentioned Andrew Van Gorp, founder of Sustain DuPage, will be holding its First Annual DuPage County Environmental Commission and Committee Symposium. The Environmental Summit is being held on March 12, at 10:00 a.m., broadcasted live on YouTube. There will be 16 Environmental Commissions in attendance. Each Commission will be giving five minute presentations on the following:

- What are the successes of your commission/committee?
- What are the challenges of your commission/committee?
- Five years from now, what do you hope to have accomplished?

The invitation is being sent to Comm. Otto and the founder is encouraging people to form YouTube viewing parties. If anyone is interested in viewing the symposium, Comm. Otto can schedule a room at Hickory Knolls.

There is also another summit/conference titled “Making Conservation Meaningful Where You Live”, being held on Thursday, January 21, from 8:30 a.m. to noon at the NIU Naperville Campus. Registration can be done online.

Comm. Blaine also mentioned that there are other local resources that could guide this Committee, during the transition, some of which can also include wildlife committees.

6. New Business

A. News and Concerns from Public Works

B. Tree Trimming and Removal Update:

AJ Reineking mentioned that a number of trees were trimmed in the month of December due to the mild weather. It has been a productive month for the Public Services Arbor Team. Even a Kentucky Coffeetree was planted at the WW Plant.

C. Fall/Spring Planting Update:

Fall planting was completed and the staff is currently working on the spring planting list.

D. Other: None

7. Committee Reports

A. Education Committee: None

B. Publicity Committee: None

C. Arbor Day:

The Committee reviewed the 2016 Arbor Day Checklist:

Arbor Day is scheduled for 4:00 p.m., Friday, April 29, 2016.

Lincoln Park will be reserved from 2:00 to 6:00 PM.

Item To Accomplish	Delegated To	Completed	Comments/Notes
Reserve Lincoln Park	Ms. Soderlind		
Renting of the Tent	Ms. Soderlind		
Presentation of Colors:	Comm. Wilfong		Contact Cub Scout Pack 113, Lincoln School
Contact Midwest Ground Covers for donation of perennials	Comm. Grathoff		
Contact Featured Speaker	N/A		None
Contact Ms. Tieche at Munhall School	Comm. Otto		Confirm the topic of the presentation and speaker system needs Program ideas: Urban Forest, Tree Diversity
Order Speaker system	T. Bellafiore & PW Staff		Coordinate with Public Services (RJ Recording)
Tree Demonstration	Comm. Grathoff		Contact Chris Scott
Entertainment/Music	Comm. Myers		Contact Rick Weals
Prepare Programs and Invitations	Ms. Soderlind		
Purchase Cookies	Ms. Soderlind		
Set up of Tables/Chairs/Podium	T. Bellafiore & PW Staff		
Tribute to Trees – Update Website/Den Article	Ms. Soderlind		
Interactive Children’s Activity	Comm. Otto Comm. Blaine Comm. Myers		

Tree Commission/Arbor Day Promotion & Planting of Tree on Arbor Day	Comm. Wilfong		1. Reach out to Fox Ridge School- schedule Tree Commissioners to attend classrooms/library with tree activities for Arbor Day. 2. Plant a Tree at Fox Ridge School-Contact John Baird at District 303 for planting site availability
Purchase of Trees (2) "Arbor Day Tree" donation Raffle Tree	T. Bellafiore & PW Arborist Team		1. Set up crew or vendor to plant "Arbor Day" tree 2. Have Raffle tree on site at Lincoln Park

8. Communications

A. Electric Division Tree Activity Reports

Motion to accept and place on file the Public Services and Electric Services Tree Activity Reports for November and December of 2015. Motion by Comm. Blaine second by Comm. Hauser to accept and place on file the reports as presented.

Voice vote: unanimous; Nays – None; Absent: Comm. Duerr, Comm. Myers
 - Motion carried at 8:00 p.m.

9. Additional Items – Comments

A. Commissioners:

Comm. Hauser: None

Comm. Blaine: Comm. Blaine invited everyone to the Maple Sugaring Days March 12 and 13 from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m., at LeRoy Oaks. There is also a tree planting event at Fitchie Creek Forest Preserve Saturday, April 23, starting at 10:00 a.m. till noon.

Comm. Otto: Comm. Otto inquired on an update regarding the "acquisition" of goats at Langum Park. Did Mr. Bellafiore find out any information on this since the last meeting? Comm. Otto indicated she was interested in the information.

Comm. Wilfong: None

Comm. Ziegler: None

Chair. Grathoff: Chair. Grathoff reminded everyone that there was a vacancy in the Tree Commission and to please pass the word around to others in the community. Good productive meeting.

B. City Staff:

AJ Reineking: None

Chris Adesso: None

10. Adjournment

Motion by Comm. Grathoff to adjourn meeting, second by Comm. Hauser

Voice vote: unanimous; Nays – None; Absent: Comm. Duerr, Comm. Myers

- Motion carried at 8:04 p.m.