

**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.