

**MINUTES
CITY OF ST. CHARLES
TREE COMMISSION MEETING
RALPH GRATHOFF, CHAIRMAN
MARCH 9, 2017**

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

Members Absent: Suzi Myers

Others Present: Marcelline D'Argento, AJ Reineking, Lisa Vielbig

Visitors Present: Heather Goudreau, Loren Nagy-Davey Tree

- 1. Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance**
The meeting was convened by Chair. Grathoff at 7:02 p.m.
- 2. Introduction of Visitors:** Ms. Goudreau and Mr. Nagy were in attendance to learn more about the Tree Commission / Natural Resources Commission and were introduced to all present.
- 3. Minutes Review and Approval**
Motion to approve and place into the public record the minutes of the January 12, 2017 Tree Commission meeting. Motion by Comm. Brens second by Comm. Ziegler to approve the minutes. Voice vote: unanimous; nays – none. Motion carried at 7:05 p.m.
- 4. Old Business**
 - A. Urban Forestry Management Plan to Government Services Committee on March 27, 2017**
Mr. Reineking reported the Plan is scheduled to be presented to the Government Services Committee (“GSC”) at the next meeting on March 27, 2017. Mr. Reineking noted the Plan is a “living document” that will likely be revised next year as the data for the Plan as written is from 2015. Chair. Grathoff indicated he will attend the GSC meeting.
 - B. Arbor Day Updates**
 - i.** Arbor Day Tree Planting-St. Charles Rotary Club – Chair. Grathoff reported he had spoken with Angelo Bravos of the St. Charles Rotary Club. The Club offered to donate 30 trees and volunteered to have 20 Rotary Club members plant the trees on Arbor Day. The Club would need assistance after the trees are planted with tending and watering. A planting site has not been identified, but Mr. Reineking may have some sites in mind. Comm. Blaine inquired as to the species of the donated trees. Comm. Duerr commented on possibly creating a tree nursery for the donated trees, if the trees are an acceptable species, then moving them to planting sites after five to seven years. Chair. Grathoff will follow up with Mr. Bravos to verify the size and species of the donated trees.
 - ii.** Davis Primary School Volunteers – In Comm. Myers absence Ms. D'Argento explained that Comm. Myers received a request from a second grade teacher at Davis Primary School for volunteers to read to the students about Arbor Day. The school requested volunteers for one hour increments on April 21, 24 and 27, 2017. Comm. Blaine volunteered and Comm. Brens may be able to volunteer, but requested additional information. Comm. Otto offered the volunteers materials such as samples of different types of wood, seeds, examples of the Emerald Ash Borer, etc. Ms. D'Argento will contact Comm. Myers to obtain more information as requested by the Comms. Blaine and Brens.
 - iii.** The Arbor Day Checklist was reviewed. Chair. Grathoff secured perennials from Midwest Ground Covers and tree demonstrations by Graf Tree Care for the event. Comm. Otto contacted Mrs. Tieche, the fourth grade teacher at Munhall Elementary School, regarding the

school's Arbor Day program. The Commissioners nominated Mrs. Tieche for the Arbor Day Stewardship Award, and Mr. Craft will order the engraved award/plaque for her. City staff will also coordinate with School District 303 regarding Arbor Day activities. Ms. Vielbig provided a draft of the Arbor Day program for the Commissioners' review; the program will follow the same plan as last year's event.

5. New Business

A. News and Concerns from Public Works

Mr. Reineking informed the Commissioners a blog article regarding Oak tree trimming was recently written for the City's website by Mr. Craft. Mr. Reineking also reported that members of the Public Works arbor team traveled to Ottawa, Illinois to assist in storm damage clean-up from the recent tornado. Spring planting will begin in the near future with 130 trees to be planted.

B. News of Concerns from Tree Commission

Comm. Brens inquired about a possible spring clean-up for leaves that fell very late in the season. Mr. Reineking explained the City did not budget for this additional service, which would be costly, but he would inquire if a spring leaf collection would be possible in the future.

Comm. Duerr commented on the City's study of the State Street Creek and South 7th Avenue Creek stormwater and watershed areas, and noted this issue would be relevant to the Natural Resources Commission ("NRC"). Mr. Reineking agreed there are certain phases of the City's engineering plan that would be conducive for the involvement of the NRC. Comm. Duerr suggested inviting Public Works Engineering staff to the May meeting; Mr. Reineking will invite the staff.

6. Committee Reports

A. Education Committee

None

B. Langum Park Clean-Up

Comm. Otto reported there is still an opportunity for third grade boy scout troop(s) to participate in the spring clean-up effort. Comm. Blaine offered to look into having girl scouts participate as well.

7. Communications - Approval of Public Services Division Tree Activity Reports January-February 2017

Motion by Comm. Blaine to approve the above-referenced reports and place into the public record, second by Comm. Hauser. Voice vote: unanimous; nays – none. Motion carried at 7:40 p.m.

8. Additional Items

A. Commissioners

Comm. Blaine provided information on the upcoming Maple sugaring event, and Earth Day celebration and tree plantings at Kenyon Farms Forest Preserve.

Comm. Duerr commented that he is pleased with the City's planned holistic approach to the State Street Creek and South 7th Avenue Creek areas.

Comm. Hauser requested an update on the adjudication of the Lot B issue. Mr. Reineking reported the matter had been adjudicated, but the verdict had not yet been announced.

B. City Staff

None

C. Visitors

None

9. Adjournment

Motion by Comm. Hauser to adjourn the meeting, second by Comm. Brens. Voice vote: unanimous; nays – none. Motion carried at 7:50 p.m.