

**MINUTES
CITY OF ST. CHARLES
TREE COMMISSION MEETING
RALPH GRATHOFF, CHAIRMAN
NOVEMBER 10, 2016**

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

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Marcelline D'Argento, AJ Reineking

Visitors Present: Journalism students [three] enrolled at Elgin Community College

1. Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting was convened by Chair. Grathoff at 6: 32 p.m.

2. Introduction of Visitors: Journalism students from Elgin Community College were introduced to all present.

3. Minutes Review and Approval

Motion to approve the minutes of the September 8, 2016 Tree Commission meeting and the October 20, 2016 Joint Meeting of the Batavia and St. Charles Tree Commissions and the Geneva Natural Resources Committee. Motion by Comm. Brens second by Comm. Duerr to approve the minutes. Voice vote: unanimous; nays – none. Motion carried at 6:36 p.m.

4. Old Business

A. Update on Honeybee-Keeping

Comm. Otto reported the Planning and Development Committee asked the City's Code Enforcement Officer to form a panel to advise and provide education on the issue of honeybee-keeping in the City. The panel will include a bee-keeper, an individual opposed to neighbors' bee-keeping, an individual with health concerns related to bees, an environmentalist and a representative from the City's Park District, which will be Comm. Otto. Additional information will be provided to the Tree Commission at the February or March 2017 meeting.

B. Final Review of Urban Forestry Management Plan

Mr. Reineking indicated the Urban Forestry Management Plan will go to the City's Government Services Committee [GSC] for approval in January 2017. Chair. Grathoff noted a cover page to the document should be added. Comm. Ziegler noted some inconsistencies with the language of the UFMP and suggested additional editing may be needed. Mr. Reineking offered to ask the City's Communications Division Manager to edit the document for readability [not content]. Comm. Duerr suggested the Tree Commission should get the UFMP approved and begin using it. Comm. Grathoff asked what the intended uses for the UFMP might be. Comm. Myers suggested excerpts from the document could be used for Arbor Day. The Commissioners also suggested the UFMP could be used for brochures, for educational purposes and posted on the City's website in pdf form [as a few of the uses for the document]. Mr. Reineking explained that amendments could be made to the UFMP in the future; for example, to change the Tree Commission to the Natural Resources Commission.

Chair. Grathoff distributed a document developed by Chicago Region Trees Initiative and noted the document was concise and contained many interesting graphics. The document was reviewed by all present.

The Tree Commission will have the final review of the UFMP completed in January 2017.

5. New Business

A. News and Concerns from Public Works

Mr. Reineking reported fall planting will be completed next week. At the next meeting in January 2017 the final numbers will be provided to the Tree Commission.

Comm. Wilfong requested an update on Outlot B and the resident of Wayne, IL who had written a letter to the Tree Commission. Mr. Reineking explained the City's adjudication of this matter had been postponed.

B. News of Concerns from Tree Commission

Comm. Brens suggested a spring leaf collection because the leaves are falling late this year. Comm. Wilfong commented that she uses a leaf shredder to mulch her leaves so there is no need to rake the leaves into piles for pick up. Comm. Myers liked the idea of a spring leaf collection. Mr. Reineking explained in the past the City added an extra leaf collection and/or extended the yardwaste bag pick up schedule; Public Services could discuss an additional leaf collection with the contractor.

6. Committee Reports

A. Education Committee

None

B. Langum Park Clean Up

Comm. Otto reported Boy Scout Troup # 33 is interested in participating in a one year and/or multiple year project. Possible projects include invasive species removal and plant rescue.

7. Communications

Approval of Public Services Division Tree Activity Reports for September and October 2016

Motion by Chair. Grathoff to approve the above-referenced reports. Motion by Comm. Myers, second by Comm. Blaine. Voice vote: unanimous; nays – none. Motion carried at 7:20 p.m.

8. Additional Items

A. Commissioners

Congratulations were extended by all present to Comm. Otto on her NINA [Northern Illinois Newspaper Association] award for best columnist, third place.

Comm. Wilfong noted the City had received an award from America in Bloom for 2016 Outstanding Achievement in Landscaped Areas.

Comm. Myers expressed her appreciation for Public Services' clean-up of the area under the bridge near Mount Saint Mary Park.

Comm. Myers discussed her recent visit to the Schingoethe Museum at Aurora University and distributed materials on an exhibit of baskets woven from Green Ash tree bark. She noted an Emerald Ash Borer was also on display as part of the exhibit with information on its impact.

B. City Staff

None

C. Visitors

The Commissioners responded to questions from the visitors regarding the UFMP and the responsibilities of the Tree Commission.

9. Adjournment

Motion by Comm. Duerr to adjourn the meeting, second by Comms. Otto and Myers. Voice vote: unanimous; nays – none. Motion carried at 7:35 p.m.