

**MINUTES
CITY OF ST. CHARLES, IL
TREE COMMISSION
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9, 2011**

Members Present: Chair. Jim Nau, Vice-Chair. Suzi Myers, Valerie Blaine, Phil Zavitz, Ron Ziegler

Members Absent: Pam Otto, Chris Scott

Others Present: Pat Konishi, Richard Gallas, Ralph Grathoff

1. Opening of Meeting

The meeting was convened by Chair. Jim Nau at 6:35 p.m.

2. Roll Call

3. Introductions of Visitors and Comments and Concerns

Jim Nau introduced Ralph Grathoff who is considering applying for an open Commissioner position on the Tree Commission.

Omnibus Vote

4. Recommend approval of January 2011 Minutes

Motioned by Ron Ziegler, second by Phil Zavits to approve omnibus vote as amended.

Amend Section 6A Update on the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB), first paragraph, second to last sentence as follows: Delete entire sentence "For residents whose private trees are infested with EAB, the city is considering giving a discount on the purchase of a new tree." and replace with "The City is working with local tree vendors to establish a discounted rate that would be available to residents looking to replace and install an infected ash tree on private property."

Voice vote: Yeas: P. Zavits, R. Ziegler, J. Nau, V. Blaine, S. Myers; Nays: None; Absent: P. Otto, C. Scott - Motion carried.

5. Old Business

A. Langum Park Follow-Up

Jim Nau presented. At past meetings, discussion was held regarding enlisting the aid of 135 students (through a Park District Program explained at January's meeting by guest Lisa O'Brien) to assist in the clean up of Langum Park. Students would be available April 21, 2011.

The purpose of the clean up is to develop Langum Woods to a more usable area for residents, with paths, ecologically restore oak hickory woodland, and be an integral part of developing an urban forestry plan.

Concerns raised regarding April 21: scope of work on that day, tools to be used and who would provide, supervision of students, timing, security for Public Works Facility that adjoins Langum Woods, liability, and City approval (Langum Woods is City property).

Following discussion, a course of action was developed.

- Jim Nau and Suzi Myers would meet with Peter Suhr to develop a plan of work for April 21. The plan would encompass creating a strategy to provide safe access to visitors and would be an incremental step for future activity in Langum Woods. The final goal of the Commission is to bring education and restoration to the woods. This first phase of the plan would be presented to the Government Services Committee (GSC) for approval.
- Valerie Blaine will attend the GSC meeting on March 28 on behalf of the Tree Commission to present this plan to the Committee in an effort to gain approval to perform suggested activities at Langum Woods. Richard Gallas will insure that the Tree Commission presentation is added to the GSC agenda for March 28.
- In addition, the Commission would obtain the necessary paper work from District 303 adding the City of St. Charles as additionally insured for the work being performed.

Additional discussion was held concerning the utilization of the students on a different project in the event approval is not received in the time frame necessary to conduct work at Langum Woods.

B. EAB Grant

Jim Nau presented. The City applied for a \$20,000 grant that if awarded would be used to replant trees removed due to being infected with the Emerald Ash Borer in the industrial area of the City. Richard Gallas reported the City was unsuccessful in receiving the grant.

C. City Forestry Plan/Ordinance

Public Works has provided the commission with several different urban forestry plans as examples; Edith Makra of the Morton Arboretum has also provided information on the issues that may be considered for inclusion in an urban forestry plan. The subject of legacy trees and the manner to address these concerns is important to the Commissioners. A legacy tree is a tree that was planted in the past, but now poses a concern for residents. Concerns from residents have been raised regarding debris or messy conditions from specific tree species.

In the future, a presentation will be made to GSC detailing what the Commission is working on. When a draft/working copy is composed, it will be available to the entire commission to review and edit as necessary.

6. New Business

A. Update on the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB)

Richard Gallas presented. An additional 199 trees were identified as being infected with the EAB in February. Of those, 162 were in the northwest quadrant of the City, which has been the hardest hit area. Public Services has proposed removing 42 ash trees in March.

B. News and Concerns from Public Works

None.

C. New Commissioner

There are currently two (2) open positions on the Commission. Guest Ralph Grathoff is considering applying. Public Services supplied information on the process (sending a letter to the Mayor) in response to an additional request.

7. Committee Reports

A. Education Committee

None.

B. Publicity Committee

Information combined with Arbor Day Committee.

C. Arbor Day Committee

Presented by Jim Nau. Using examples from last year and changing the specifics could be used for this year's publicity. This same information or article could be used for all forms of publicity. Pat Konishi detailed the resources available through the City. These included: the Weekly Wire, the City's e-newsletter, the City website, press releases, and Neighbor's of St. Charles Magazine. It was noted that all information for publication must go through Beth Mund, Community and Public Affairs Division Manager. All information, including contest instructions, should be submitted to Public Works (P. Konishi or I. Soderlind) for distribution.

Phil Zavitz indicated his wife wrote articles for the Kane County Chronicle. He suggested they contact his wife to possibly create article on Arbor Day.

Activities agreed to by the Commission for the 2011 Arbor Day Celebration:

- Music
- Plants for each attendee
- Color Guard
- Tree activity
- Speaker
- Coloring event
- Photo Contest

Details:

- Rick Weals to provide music - Jim Nau will contact.
- Midwest Groundcover will donate plants for participants.
- Color Guard - Phil Zavits and Chris Scott to arrange with the American Legion and the Boy Scouts. Phil Zavitz will coordinate with Chris Scott on the specifics.
- Chris Scott of Graf Tree will prepare a tree demonstration of a rescue of an injured person from a tree. In conjunction with the rescue, the Cub Scouts will demonstrate wound treatment.
- The Morton Arboretum will provide a speaker for the event.
- Coloring Contest - Picture for Coloring Contest of Langum Woods was provided and the instructions created. It will be put on the City website. In the past, multiple copies were provided for distribution to the library, park district programs, etc. Due to the timing, this distribution may not be possible. Pat Konishi will scan the picture and the instructions and email to the Commissioners so they may distribute.
- Photo Contest - Open to 6th graders through adult, subject matter is trees including any part of tree such as leaves or bark. Distribution may be, but is not limited to the City website and press releases to local newspapers. Details were created such as: the picture must be digital, provide name and address.
- A memorial ceremony honoring Peter Grathoff, a founding member of the Tree Commission, is planned. Suzi Myers has notified the family so they may be in attendance; a tree will be planted in Peter Grathoff's honor. Ralph Grathoff, who was a guest at the meeting, indicated he and his business partners would be willing to provide a tree for this purpose.

8. Communications

Electric Division/Tree Activity Reports

Motion by Suzi Myers, second by Phil Zavitz to accept the January/February 2011 Communications-Electric Division/Tree Activity Report as presented.

Voice vote: unanimous; Nays – None; Absent: None - Absent: P. Otto, C. Scott - Motion carried.

9. Comments

A. Commissioners

Ron Ziegler thanked Ralph Grathoff for attending the meeting and both he and Suzi Myers expressed hope that Ralph Grathoff would choose to join the Commission.

B. Staff

None

10. Adjournment

Motion by Suzi Myers, second by Phil Zavitz to adjourn meeting at 8:05 p.m.

Voice vote: unanimous; Nays – None; Absent: None - Absent: P. Otto, C. Scott - Motion carried.

/pjk