

**MINUTES
CITY OF ST. CHARLES, IL
TREE COMMISSION
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13, 2011**

Members Present: Chair. Jim Nau, Chris Scott, Phil Zavitz, Ron Ziegler

Members Absent: Valerie Blaine, Suzi Myers, Pam Otto

Others Present: Ben Deutsch, Pat Konishi, Peter Suhr

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

Omnibus Vote

4. Recommend approval of October 2010 and March 2011 Minutes

No action taken because quorum was not met.

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.

Peter Suhr presented the plan to the Government Services Committee (GSC) meeting which some of the Tree Commissioners attended to gain their approval for the activity to be performed on City property. The GSC was positive about the plan and approved the activity.

It was determined that on the April 19 several members of the Tree Commission would meet with Ben Deutsch at Langum Woods to lay out a path and determine which areas the students would clear and work on.

On April 21 the students would perform the actual work. As this was a school project, the program would provide the required chaperones and required tools. Suzi Myers would be present on that day to provide direction as needed on the tasks. In addition, Suzi Myers and

several members of the Tree Commission would be present as a show of their support of the students and the project.

Following the cleanup, the Tree Commission will evaluate the results and determine a plan for future activities at Langum Woods.

B. Discussion on City Forestry Plan/Ordinance

Tabled until next meeting.

6. New Business

A. Update on the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB)

Ben Deutsch presented. An additional 167 trees were identified as being infected with the EAB in March. Public Services proposed removing 89 ash trees in April. Parkway trees that are identified as being infected are marked with a purple dot. If the City is notified that the tree is being treated, a notation of treatment type is made to assist in monitoring progression of the infestation.

The City will again apply Safari to treat City trees infected with the EAB. At this date, all residential parkway trees that have been removed have been or are being replaced. The spring planting program will begin in late April with 225 trees to be planted.

Ben Deutsch stated that at this time it appears the borer only attacks ash trees, not other species. It is the hope that with time the EAB will become a secondary pest. The City is continually researching and expanding the planting list. There are approximately 40 tree varieties currently on our list as acceptable trees for parkways.

B. Spring Planting Update

Subject covered in 6A above.

C. News and Concerns from Public Works

Ben Deutsch presented. There is a large tree in the Bakersfield area with a large hollow that may necessitate removal of the tree. He informed the resident that the tree may have to come down; the resident was concerned about the changes in this area over the past number of years and questioned the City's tree preservation activities. This area has lost many trees due to the maturity of the trees. The resident is waiting for another response from Ben Deutsch. If the tree is scheduled for removal at a later date, the concern may come before the Tree Commission. The tree in question is a Norway maple, and this is an example of a concern that could be addressed in the Urban Forestry Plan.

D. New Commissioner

Ralph Grathoff had expressed an interest in joining the Commission. No notice from the Mayor's office has been received as of this date.

7. Committee Reports

A. Education Committee

No report.

B. Publicity Committee

No report.

C. Arbor Day Committee

Presented by Jim Nau.

Activities for Arbor Day:

- Music – Rick Weals
- Plants for each attendee – donated by Midwest Groundcovers
- Color Guard – American Legion and Boy Scouts
- Tree activity – presented by Graf Tree and Boy Scouts
- Speaker – Morton Arboretum – “Every Tree Counts”
- Coloring event – Pictures have been received and will be displayed at the Arbor Day Celebration
- Photo Contest – One photo has been received. It will be included in the program and displayed at the Arbor Day Celebration. Both the coloring contest entries and the photo will be put on display in a display window at City Hall following the event.
- Memorial in honor of Peter Grathoff will be made by Suzi Myers; a tree will be planted in his honor. The tree has been obtained by Ben Deutsch. A plaque will also be made to be posted by the tree.

8. Communications

Electric Division/Tree Activity Reports

No action taken on the January/February 2011 Communications-Electric Division Tree Activity Report because quorum was not met.

9. Comments

A. Commissioners

None.

B. Staff

None

10. Adjournment

No action taken because quorum was not met. Meeting ended at 7:30 p.m.

/pjk