



## AGENDA ITEM EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Title: Tree Commission Minutes – Information only

Presenter: Peter Suhr

*Please check appropriate box:*

<input type="checkbox"/>	Government Operations	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Government Services 04.23.12
<input type="checkbox"/>	Planning & Development	<input type="checkbox"/>	City Council
<input type="checkbox"/>	Public Hearing	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Estimated Cost:	N/A	Budgeted:	YES	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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If NO, please explain how item will be funded:

### Executive Summary:

A duty of the Tree Commission is to advise and consult with the Government Services Committee. January and March 2012 meeting minutes are attached.

### Attachments: *(please list)*

Tree Commission Minutes – January 2012 and March 2012

### Recommendation / Suggested Action *(briefly explain):*

For information only

<i>For office use only:</i>	<i>Agenda Item Number: 3.b</i>
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**MINUTES  
CITY OF ST. CHARLES, IL  
TREE COMMISSION  
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11, 2012**

**Members Present:** Chair. Jim Nau, Bill Bangs, Valerie Blaine, Ralph Grathoff, Pam Otto, Phil Zavitz,

**Members Absent:** Vice-Chair. Suzi Myers, Chris Scott, Ron Ziegler

**Others Present:** Ben Deutsch, Peter Suhr, Isabel Soderlind, Nicole Wang

**1. Opening of Meeting**

The meeting was convened by Chair. Jim Nau at 6:40 p.m.

**2. Roll Call**

**3. Introductions of Visitors and Comments and Concerns:**  
None

**Omnibus Vote**

**4. Recommend approval of November 2011 Minutes**

Motion by Commissioner Zavitz second by Commissioner Otto to accept the November 9, 2011 Minutes as presented.

**Voice vote:** unanimous; Nays – None; Absent: Vice Chair. Myers, Scott, Ziegler - Motion carried.

**5. Old Business**

**A. Discussion on City Forestry/Ordinance Plan**

Chair. Nau and Commissioner Grathoff have not been able to meet with Ben Deutsch and Peter Suhr to discuss the Urban Forestry Management Plan. Chair. Nau will contact Commissioner Grathoff to compare schedules and determine a good day and time to meet with the City representatives.

## **6. New Business**

### **A. Update on the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB)**

The city staff is still working off the EAB list presented at the November Government Services meeting, which is approximately 122 trees. New trees are being added to the February list.

Due to the mild winter weather and the woodpecker activity, Ben Deutsch anticipates it will be a taxing year. Statistically, the City removed 676 trees in 2011 and projects to remove approximately 700 to 750 for the 2012 calendar year, subject to approval from City Council.

Peter Suhr commented that the City is preparing its tree budget for the 2012-2013 fiscal year. Projections indicate that the EAB infestation will continue to increase for the next 3 years. While attending recent seminars, the City has learned that the number of removals increase significantly in years four and five of the infestation. The City is preparing itself now for this phase of the process. Public Services has analyzed the historical data and has projected the trend for the next few years. The outcome of the upcoming discussions will define the budget and the direction the City will take next year. This will determine the amount of removals (including the larger diameter inch trees) and the number of tree replacements.

The City maintains 5400 trees. The first series of trees were removed in the CMD area in 2009. Half of the trees have already been confirmed with EAB with only a quarter of them removed (1650) to date. The City has been treating some of its trees with donated chemical. Approximately 360-400 residents are also treating their own trees.

More of the removals are now including the larger trees. Ben Deutsch anticipates the trees in the Cambridge East area will be removed, which are in the 12"-14" diameter range. The City will also finish up in the Surrey Hill subdivision. The southwest side should be completed. 10<sup>th</sup> Street still has most of its ash trees, but a majority of the residents have been treating their trees. Due to the safety reasons, all the ash trees at Rocket Park were recently removed.

### **B. News from Public Works: None**

### **C. Langum Woods Clean Up.**

A specific date for the Langum Park cleanup will be determined by the school district. March would be a good month to conduct the event but it will depend on their availability. Commissioner Otto has lost her contact at the school district, but she will contact Lisa O'Brien and notify Chair. Nau.

**7. Committee Reports**

**A. Education Committee**

Vice-Chair. Myers was not present.

**B. Publicity Committee**

Commissioner Blaine drafted and read a couple of Arbor Day announcements, one for the February Den publication and a press release to distribute later in February. The articles were read and given to Isabel. Isabel will submit the articles to the Public Affairs Manager.

Isabel and Nicole will update the Arbor Day information and contest information on the City's website by the end of January. The information will need to be updated with contest logistics i.e., how to submit the entries, contact information for the contestants, and where to pick up hard copies of the drawing for the coloring activity.

Chair. Nau requested a link to the Arbor Day activities from the City's home page similar to the one posted last year.

**C. Arbor Day Committee**

**Day of the Event: Friday, April 27 at 4:00 pm**

**Donation of Perennials - Midwest Ground Covers: Chair. Nau.**

Midwest Ground Covers will donate perennials as they have in past years.

**Speaker - John Duerr: Chair. Nau**

Commissioner Zavitz made initial contact with John Duerr from the Kane County Forest Preserve. Commissioner Zavitz will forward Mr. Duerr's phone number to Chair. Nau so he can contact him directly.

**Reservation of Lincoln Park: Chair. Nau**

Chair. Nau will reserve Lincoln Park through the Park District.

**Contests - Photography & Tree Story PR Articles: Commissioner Blaine**

Articles regarding Arbor Day were read and submitted by Commissioner Blaine. (See Section 7b -Publicity Committee Section.)

Contests are open by all ages following the similar 2011 rules. In the past, participating entrants have not been exclusive to St. Charles residents.

**Photography Contest:** Open ages 12 to adult. Subject of photographs is open to bark, leaf, or any type of tree; they do not need to be native to the area. Commissioner Blaine will distribute the photography contest information to at St. Charles North and East High School, in particularly the photography clubs. Commissioner Blaine will draw up a flyer that she can distribute at the schools. Winners receive recognition for their submission, but specific prizes are still to be determined; Chair. Nau will contact the Morton Arboretum and/or the Chicago Botanical Garden. Contact Chair. Nau regarding any additional prize ideas.

**Art Activity for Children:** Open to children 3 thru 12 years of age. The website currently has the Langum Park drawing that contestants can download from the City's website; if any changes are made, it will need to be submitted by the end of January. Copies will be distributed at the Municipal Building, St. Charles Public Library, St. Charles Park District Baker Station after school and Spring Break childcare programs. These programs include children outside the St. Charles city limits so they are not excluded from the "contest". Depending on the number of entrants, the committee may want to vote on a particular winner. All entries will be awarded with a free sundae at Colonial.

Reminder for the next meeting: request Vice-Chair. Myers to pick up the coupons from Colonial.

**Presentation of Colors:**

Color Guard and Pack 113 will be engaged throughout the event. Commissioner Zavitz requested sandbags to assist holding up the flags.

**Tree Demonstration – Graff Tree Care: Commissioner Scott**

Commissioner Scott was not present at this meeting, but specified he will plan the activity.

**Entertainment: Chair. Nau**

Rick Weals will provide musical entertainment.

**Set up and Food: Public Works Department**

Public Works will order cookies for the event, set up of chairs, podium, and speaker system. They will also display EAB materials.

**Rent the Tent: Chair. Nau**

Chair. Nau will need a PO to reserve the tent. He indicated the cost from A-1 Canopy would be approximately \$190.00. Public Services will create the PO and forward the number to Chair. Nau.

**8. Communications**

**A. Electric Division/Tree Activity Reports**

**Motion by Blaine, second by Zavitz to accept the November and December 2011 Communications-Electric Division/Tree Activity Report as presented.**

**Voice vote:** unanimous; Nays – None; Absent: Vice Chair. Myers, Scott, Ziegler  
Motion carried.

**9. Comments**

**A. Commissioners**

Blaine: Is anxious to see the affect the mild winter weather will have on the trees this coming year.

Otto: She will try to make contact with Lisa O'Brien from the school district tomorrow.

Zavitz:

Grattoff: No comments.

Bangs: Commissioner Bangs asked if he could do anything for Arbor Day. Chair. Nau indicated that he could pick up the 12 to 15 trays of plant materials from Midwest Groundcovers. Chair. Nau will contact Commissioner Bangs if any further assistance was needed.

Nau: None

**B. Staff**

None

**10. Adjournment**

**Motion by Bangs second by Zavitz to adjourn meeting at 7:17 p.m.**

**Voice vote:** unanimous; Nays – None; Absent: Myers, Otto, Zavitz - Motion carried.

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**MINUTES  
CITY OF ST. CHARLES, IL  
TREE COMMISSION  
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14, 2012**

**Members Present:** Vice-Chair. Suzi Myers, Valerie Blaine, Pam Otto, Chris Scott, Phil Zavitz, Ron Ziegler

**Members Absent:** Chair. Jim Nau, Bill Bangs Ralph Grathoff

**Others Present:** Peter Suhr, Isabel Soderlind, Nicole Wang

**1. Opening of Meeting**

The meeting was convened by Vice-Chair. Suzi Myers at 6:31 p.m.

**2. Roll Call**

**3. Introductions of Visitors and Comments and Concerns:**

Joseph Masiohas, a resident of St. Charles was introduced. Mr. Masiohas indicated that he had bought a crab apple tree through the City's planting program. The tree was beautiful and healthy until the summer of 2009 when the City trimmed the tree "significantly". Since then, the "health" of the tree started to decline. His questions were: (1) How does the City determine to trim a tree? (2) Could the excessive trimming cause the tree to weaken?

Peter Suhr indicated there is currently a maintenance program in which most trees are trimmed approximately every five years. The City Arborist typically determines if and when the tree warrants trimming.

Commissioner Chris Scott indicated flowering crab trees are susceptible to "Fire Blight". This is an internal fungus and common in crab apple trees. The leaves falling are also another type of fungus that attacks this species. Commissioner Scott indicated the deterioration of the tree was probably not caused from the pruning, but this cannot be determined until the tree is inspected.

Commissioner Ziegler also explained some of the surrounding municipalities have ceased to plant flowering crabs on the parkways. These trees are difficult to maintain, are prone to many diseases, and sometimes are just not suitable for parkway planting.

Mr. Suhr suggested the resident leave his contact information. The City would research the history of the tree on its database and have it inspected. The inspection will determine the next steps of the process, i.e., treatment if it is warranted or removal if necessary. Mr. Suhr wants to assure the city parkway trees remain as healthy as possible.

### **Omnibus Vote**

#### **4. Recommend approval of January 2012 Minutes**

Motion by Commissioner Zavitz second by Commissioner Scott to accept the January 11, 2012 Minutes as presented.

**Voice vote:** unanimous; Nays – None; Absent: Nau, Bangs, Grathoff - Motion carried.

#### **5. Old Business**

##### **A. Discussion on City Forestry/Ordinance Plan**

Peter Suhr indicated that he has not heard from Chair. Nau, therefore a meeting has not been set up to discuss the Urban Forestry Management Plan. Vice-Chair. Suzi Myers mentioned that she would contact Chair. Nau and take the initiative to lead this effort.

#### **6. New Business**

##### **A. Update on the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB)**

Peter Suhr reported that another 200 ash trees were confirmed over December and January. Most of the trees identified were in the southeast quadrant of the city. At the last meeting, Council approved the removal of 61 additional ash trees; 41 of which were in the southwest quadrant and 12 of which were in the northeast quadrant.

There are 5400 parkway ash trees in the city. Half of the trees have been confirmed with EAB. A third of those trees have been removed and replaced with the exception of the CMD Industrial area. There are approximately 250 trees that are being treated. Some of the treating has been successful some have not. This too is being analyzed. There has not been any approval to move further on treatment.

EAB continues to be an issue throughout the region. Peter Suhr commented that the City is preparing its tree budget for the 2012-2013 fiscal year. While attending recent seminars, the City has learned that the number of removals will increase significantly in years four and five of the infestation. Public Works has been able to make realistic projections, both in the projected number of trees infected and corresponding financial impact. The City projects 95% of the ash population will be identified with EAB within the next 2 years.

The current projected budget will not be able to keep up with the number of removals and replacements. Mr. Suhr presented these findings and impact at the last Government Services meeting. Public Services requested direction and recommendations from Council.

After much discussion, Council recommended focusing on the removals. They requested Public Services outline a 3-year removal plan and the anticipated costs. Council also requested extrapolating the costs of replanting from a 3-year up to a 6-year plan. More data is being gathered and Mr. Suhr will present those findings to Council on April 9 at the Planning and Development meeting. Peter extended an invitation to the committee members.

In the meantime, the Urban Forestry program has gone out to bid. Six different contractors have submitted bids, which will identify a more accurate cost moving forward.

The average annual cost of tree removals and replacements for the past 3 years has been approximately \$350,000. The new interpretation from the Department of Labor indicates tree trimming and tree removal now falls within the prevailing wage law. This will incur a 40 to 80% increase in cost. This has been supported by the bids the City has been receiving.

Commissioner Ziegler asked how the Tree Commission could best support and voice their concerns to Council. He felt that Council should be better informed and educated regarding EAB, in particular to treatment options. Current research has found some success with treatment. With the significant cost increase in removals, treatment should be considered as an option. This may be a more viable and cost effective option.

**B. News from Public Works: None**

**C. Langum Woods Clean Up.**

Langum Woods Clean Up is planned for Tuesday, April 24 from 9:00 to 3:00 pm. There will be two separate sessions, 9:00 am and 12:30 pm on that day. There will be approximately 65 students in each group, for a total of 130 students. Commissioner Pam Otto added the curriculum will include an on-site program called "Fragile Fragments".

The St. Charles Park District instructors as well as Vice-Chair. Suzi Myers and Commissioner Pam Otto will be attending.

**7. Committee Reports**

- A. Education Committee:** No comments.
- B. Publicity Committee:** See Arbor Day Committee
- C. Arbor Day Committee**

**Day of the Event: Friday, April 27 at 4:00 pm**

**Publicity:** Commissioner Valerie Blaine submitted another publicity article that includes the history of Arbor Day. Commissioner Blaine will email the article to Nicole Wang and/or Isabel Soderlind for submission of the April Den.

**Donation of Perennials - Midwest Ground Covers: Chair. Nau.**  
Midwest Ground Covers will donate perennials as they have in past years.

**Speaker - Jon Duerr: Chair. Nau**  
Jon Duerr has been confirmed as the speaker at Arbor Day.

**Contests: Photography Contest: Commissioner Blaine**  
Commissioner Blaine has contacted the faculty advisors of the photography clubs at St. Charles North and East High Schools. She will distribute contest flyers to both high schools. Entries may be submitted or mailed directly to the City of St. Charles, 2 E. Main Street, or emailed to [pw@stcharlesil.gov](mailto:pw@stcharlesil.gov). Photographs and drawings will be displayed in the First Floor display case at the Municipal building for two weeks, starting Monday, April 2. Entries will be displayed at Arbor Day event, weather permitting.

Commissioner Otto will research the newly issued gift cards from the Park District or possible Hay Ride as a prize.

A "Free Sundae" certificate from Colonial will be "awarded" to all children who have submitted a drawing. Commissioner Chris Scott will pick up the certificates from Colonial.

**Art Activity for Children: Commissioner Blaine**  
Commissioner Blaine is organizing a "Leaf Rubbing" activity, which will be located in the tent. Commissioner Blaine will collect and borrow various items for the activity from the Nature Center.

**Educational Materials: Public Services**

The City will bring a variety of brochures to distribute.

**Presentation of Colors: Commissioner Zavitz**

American Legion Post 343 Color Guard and Cub Scout Pack Troop 113 from Lincoln School will present the colors. Commissioner Zavitz requested sandbags to assist holding up the flags on the stands.

**Tree Demonstration – Graff Tree Care: Commissioner Scott**

Commissioner Scott will conduct an “Interactive Climbing” demonstration with the assistance of the Cub Scout troop. This year the troop will be engaged in a First Aid demonstration with the climber already on the ground.

**Entertainment: Chair. Nau**

Rick Weals will provide musical entertainment.

**Set up and Food: Public Works Department**

Public Works will order cookies for the event, set up of chairs, podium, and speaker system. They will also display EAB materials and educational brochures.

**Rent the Tent: Chair. Nau**

PO has been created for A-1 Canopy. Isabel Soderlind has made contact with the vendor regarding the PO number. The tent will be delivered between 2:30 – 3:00 pm on April 27, with the Park District marking the utilities earlier in the day.

**Invitations and Brochures: Public Works Department**

Samples of the invitations and brochures were distributed to the committee for an initial review. Information is still needed from Chair. Nau to complete the brochures. Public Works will distribute the invitations to the mayor, aldermen, and department directors at the City.

The committee recommended the following edits:

- (1) Commissioner Scott requested “Wolf Den” be changed to Lincoln School Cub Scout Pack #113 on the invitation.
- (2) Vice-Chair Suzi Myers will conduct the drawing.

The brochure and invitation will be emailed to Chair. Nau for the additional background information needed on the brochure.

**8. Communications**

**A. Electric Division/Tree Activity Reports**

**Motion by Otto, second by Ziegler to accept the January and February 2012 Communications-Electric Division/Tree Activity Report as presented.**

**Voice vote:** unanimous; Nays – None; Absent: Nau, Bangs, Grathoff  
Motion carried.

**9. Comments**

**A. Commissioners**

Commissioner Blaine mentioned she had a very successful burn in her woods both in the front and in back. The commissioner followed all safety precautions, protocols, and notified all the authorities.

Commissioner Otto apologized for being late for the meeting.

Commissioner Zavitz: None

Commissioner Scott complimented the current commission. He felt this commission was a good strong committee; he appreciated being part of the group.

Vice-Chair. Myers: None

Commissioner Ziegler complimented Peter Suhr for all his efforts representing the City and extending an invitation to attend City meetings.

**B. Staff : None**

**10. Adjournment**

**Motion by Blaine second by Zavitz to adjourn meeting at 7:45 p.m.**

**Voice vote:** unanimous; Nays – None; Absent: Nau, Bangs, Grathoff - Motion carried.