

**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. 10th 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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