



ST. CHARLES
SINCE 1834

AGENDA ITEM EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Title: Tree Commission Minutes – Information only

Presenter: Peter Suhr

Please check appropriate box:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Government Operations	X	Government Services 11.25.13
<input type="checkbox"/>	Planning & Development		City Council
<input type="checkbox"/>	Public Hearing		

Estimated Cost:	N/A	Budgeted:	YES	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO	X
-----------------	-----	-----------	-----	--------------------------	----	---

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. September 2013 meeting minutes and October 2013 Joint meeting minutes are attached.

Attachments: *(please list)*

Tree Commission Minutes – September and October 2013 Joint meeting minutes

Recommendation / Suggested Action *(briefly explain):*

For information only.

For office use only:

Agenda Item Number: 3.b

**MINUTES
CITY OF ST. CHARLES, IL
TREE COMMISSION
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2013**

Members Present: Chairman Bill Bangs, Ron Ziegler, Jon Duerr, Ralph Grathoff, Suzi Myers, Pam Otto, Phil Zavitz,

Members Absent: Valerie Blaine

Others Present: Caroline Wilfong, Peter Suhr, Chris Adesso, Nicole Wang

1. Opening of Meeting and Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting was convened by Chairman Bangs at 7:05 pm

- 2. Introductions of Visitors - Comments and Concerns:** Caroline Wilfong was introduced as the next Tree Commissioner. She will be affirmed at the upcoming Council meeting at the end of September, 2013. Chairman Bangs welcomed Caroline to the Committee.

4. Minutes Review and Approval

Motion to accept and place on file the minutes of the June 13, 2013, Tree Commission meeting as presented. Motion by Commissioner Duerr, second by Commissioner Ziegler to accept the Minutes.

Voice vote: unanimous; Nays – None; Absent: Blaine
- Motion carried at 7:15 pm.

5. Old Business

A. Discussion on City Forestry/Ordinance Plan

Chairman Bangs asked for comments or suggestion regarding the draft that was sent after the last meeting. Comm. Duerr asked if the group should be specific regarding parkway trees in the verbiage. Mr. Suhr stated the wording should be “public trees”. Comm. Ziegler asked for the wording of the mission statement to be broken up into shorter sentences or adding more punctuation.

Mr. Adesso suggested removing the word “native” from the vision statement. Comm. Duerr suggested that this significantly changes Comm. Blaine’s intent within the sentence. Comm. Otto suggested to move the word to “native flora and fauna” at the end of the sentence. Comm. Ziegler moved to table the review of “native” until the November meeting. Comm. Myers suggested all Commissioners provide their input regarding wording for the vision statement. Chairman Bangs will communicate the changes to Comm. Blaine.

Chairman Bangs asked for participation regarding the History section of the Plan. Mr. Adesso stated that there is general information about the History of St. Charles on the City website. Comm. Myers and Comm. Zavitz will pull together the History of the St. Charles Tree Commission information.

The Plan draft will be updated by Mrs. Wang and provided for the next meeting.

6. New Business

A. Update on the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB)

Mr. Suhr explained that we still have sites with EAB and are actively working alongside residents for the timely removal and replanting of those infested trees as it becomes necessary. Currently, the fall planting has 757 sites to replant with a large portion of those trees on the east side of the river. Mr. Suhr explained his plans to provide an update to the Government Services Committee November 18, 2013 (7 pm), regarding the EAB program. All Tree Commissioners are invited to attend that meeting. Staff is currently analyzing how we move forward with the ash trees that are left on City property. Mr. Adesso explained there are a few locations where treatment has been successful and we remain hopeful those trees will survive.

Comm. Grathoff asked how many ash trees will be left after the EAB program is complete. Mr. Suhr explained we are analyzing those sites and determining how to move forward.

Comm. Zavitz asked if we are removing stumps in-house. Mr. Adesso confirmed that in-house staff is responsible for the removal of stumps on City property.

B. News from Public Works: Mr. Suhr mentioned that Mark Koenen has now transitioned to the role of City Administrator. Therefore, there is now a vacancy in the role of Director of Public Works. Mr. Suhr communicated that he is the Interim Director of Public Works and has assumed that role with just recently transitioning into the role of Assistant Director of Public Works. Mr. Adesso has been promoted to the role of Public Services Manager and he will be more available for the Tree Commission.

C. Langum Woods Clean Up:

Comm. Otto stated that we are on target for another clean-up program in the spring of 2014. Her contact with the school district, Lisa Freeman, organizes the project for the 7th grade classes at Haines Middle school.

Comm. Zavitz stated that they have done a really nice job on the trail system. He commended the group for the work that was completed.

7. Committee Reports

- A. Education Committee:** None
- B. Publicity Committee:** None
- C. Arbor Day Committee:** None

8. Communications

A. Electric Division/Tree Activity Reports

Motion by Commissioner Duerr and second by Commissioner Myers to place the May through June, 2013, and July through August, 2013 Electric Division/Tree Activity Reports on file as presented.

Voice vote: unanimous; Nays – None; Absent: Blaine
- Motion carried at 7:50 pm.

A. Review of the Tree Species Requests Report for May 1, 2013 through August 31, 2013.

Chairman Bangs noted that staff is doing a good job handling the requests from residents. Comm. Duerr commented that it is clear from the information provided that the staff's actions are addressing the issue of providing native species for plantings as outlined in the draft of the Urban Forestry Management Plan's vision statement. Mr. Adesso stated that there are very few residents that demand a specific species to be planted at this time.

9 Comments

A. Commissioners

Comm. Otto inquired about an upcoming Joint Meeting with Batavia. Mrs. Wang stated that she has contacted the Public Works team in Batavia and has not heard back from them yet. Updates for the meeting will be provided as soon as possible to the Commissioners.

Comm. Myers stated she is pleased that the group has started working on the Urban Forestry Management Plan.

Chairman Bangs communicated that it is possible he and his wife will move to Colorado in the near future to be closer family. The move has not happened yet; however, it is inevitable. He asked the Commissioners to consider who would be able to move into the Chairman position for the group. He will give a 90 day notice when that time comes.

Mrs. Wilfong shared a native species article from the Chicago Tribune regarding Ginkgo species and the need to anticipate climate shifts expected to occur in future decades when planting new species today. Comm. Duerr commented that the City of Chicago has identified that need as well.

B. **Staff : No comments**

10. Adjournment

Motion by Chairman Bangs to adjourn meeting at 7:57 p.m. Second by Comm. Myers.

Voice vote: unanimous; Nays – None; Absent: Blaine
Motion carried at 7:57 pm.

/nmw

MINUTES
October 2, 2013
BATAVIA TREE COMMISSION

PLEASE NOTE: These minutes are not a word-for-word transcription of the statements made at the meeting, nor intended to be a comprehensive review of all discussions. They are intended to make an official record of the actions taken by the Commission and to include some description of discussion points as understood by the minute-taker. They may not reference some of the individual attendee's comments, nor the complete comments if referenced.

1. Meeting Called To Order

Chairman Scott Haines called the joint meeting with the St. Charles Tree Commission to order at 5:00 p.m. at Pal Joey's Restaurant, located at 31 N. River St. in Batavia, Illinois.

Members Present: Commissioners Scott Haines, John Dillon (5:15), Dr. Bill Whiteside, Kevin Summers; and City Arborist Frank Saupp

Members Absent: Commissioners Gary Holm and Bob Lootens

Others Present: Subcommittee members John Higgins and Kathy Vranek; Mary Jordan, Batavia resident; and Kathy Montanari, Recording Secretary

St. Charles Tree

Commission: Bill Bangs, Jon Duerr, Ralph Grathoff, Suzi Myers, Caroline Wilfong, Phil Zavitz, and Ron Ziegler

St. Charles Staff: Chris Adesso, Public Services Manager

2. Approval of Minutes

Motion: To accept the meeting minutes from June 5, 2013

Maker: Dillon

Second: Summers

Voice Vote: 5 Ayes, 0 Nays, 2 Absent

Minutes placed on file and to be sent to City Council for acceptance

3. Discussion

a. Topics of Mutual Interest Including Emerald Ash Borer

Commissioners discussed some of the issues that communities are facing with parkway maple trees. Recent mild winters have caused freeze cracks in the trunks, which weakens the structure of the trees. Members of the St. Charles Tree Commission (STC) indicated that they are discouraging residents from planting maples.

The City of Batavia has removed about 1,400 parkway ash trees thus far due to the Emerald Ash Borer infestation. About 100 – 150 parkway ash trees are being treated privately by residents at their own cost.

Adesso reported that St. Charles has used contractors to remove city-owned ash trees. Initially, the removals were done by in-house staff. Three years ago St. Charles passed a \$3 million bond issue for the removal of 1,000 trees that would be replaced on a one-on-one basis. About 2,800

trees have been removed with only 700-800 ash trees remaining in public ROW and other publicly owned property. St. Charles residents are given the option of upsizing the replacement parkway tree for a fee (if available). Approximately 800 trees will be planted in the spring and 820 will be done in the fall. Stump removal and cleanup is done in house. An arborist assists with choosing the trees to ensure a diversity of species. Graf Tree Care has performed a tree study for the city in which they conduct a site analysis and produce a planting list, all tied into St. Charles' GIS data. All replacement trees are obtained from nurseries within a 200-mile radius of St. Charles. Haines noted that Batavia participates in the Suburban Tree Consortium, and trees are purchased from Wilson Nurseries, Hinsdale Nurseries, Possibility Place, and Beaver Creek. Trees were also purchased from Kendall Hill Nursery.

Haines asked about the progress being made on the grant that St. Charles received. Adesso replied that the Legacy program began with the treatment of about 150 trees; there are 78 remaining trees. The product used was Safari. Commissioner Bangs commented that there are about five times the number of ash trees on private property as on public property. Vranek reported that the company she works for treats about 600 trees in the Tri-Cities area.

Haines then explained a recent amendment to Batavia's Forestry Ordinance. Staff used to become involved in private tree matters, spending a significant amount of time and effort. The remaining cases have been coming to a conclusion and now staff intervenes only when a tree issue affects public ROW or electric wires.

Resident Mary Jordan informed everyone that there is a mill in Batavia that will process ash wood. She felt it would be helpful to publicize this information. Haines noted that he had already processed 6-7 large logs for future use.

Vranek asked if St. Charles had ever considered a tree preservation ordinance, and Adesso was not aware of this being done. Commissioner Myers said that this issue was brought up several years ago, but the City Council felt that private property tree issues should be left up to individual homeowners. Unless public property is affected, the City does not get involved with these issues. Vranek noted that Geneva has a good ordinance that doesn't interfere with private parcels. A tree preservation plan is required as part of the development permit process. Adesso said that St. Charles has similar language in its development ordinance but there isn't a requirement for other removals. Myers added that can be very difficult to enforce. Haines commented that frequently lots have already been cleared by the time plans are submitted. This was also discussed in Batavia in past years but found to be invasive. Vranek suggested that perhaps an ordinance could require a developer who removes a tree to replant in a public place.

Haines explained that there is currently a plan being brought forth by the school district for athletic field improvements. The plan isn't funded at this time but would require the elimination of the Batavia Arboretum, which has 31 trees. Higgins mentioned that he will try to get a list of tree dedications from a contact he has at Batavia High School.

St. Charles Tree Commissioners then told the group about this year's Arbor Day celebration at Richmond School. Fourth graders participated in the care of a newly planted oak tree.

Haines described a program that Batavia started a few years ago. Acorns were collected from historic trees in town and given to Possibility Place, a specialty oak nursery, to grow over one hundred trees.

4. Walking Tour of N. River St. Streetscape Improvements

Haines led the group in a tour of the River Street Woonerf, which was completed during the past year. The street was reconstructed using a European curbless concept and the addition of various amenities such as planters and benches. Planting soil vaults were used in the planter areas to allow for better root growth of the street trees.

5. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Saupp and seconded by Dillon to adjourn the meeting at 6:30 p.m. All were in favor and the meeting was adjourned.

Minutes prepared by
Kathy Montanari