

**MINUTES
CITY OF ST. CHARLES, IL
TREE COMMISSION
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 9, 2013**

Members Present: Co-Chair Bill Bangs, Co-Chair Ron Ziegler, Jon Duerr, Ralph Grathoff, Suzi Myers, Pam Otto

Members Absent: Valerie Blaine, Phil Zavitz

Others Present: Peter Suhr, Chris Adesso, Nicole Wang

1. Opening of Meeting

The meeting was convened by Co-Chair Bangs at 7:03 p.m.

2. Roll Call

3. Introductions of Visitors - Comments and Concerns:

No Visitors present

Omnibus Vote

4. Recommend approval of November 14, 2012 Minutes

Motion by Commissioner Ziegler second by Commissioner Duerr to accept the November 14, 2012 Minutes as presented.

Voice vote: unanimous; Nays – None; Absent: Commissioner Blaine, Commissioner Zavitz
- Motion carried.

5. Old Business

A. Discussion on City Forestry/Ordinance Plan

Mr. Suhr proceeded with the last recommendation by the Commission to secure funding in the budget for hiring a consultant. An update will follow in a few months at the end of the budget process. The group asked if there were any interested consultants at this point. Commissioner Grathoff spoke with *Save a Tree* on the East Coast through *Thornapple Landscape* and has pricing information. Mr. Suhr stated that *Graf Tree Care* will be working with the City on a small project during spring planting to help manage diversity. With regard to the Forestry Plan, it is possible to begin a bid process as well.

6. New Business

A. Update on the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB)

Mr. Suhr stated that Phase II has begun. Statistics show that Phase III will probably begin within the next four months. Fall planting is complete with 760 trees replanted. Commissioner Myers commented that residents are ecstatic regarding the replacement of parkway trees due to EAB removals. Commissioner Bangs noticed that the City is moving forward with a plan the diversity plan. Mr. Suhr noted that changing our marketing strategy has been very

successful. It has encouraged residents to allow the City to manage the species replanted.

B. News from Public Works: None

C. Tree Removal at Red Gate Bridge Site

Mr. Suhr requested the Committee approve the removal of additional trees at Red Gate Bridge on the East side at Route 25. The next phase of the project is to grade the area to the south of the forest preserve and prepare for the electric pad that will be installed. This portion was not part of the original bid process. The Commissioners approval is needed to begin this phase. Approximately 300 trees will be planted to finish the landscape this spring. Mr. Suhr provided an inventory of trees to be removed for the Commissioners to review, a map of the property where the trees will be removed, and a list of species that will be replanted.

Discussion amongst the Commissioners commenced regarding options other than removal of the trees. Commissioner Duerr stated that no one has championed this area before and given the current condition of the existing trees recommended a motion to approve the removal:

Motion at 7:35pm: Approve the Removal of the Red Gate Bridge trees on the East side at Route 25 for the installation of an electric pad south of the forest preserve by

Commissioner Duerr, second by Co-Chair Bangs

Voice vote: unanimous; Nays – None; Absent: Commissioner Blaine, Commissioner Zavitz - Motion carried.

- Comments: Co-Chair Ziegler requested tree diversity be considered when replanting. He noted the quantity of Autumn Blaze Maples on the replacement list is not in proportion to other species. Mr. Suhr will bring forth the issue of diversity to the Engineering team on behalf of the Commissioners.

D. Langum Woods Clean-Up

Commissioner Otto has discussed with teacher Laura Schroeder at Haines Middle School for another clean-up day this year. It most likely will take place near Earth Day. Mr. Adesso asked to have the City of St. Charles Tree Commission listed on any literature that is presented this year. We should also have a press release sent out by the City to advertise for this event.

7. Committee Reports

Commissioner Myers requested to change the Tree Commission meeting day or time. Some Commissioners are not available on the second Wednesday of the month. The Public Works staff will investigate the ability to make a change and provide any options at the March 13, 2013 meeting.

A. Education Committee: None

B. Publicity Committee: Commissioner Blaine not present

C. Arbor Day Committee:

Co-Chair Bangs and Commissioner Duerr have contacted District 303 to award a tree to be planted in honor of Arbor Day. No response from the District has been received

at this time. After much discussion, Commissioner Otto offered to contact some teachers to move this process along.

Commissioner Myers requested to bring the Stewardship Award back for Arbor Day this year. It is an award given to people who have gone above and beyond in the City of St. Charles with regard to trees. Commissioner Myers nominated the Farm Bureau in recognition of managing the trees on their property. Commissioner Ziegler seconded the nomination. Commissioner Duerr recommended placing the Stewardship Award as an agenda item for the next meeting and call for nominations. Commissioners will vote on nominations at the March 13, 2013 meeting.

Co-Chair Bangs discussed having Mr. Phil Graf as the speaker for Arbor Day. Commissioners were all in agreement. Mr. Suhr will confirm his availability. Mr. Suhr has already confirmed the donation of plants with MidWest Groundcovers. Co-Chair Bangs will contact the Park District to reserve Lincoln Park and Mr. Weals for musical entertainment. Co-Chair Bangs will also investigate who will do the Presentation of Colors. Co-Chair Bangs stated that Chris Graff, former Commissioner, is available to present a demonstration. Public Works staff will organize the PO for the tent and contact A-1 Canopy. The Commissioners like last year's placement of the tent.

Discussion commenced regarding the contests for Arbor Day and changing the adult (students age 12+) contest to a writing contest with the subject of "Trees in My Life". The Commissioners discussed utilizing local writing groups to help publicize the contest further. Prizes could come from the Park District again. Commissioner Otto will look into Park District passes. The children's contest will be an art contest. Any creative drawing of a tree for ages three through eleven. All children will receive Colonial Ice Cream sundae certificates as a prize. Mrs. Wang asked the Commissioners to provide written information for the upcoming Den Newsletter by January 15th. Contest entries will need to be provided by the end of March by mail, email (pw@stcharlesil.gov) or hand delivery. Contest entries can be displayed in the internal window at the Municipal building for the month of April.

Commissioner Otto discussed showcasing the students at Richmond Elementary School's video spots created for their Forestry unit last fall. The Public Works staff will investigate how to have the video's displayed at Arbor Day.

Commissioner Ziegler asked how many Commissioners have read the Tree and Shrub Ordinance recently. None had at this time. Mr. Suhr stated that this is an integral part of the Forestry Plan.

8. Communications

A. Electric Division/Tree Activity Reports

November through December 2012 Communications-Electric Division/Tree Activity Reports were presented.

Motion by Commissioner Ziegler, second by Commissioner Myers to place November through December 2012 Electric Division/Tree Activity Reports on file.

Voice vote: unanimous; Nays – None; Absent: Commissioner Blaine, Commissioner Zavitz
- Motion carried.

B. Tree Species Requests Report

Co-Chair Bangs was glad to see the information in the Den Newsletter regarding diversity. Upon review of the report, the Commissioners discussed how the Public Works staff manages the removal, communication and replacement of trees. Mr. Adesso addressed the Commissioners questions about the City's planting service procedures when planting new trees. Commissioners commended the Public Works staff for their handling of tree diversity within the City.

9 Comments

A. Commissioners:

Commissioner Myers commended Peck Farm and explained how they are using cut ash wood to create new benches in the park area. It is a great re-use of ash trees that have been cut down.

B. Staff : No Comments

C. Visitors: None

10. Adjournment

Motion by Commissioner Myers to adjourn meeting at 8:45 p.m.

Second by Co-Chair Ziegler.

Voice vote: unanimous; Nays – None; Absent: Commissioner Blaine, Commissioner Zavitz
-Motion carried.